



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.