

# STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY

## MEETING SUMMARY

June 4, 2025

### Wednesday, June 4, 2025

For full meeting recording, please visit the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gli8LLUpA0k>

For specific agenda items, click the agenda title to go directly to the recorded segment.

### Meeting Called to Order

Chair Jim Kelly called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held in-person and by video conference in the Tillamook Room of Building C at the Oregon Department of Forestry's Salem Campus, at 2600 State St SE, Salem Oregon. All members of the Board of Forestry were present in person.

Chair Kelly called roll and provided general housekeeping information.

Board Member	Present	Absent
Liz Agpaoa	X	
Heath Curtiss	X	
Ben Deumling	X	
Joe Justice	X	
Alexi Lovechio	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

Staff present to support the meeting included Interim State Forester Kate Skinner, Board Administrator Eleni Collins, Matt DeVore, Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice and Anika Marriott, Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice.

### CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were listed on the consent agenda:

- A. **Financial Dashboard for March, April, May**  
Information only
- B. **Board Governance Survey Results**  
**DECISION:** Approve the self-evaluation summary report as-is, agreeing to a performance rating of 71% in meeting best practices criteria, with further discussions to be held at the October retreat.
- C. **Committee for Family Forestlands Appointments and Reappointments (decision)**  
**DECISION:** Approve the appointment of Jake Ryan as the Forest Industry representative of the CFF.
- D. **Rangeland Fire Protection Association Budgets (decision)**  
**DECISION:** Approve the fiscal year 2026 budgets of the Ashwood-Antelope, Bakeoven-Shaniko, Blue Mountain, Brothers Hampton, Burnt River, Crane, Fields-Andrews, Frenchglen, Gateway, Greater Pine Valley, Grizzly, High Desert, Ironside, Jordan Valley, Juntura, Lone Pine, Lookout Glasgow, Lower Bridge, North Harney, Petersburg, Post Paulina, Silver Creek, Twickenham, Vale, Wagontire, Warner Valley, WC Ranches, and Wheeler County Rangeland Fire Protection Associations.

- E. **Petersburg Rangeland Fire Protection Association Expansion – Request for Hearing (decision)**  
**DECISION:** Approve the landowners’ request to hold a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands in Wasco County, Oregon.
- F. **Silver Creek Rangeland Fire Protection Association Expansion (decision)**  
**DECISION:** Approve the inclusion of rangeland in portions of Harney and Lake Counties into the Silver Creek Rangeland Protection Association.
- G. **Request for Proposal – Recruitment Services for State Forester Position (decision)**  
**DECISION:** Approve the Request for Proposal as listed in Attachment 1, to support the State Forester hiring and recruitment.

Ben Deumling moved for approval of the consent agenda items A through G as presented en bloc. Liz Agpaoa seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and Board members voted as listed below. Motion passed 7-0.

Board Member	Yes	No
Liz Agpaoa	X	
Heath Curtiss	X	
Ben Deumling – <i>seconded</i>	X	
Joe Justice – <i>motioned</i>	X	
Alexi Lovechio	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1 – OPENING COMMENTS**

Interim State Forester Skinner offered reflection of her service anniversary with the Oregon Department of Forestry, having served the agency for 28 years. She also followed up with her review of the Davis Ridge timber sale, noting a [memorandum of findings](#) is available on the Board of Forestry’s meeting webpage under the April meeting accordion. Additional comments included:

- Conclusion of the public comment period for the FY 2026 Annual Operations Plan
- Upcoming Ways and Means subcommittee hearing for the agency budget
- Recognition of the start of fire season and status updates on fire response
- Updates on the current assignments for the Agency’s Incident Management Teams

Chair Kelly’s opening comments included an announcement that Brenda McComb would serve as the Board’s Vice Chair, to hopefully serve in this role for the remainder of her term, and announced a subcommittee to support the work with the search firm and to develop the interview questions and scoring rubric to be used in future candidate interviews. The members of this subcommittee will be Ben Deumling, Joe Justice and Jim Kelly.

Other board member comments included:

- Questions on the purpose of the subcommittee, and recommendation to rely on DOJ counsel as the subcommittee begins their work
- Concerns on the emphasis on management in the State Forester job description, with a desire to see leadership aspects highlighted more
- Support for the list of motions offered to Board members to help with the organization and description of motions, that can be referred to or customized
- Recognition that best practices may exist from other Boards and Commissions that could be considered in the future

## **AGENDA ITEM 2 – PUBLIC FORUM**

4 individuals provided testimony via Zoom. Written Testimony can be viewed here:

([LINK TO WRITTEN TESTIMONY WILL BE ADDED AFTER THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD END DATE, June 20, 2025](#))

## **AGENDA ITEM 3 – LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE**

Derrick Wheeler (Legislative Director) provided the Board with an update on the 2025 legislative session, focusing on the most current information for proposed bills tracked by the agency.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4 – STATE FORESTER POSITION DESCRIPTION AND DESIRED ATTRIBUTES**

The Board reviewed the Job Posting with edits made by board member McComb. Heath Curtiss moved to adopt the State Forester position description and desired attributes as listed in the proposed documents, to be used for the job posting in the State Forester recruitment. Joe Justice seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and Board members voted as listed below. Motion passed 7-0.

