



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Meeting Agenda

April 19, 2022

Business Meeting - 1:00 p.m.

The April 19 commission meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to dial in to the meeting at 253-215-8782. When prompted, enter ID number 823 5333 7719 and password 978451. Or watch via YouTube:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOwLt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.

Public comment

OWEB encourages written or verbal public comment on any agenda item. All comment requests should be sent to April Mack at April.mack@OWEB.oregon.gov no later than the 4:00 p.m. Thursday **April 14**.

Written comments will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal comments:

- Limited to three minutes
- Will be heard in the public comment period (**Agenda Items C**).
- Provide the following information:
 - Your first and last name,
 - The topic of your comment, and
 - The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

A. Welcome and Introductions, and Commissioner Updates (1:00 p.m.)

Chair Doug Krahmer will welcome the commission and public. *Information item.*

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (approximately 1:10 p.m.)

The minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting will be presented for approval. *Action item.*

C. Public Comment (approximately 1:15 p.m.)

The public may comment via telephone. Comments are limited to 3 minutes.

D. Spending Plan for 2022 Appropriation (approximately 1:30 p.m.)

The Commission will discuss allocation of the \$5 million appropriated for OAHP in 2022.

E. Other Business/Next Meeting (approximately 2:45 p.m.)



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2020

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the May 19 commission meeting was held virtually.

Commissioners attending: Sam Angima, Ken Bailey, Mary Wahl, Bruce Taylor, Doug Krahmer, Lois Loop.

Staff attending: Meta Loftsgaarden, Liz Redon, Eric Williams

Public attendees: Taylor Larson, Nellie McAdams, Jan Lee, Torey Mill, Kelley Beamer, Ann Witsil

A. Welcome and Introductions, and Commissioner Updates

Chair Doug Krahmer welcomed the commission and public at 3:08. Commissioners introduced themselves.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting were approved. Motion by Lois Loop, second by Ken Bailey. Approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment

Kelley Beamer, Executive Director of Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts expressed gratitude to the commissioners for their commitment to the program.

Jan Lee, Executive Director of Oregon Association of Conservation Districts expressed support for any budget request made by the commission.

D. 2021-2023 Agency Request Budget

Meta Loftsgaarden noted that at the time the commission made its recommendation to the OWEB board for a \$10 million agency request budget, the pandemic shutdown had not yet occurred. It has since become clear that a budget request at that amount may not be viable in the current economic climate where the governor has asked agencies to reduce current budgets by 8.5% and the effects of the pandemic on the next budget are unclear.

Meta proposed a nuanced approach to the budget request to continue discussions about the program in the legislature while recognizing that this will be a challenging budget year. She proposed moving forward with a \$5 million "other funds" budget limitation request that would allow the commission to accept outside funds should they become available in the future. There would still be no funds for staff, so any funds secured during the biennium would have to be managed by a combination of OWEB staff and external partners.

Sam Angima asked whether donated funds would have to wait for matching funds in order to be spent. Meta said that it depended on the intended use of the donated funds. If funds were used for an easement, it may require additional federal funds for match, as an example. In another example, if a donation was made to start up something like

succession planning, it may be able to move forward with the donated funds and no match.

Ken Bailey said that while the current situation is disappointing, the proposed budget request would keep the program alive and could accommodate interest in the program from other funders.

Lois Loop said the proposed approach keeps a checking account open and provides a place to put outside funds.

Bruce Taylor supports the \$5 million proposal, and asked whether legislative approval would also be needed when funds arrive. Meta noted that funds provided to OAHP directly can be deposited in the fund without additional approval, but the commission would need further legislative approval to apply for grant funds from another source.

Doug Kraemer said that the suggested approach is needed to be able to spend funds.

Mary Wahl asked whether staffing funds would come out of OWEB's budget. Meta noted that some staff support may be available through OWEB, but it would have to be provided thoughtfully and within OWEB's constitutional limitations.

Doug moved to recommend to the OWEB board that the agency budget request include \$5 million in "other funds" limitation for the OAHP. The motion was seconded by Ken and approved unanimously.

E. Other Business/Next Meeting

A date for the next meeting will be determined as the need arises.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40.



Agenda Item D: Spending Plan for 2022 Appropriation April 19, 2022 Commission Meeting

Introduction

The 2022 legislative session resulted in a \$5 million general fund appropriation to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund. As this is the first time that funds have been appropriated for operating OAHF authorized grant programs, the Commission will discuss apportionment of funds in a spending plan for the biennium.

Background

The April Commission meeting will serve as an organizational meeting to outline spending plan priorities and develop a timeline for the first OAHF solicitation. The appropriation includes an allocation of \$535,447 for operation costs, including 2.5 FTEs to run the program as well as associated expenses and professional services. Therefore, the spending plan allocation to grant programs is \$4,464,553.

Spending Plan Options

The OAHF statute authorizes the following grant programs:

- a) Developing conservation management plans;
- b) Implementing conservation management plans (CMPs);
- c) Development funding or technical assistance for organizations intending to develop or implement CMPs or conservation easements; and
- d) Conservation easements or covenants.

While the budget report accompanying the appropriation does not include a breakdown by grant types, legislative testimony was primarily focused on conservation easements and conservation management plans.

The commission should develop a spending plan for available funds so prospective applicants have guidance on funding availability by grant type.

Given that this first appropriation is an opportunity to demonstrate program effectiveness, and that each offering requires significant effort to launch, the commission should consider the most effective path forward. Keeping in mind that payment for implementation of conservation management plans requires an interim step – completing the valuation work begun under the [Highland Economics Feasibility Study](#) – the spending plan should not include funds for this grant type.

Regarding the other grant types, expectations for conservation easement and conservation management plan development grants indicate that these grant types should be included. This would also allow for demonstration of program need, particularly for conservation easements and association CMPs.

The remaining grant type is technical assistance. Technical assistance grants would help build capacity for further work among eligible organizations working with agricultural land owners and operators to access the program in the future. While potentially demonstrating need for

OAHP grants, technical assistance grants may not provide the short-term demonstration of program need desired for ongoing program support.

In addition to the authorized OAHP grant types, ORS 541.989 stipulates that the commission may make a recommendation to the General Assembly to fund succession planning programs if OSU Extension Service provides the commission with a proposal for review. If such a proposal is received, the commission could recommend a funding proposal to the General Assembly for the 2023 or subsequent legislative session.

For discussion purposes, two spending plan options are presented in the table below:

Grant Type	Option 1	Option 2
Conservation Easements	\$4,000,000	\$3,500,000
Conservation Management Plan Development	\$464,553	\$500,000
Technical Assistance	\$0	\$464,553

Solicitation Timeline

OWEB intends to release grant solicitations as soon as possible. A solicitation requires the following steps:

- 1) Develop a grant application in OWEB’s online application system;
- 2) Develop program guidance for applicants, including easement templates;
- 3) Establish technical review processes for each grant type, as required by statute; and
- 4) Develop grant agreement templates for each grant type.

While developing the required program components, OWEB will be hiring for staff positions to run the program in the coming months. The following proposed solicitation timeline considers both the workload associated with developing each of the steps above as well as the time it takes to hire and onboard new staff. The proposed solicitation timeline is as follows:

July 2022 – Announce grant solicitation

September 2022 – Application deadline

October 2022 – February 2023 – Evaluation and due diligence

March 2023 – Public notice of staff recommendations

March 2023 – OAHC meeting to make funding recommendations

April 2023 – OWEB board awards grants

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the commission adopt a spending plan allocating available funds across authorized grant types.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, at eric.williams@oweb.oregon.gov, or 971-345-7014.