



Oregon Environmental Restoration Council

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved at May 6, 2026 OERC meeting

March 18, 2026 Hybrid Council Meeting

Land Board Room in the State Lands Building, 775 Summer St NE, Salem, OR 97301

Zoom Webinar and live streamed on [YouTube](#)

All meeting materials can be found on oregonerf.org under the specific meeting date.

ATTENDEES

OERC MEMBERS

Jenn Bildersee
Debbie Colbert
Michael Dembrow
Leah Feldon
Geoff Huntington
Rep. Ken Helm
Cheyenne Holliday
Molly Kile
André Ourso
Alaí Reyes-Santos
Chuck Sams
Sen. David Brock Smith
Leslie Wu

OWEB STAFF

Nicole Bettinardi
Clare Lanusse
Nicole Maness
Sara O'Brien
Miriam Scharer
Rachel Thompson

OTHERS

Troy Abercrombie
Alex Barton
Susan Christensen
Shaun Clements
James Fraser

OTHERS

Brenda Gessner
Gabriela Goldfarb
Rian vanden Hooff
Luke Johnson
Sristi Kamal
Josh Kling
Andrea Kreiner
Michael Lang
Diane Lloyd
Danielle Moser
Hoang-Van Nguyen
Terri Preeg Riggsby
Holly Purpura

OTHERS

Sarah Reif
Youjun Suh
Amanda Wozab

Minutes, March 18

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Co-Chair Michael Dembrow: [Recording](#)

Timestamp	Details
00:00:33	Roll Call and Opening Remarks, Meeting Overview and Objectives Co-Chair Dembrow opened the meeting, provided an overview of the agenda, and introduced Jenn Bildersee, OERC Public Member. <i>Information item.</i> <i>Note: due to technical issues, the first 17 seconds of Co-Chair Dembrow's introduction portion are not audible</i>
00:08:37	Item 1 – Consent Items Motion #1. Vice Chair Cheyenne Holliday moved to accept the January 22, 2026, Council meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Leah Feldon. Debbie Colbert, Michael Dembrow, Leah Feldon, Cheyenne Holliday, Geoff Huntington, Molly Kile, André Ourso, Alaí Reyes-Santos, Chuck Sams, and Leslie Wu voted in favor. Jenn Bildersee abstained. Motion passed.

Timestamp	Details
00:10:17	Item 2 – Program Manager Report Oregon Environmental Restoration Program (OERP) Manager Nicole Maness provided an update to the Council that included a financial report on the balance of the Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund (OERF) ending February 28, 2026; notice that the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board transferred the Year 1 distribution of \$30 million from the OERF to the three legislatively directed subfunds on January 28, 2026; a report that OERP staff initiated engagement with the Environmental Justice Council; sharing OERP staff presented at a February 19, 2026 EJC meeting to provide an overview of the OERF and strategic priorities; and an update on overall program milestones. <i>Information item.</i>
00:22:23	Oregon Department of Justice OERF Eligibility Presentation (part of Item 2) Diane Lloyd, Assistant Attorney General, Oregon Department of Justice provided high level direction on the eligibility guidance provided in the Monsanto Settlement Agreement, SB 1561 (2024), and ORS Chapter 541. <i>Information item.</i>
00:39:00	Item 3 – Public Comment This time was reserved for the Council to hear public comments and review any written public comment submitted for the meeting. All written public comment can be viewed on the website here. The following individuals provided verbal public comment: • Andrea Kreiner, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts • James Fraser, Trout Unlimited • Sristi Kamal, Ph.D., Western Environmental Law Center • Danielle Moser, Oregon Wild • Michael Lang, Wild Salmon Center
00:52:25	Item 4 – OERF Strategic Priorities Oregon Environmental Restoration Program Manager Nicole Maness provided an update on a proposed process for Council’s development of the first set of strategic priorities for the OERF. The process will include the defining the parameters of strategic priorities by Council and a statewide engagement process to solicit input/feedback from partners, interest groups and the general public on what should be considered as priorities. OERP staff are coordinating synthesis of information about relevant strategic plans and priorities that already exist as context/background for Council’s consideration and will provide Council with that synthesis as well as a synthesis of all public input before deliberating on the first set of strategic priorities. This process will formally begin at the May 6, 2026, OERC meeting with a goal of concluding in September or October 2026. <i>Information item.</i>
01:21:09	Item 5 – Tribal Nation Natural Resource Program Fund Oregon Environmental Restoration Program Manager Nicole Maness provided an update to Council that the draft rules for the Tribal Nation Natural Resource Program Fund have been reviewed by DOJ and are now out for a 45-day review period (ending April 24, 2026) by Council and each of the nine federally recognized Tribes. Rulemaking will begin as soon as the draft rules are finalized. OERP staff will be engaging with each Tribe in April to identify a set of reporting requirements as directed by the legislation. <i>Information item.</i>

Timestamp	Details
01:23:33	Item 6 – Community Impact Fund Oregon Environmental Restoration Program Manager Nicole Maness provided an update on a proposed process for developing the Community Impact Fund. The process includes a <i>pre-design phase</i> to identify best practices and expertise to inform with work of community engagement and community-based grantmaking, a <i>design phase</i> to identify fund beneficiaries and structure the participatory structure for co-design of the fund with impacted communities, an <i>engagement phase</i> to identify needs and opportunities that the community impact fund will aim to address or serve, and a fund development phase to build the architecture of the fund that will form the basis of the rulemaking process for the Community Impact Fund. <i>Information item.</i>
1:44:50	Item 7 – State Agency Presentations Oregon Environmental Restoration Program Coordinator Rachel Thompson provided a brief update on progress on the Agency Program Fund, including information on a Needs Assessment deployed to agencies. Co-Chair Michael Dembrow then introduced staff from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Health Authority who presented to the Council on agency missions, strategic objectives, and areas of opportunities within their agencies that the Agency Program Fund may help to address. • Oregon Department of Environmental Quality - Rian vanden Hooff, Acting Policy and External Affairs Manager • Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - Shaun Clements, Deputy Director and Sarah Reif, Habitat Division Administrator • Oregon Health Authority - Gabriela Goldfarb, Environmental Public Health Section Manager <i>Information item.</i>
02:31:46	Item 8 – Framework for Agency Program Fund Interim Distribution Senior Natural Resources Policy Advisor Geoff Huntington from the Governor’s Office shared a proposed framework with the Council about an initial allocation of APF moneys for the 2025 – 2027 biennium. <i>Information item.</i>
03:08:02	Next Steps, Reminders & Wrap Up Co-Chair Michael Dembrow announced the next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 1:00 pm in the Land Board Room at the State Lands Building in Salem, with a hybrid option, and closed out the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm by Co-Chair Michael Dembrow