Board Member	Yes	No
Liz Agpaoa	X	
Heath Curtiss – <i>motioned</i>	X	
Ben Deumling	X	
Joe Justice – <i>seconded</i>	X	
Alexi Lovechio	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

## **AGENDA ITEM 5 – APPROVE THE DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL TO SUPPORT THE STATE FORESTER RECRUITMENT**

Chair Kelly provided clarity on the topic, stating that this topic is in reference to the Department individual responsible for overseeing the request for proposal (RFP) process and managing the contract for the selected firm. Shannon Rand (Procurement Director) and Wendy Heckman (Deputy Director of Administration) provided an overview of the RFP process, selection of a recruitment firm to contract with and what contract administration duties the designated individual would perform.

Joe Justice moved to select **Wendy Heckman** as the designated individual to support the State Forester recruitment for the purpose of providing Department management and oversight of the contract for the recruitment firm to be selected by the Board of Forestry at a future time. Liz Agpaoa seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and Board members voted as listed below. Motion passed 7-0.

Board Member	Yes	No
Liz Agpaoa – <i>seconded</i>	X	
Heath Curtiss	X	
Ben Deumling	X	
Joe Justice – <i>motioned</i>	X	
Alexi Lovechio	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

## **AGENDA ITEM 7 – CENTRAL OREGON AND NORTHEAST DISTRICT BOUNDARY CHANGE**

*NOTE: This item was moved up on the schedule at the discretion of the Chair.*

Levi Hopkins (Acting Deputy Chief of Policy and Planning), Rob Pentzer (Central Oregon District Forester) and Justin Lauer (Northeast Oregon District Forester) presented on the proposed boundary changes. This presentation included the results of the hearings previously approved by the Board for the purpose of gathering feedback on the boundary change.

Liz Agpaoa moved to approve the proposed boundary changes to the Central Oregon and Northeast Oregon Forest Protection District Boundaries, and direct the Department to revise the Oregon Administrative rules, 629-041-0515, 629-041-0550, which describe each boundary. Ben Deumling seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and Board members voted as listed below. Motion passed 7-0.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Liz Agpaoa – <i>motioned</i>	X	
Heath Curtiss	X	
Ben Deumling – <i>seconded</i>	X	
Joe Justice	X	
Alexi Lovechio	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

## **AGENDA ITEM 9 – BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

*NOTE: This item was moved up on the schedule at the discretion of the Chair.*

The Governance Committee presented final proposed language changes for adoption by the Board of Forestry, and confirmed the appropriateness of the language with the Department of Justice.

Chair Kelly provided reasoning for his intention to vote no on the decision item, stating that he did not feel a stipend would be appropriate at less than a minimum of two hours of performance of board duties.

Heath Curtiss moved to adopt the Governance Committee's recommended additions and changes to the Board Policies Manual as presented. Ben Deumling seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and Board members voted as listed below. Motion passed 6-1.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Liz Agpaoa	X	
Heath Curtiss – <i>motioned</i>	X	
Ben Deumling – <i>seconded</i>	X	
Joe Justice	X	
Alexi Lovechio	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 – WILDFIRE OUTLOOK AND RESPONSE READINESS**

Department staff including Michael Curran (Protection Division Chief) and Ron Graham (Protection Division Deputy Chief) provided an update to the Board on the 2025 wildfire season outlook and response readiness.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8 – FOREST PROTECTION ASSOCIATION BUDGETS**

Department staff including Michael Curran (Protection Division Chief) and Ron Graham (Protection Division Deputy Chief) presented the annual report for the approval of the Forest Protection District’s fiscal year budgets and rates to the Board.

Heath Curtiss moved to approve all fiscal year 2026 Forest Protection Association District budgets and prorated acreage rates as presented in Attachment 1 and that in the event the legislature adopts additional funding sources that may alter forest protection district budgets and prorated acreage rates, the Department is directed to adjust to integrate such revenues prior to sending the certified rates to each County Assessor’s Office, and the proposed final order as written for Roy M. Beyer. Ben Deumling seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and Board members voted as listed below. Motion passed 7-0.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Liz Agpaoa	X	
Heath Curtiss – <i>motioned</i>	X	
Ben Deumling – <i>seconded</i>	X	
Joe Justice	X	
Alexi Lovechio	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

## **AGENDA ITEM 14 – ADOPTION OF POST-DISTURBANCE HARVEST RULES**

Department staff including Josh Barnard (Forest Resources Division Chief) and Nicole Stapp (Forest Resources Policy Lead) presented a recap of the rulemaking process for post-disturbance harvest rules and offered the Board several options to move forward.

Brenda McComb moved to Direct the Department to re-open the public comment period for the Post-Disturbance Harvest rules as they are currently drafted and to return to the Board with the results of the additional public comment period and a decision regarding the rulemaking at the September meeting. Ben Deumling seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and Board members voted as listed below. The motion passed 4-3.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Liz Agpaoa		X
Heath Curtiss		X
Ben Deumling – <i>seconded</i>	X	
Joe Justice		X
Alexi Lovechio	X	
Brenda McComb – <i>motioned</i>	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

Board members who voted no on the motion provided the following reasons:

- Reluctance to reopen the public comment period if a change to the rules as drafted is unlikely
- Public comments that are emotional and not science-based may not be helpful
- Interest in having the Adaptive Management Program Committee determine questions for the Independent Research and Science Team to evaluate rule effectiveness.

Following the motion to reopen the public comment period, the Board discussed the need to clarify the public comment period parameters, due to concerns around unspecified open and closed dates associated with the new post-disturbance public comment period. Heath Curtiss moved that the public comment period authorized

pursuant to the prior motion be opened on July 1st and held open for a period of 30 days. Liz Agpaoa seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and Board members voted as listed below. The motion passed 7-0.

Board Member	Yes	No
Liz Agpaoa – <i>seconded</i>	X	
Heath Curtiss – <i>motioned</i>	X	
Ben Deumling	X	
Joe Justice	X	
Alexi Lovechio	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

The Board discussed a potential motion that would direct the Adaptive Management Program Committee to prioritize this issue, but ultimately determined this was not necessary without the adoption of the rules and could be revisited in the September meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10 – FORESTLAND CONVERSION PRESENTATION**

The Board received a presentation on the data and statistics around forestland conversion to other land uses from Hillary Foote (Farm Forest Specialist, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development), Jim Johnson (Working Lands Policy Director, 1000 Friends), John Tokarczyk (Resource Planning Manager) and Dan Hubner (Information Analyst).

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11 – CLOSING COMMENTS**

Chair Kelly offered an opportunity for Board members and the State Forester to share any final thoughts. Board members clarified process questions on raising a motion, and providing time to respond to that motion, following Robert’s Rules of Order. Chair Kelly closed out the meeting for the day, specifying that the June 5 meeting would meet later than scheduled, at 9:15 a.m.

***Meeting Adjourned at 4:27 p.m.***

### **Thursday, June 5, 2025**

For full meeting recording, please visit the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpywdDRvRIM>  
For specific agenda items, click the agenda title to go directly to the recorded segment.

#### **Meeting Called to Order**

Chair Jim Kelly called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. The meeting was held in-person and by video conference in the Tillamook Room of Building C at the Oregon Department of Forestry’s Salem Campus, at 2600 State St SE, Salem Oregon. All members of the Board of Forestry were present in person.

Chair Kelly called roll and provided general housekeeping information.

Board Member	Present	Absent
Liz Agpaoa	X	
Heath Curtiss	X	
Ben Deumling	X	
Joe Justice	X	
Alexi Lovechio	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

Staff present to support the meeting included Interim State Forester Kate Skinner, Board Administrator Eleni Collins and Anika Marriott, Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12 – OPENING COMMENTS**

Chair Kelly announced Board member Alexi Lovechio’s pregnancy, sharing that she is due in October with a baby girl.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 13 – PUBLIC FORUM**

4 individuals provided testimony in-person, 1 individual provided testimony via Zoom.

*(LINK TO WRITTEN TESTIMONY WILL BE ADDED AFTER THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD END DATE, June 20, 2025)*

#### **AGENDA ITEM 15 – STATE FORESTS MODELED OUTCOMES DISCUSSION WITH THE FOREST TRUST LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mike Wilson (State Forests Deputy Division Chief), Nick Palazzotto (State Forests Deputy Division Chief) and Tod Haren (Information Unit Manager) with the Department of Forestry provided a presentation on the State Forests management scenarios modeled outcomes in relation to the draft Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan. Discussion on the subject was facilitated by Debra Nudelman, between Board of Forestry members and members of the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (FTLAC), which included: Margaret MacGruder (Columbia County Commissioner), Jerry Willy (Washington County Commissioner), Paul Fornier (Tillamook County Commissioner), Will Tucker (Linn County Commissioner), Courtney Bangs (Clatsop County Commissioner) and David Loveall (Lane County Commissioner). FTLAC supporting staff Mike Buffo and Branden Pursinger were also in attendance.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 15 – STATE FORESTS MODELED OUTCOMES DISCUSSION WITH THE FOREST TRUST LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONTINUED**

After lunch, Debra Nudelman continued facilitation of the discussion on State Forests management scenarios modeled outcomes. The Department and facilitation team will compile feedback and return to the Board later this year.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 16 – CLOSING COMMENTS**

Chair Kelly offered the Board an opportunity to provide final thoughts. Board members discussed the following:

- concerns for reduced funding on the Private Forest Accord, and what Board members could do to express support for increased funding.
- clarification on the process related to raising a motion, and having best practices provided to Board members.
- Movement on Senate Bill 1051, which would remove the Board of Forestry’s authority to appoint a State Forester, having the Governor making the selection instead, with senate confirmation of appointment.

Additionally, Chair Kelly noted that board member Brenda McComb had to depart during the meeting, as she had not been feeling well. State Forester Skinner outlined the upcoming locations and tour topics associated with the September meeting and October retreat. At the close of conversation, Chair Kelly adjourned the meeting.

***Meeting Adjourned at 2:37 p.m***