

**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES**

Monday, March 6, 2023

8:30 a.m.

Virtual Public Meeting

1) Call to Order: (Scott Ashford, Board Chair)

Chair Scott Ashford called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

2) Introductions: (Scott Ashford, Board Chair, and Staff)

Chair Scott Ashford, Vice-Chair Linda Kozlowski, Board Members Diane Teeman, Anne MacDonald, and Erica Medley, were all in attendance via Zoom video/phone.

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) Staff in attendance:

Ruarri Day-Stirrat – Director/State Geologist

Sarah Lewis, MLRR Program Manager

Lori Calarruda, Recording Secretary/Executive Assistant

Alex Lopez, Public Affairs Coordinator

Steve Dahlberg, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Jason McClaughry, Interim GS&S Program Manager

Christina Appleby, Legislative Coordinator/Geohazards Analyst

Jonathan Allan, Coastal Geomorphologist

Brianna Weaver, Office Assistant

Others in attendance:

Diane Lloyd, Department of Justice (DOJ)

Karin Power, Policy Advisor Governor's Office

April McDonald, Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO)

Sione Filimoehala, DAS Office of the Chief Financial Officer

1 **3) Review Minutes of December 1, 2022 Board Meeting:**

2 Chair Ashford asked if there were any changes to the minutes as presented. No changes.

3

4 Board Action: **Kozlowski moved to approve the minutes of December 1, 2022 as submitted.**

5 **Medley seconded. Teeman abstained. Motion carried.**

6

7 **4) Financial Report:**

8 Steve Dahlberg, Chief Financial Officer, presented the DOGAMI FY2021 Budget Status Report, as of

9 December 31, 2022, for the Geological Survey and Services (GS&S) and Mineral Land Regulation &

10 Reclamation (MLRR) programs.

11

12 Dahlberg stated the Board Packet contained the financials, actuals, graphs, and projections; his

13 presentation is a brief financial summary of some highlights. The General Fund has a budget of about

14 \$6.4 million with \$5.8M in projected expenditures, resulting in DOGAMI being about \$657,000 under
15 budget (10.2%).

16
17 The Agency is investing in future geologic and scientific research using new technologies that include
18 using/utilizing radiometric and aeromagnetic techniques to understand the geological makeup of a
19 specific region, which is collected by aircraft and provides information about the structure and
20 composition of rocks in targeted areas. The cost of this data will be used as a match in future USGS
21 grant proposals, leveraging additional federal grant dollars, and creates a richer data set, improving
22 the quality of outcomes for stakeholders.

23
24 Other Funds has an Expenditure Limitation Authority budget of approximately \$2.5M, with \$3.2M in
25 expenditures, resulting in the Agency being \$740,000 over the authorized limitation, which is a good
26 thing. A request has been sent through the legislative process to increase the Expenditure Limitation
27 Authority for the final 2021-23 bill. The projected revenues of about \$3.1 million consists of
28 \$641,000 (20.5%) coming from grants; \$2.3 million (74.8%) from Lidar revenue, the bulk coming from
29 the Department of Forestry and the Oregon Private Forest Accord; and \$146,000 from the Strong
30 Motion Instrument Fund (SMIF). Dahlberg noted the memo in the Board Packet was incorrect, he
31 had entered \$787,000 instead of \$641,000, due to the SMIF revenues being entered twice.

32
33 Federal Funds has an Expenditure Limitation Authority budget of \$5.8M, with \$4.9M in expected
34 expenditures, resulting in being approximately \$900,000 under the authorized budget (15.5%). The
35 projected revenues of \$5.2M consist of eight currently active federal grant projects from FEMA
36 (45%), NOAA (40%), and USGS (15%); and four Lidar projects from FEMA (51%), BLM (26%), and USGS
37 (23%). DOGAMI staff are working on future proposals for new federal grants with FEMA, NOAA and
38 USGS, that will be submitted in the near future.

39
40 MLRR has an Expenditure Limitation Authority budget of \$4.3M, with \$4.1M in expected
41 expenditures, resulting in being approximately \$170,000 under the authorized budget (4.0%). The
42 projected revenues are about \$4.9M that are driven from fees and the DEQ Clean Water Quality
43 permits. MLRR is looking at ways to address the very high permit application workload, including
44 hiring another limited duration position.

45
46 Some updates and highlights include: DOGAMI continues to work with federal funders FEMA, USGS,
47 and BLM on new grant proposals; taking on new ways to understand the geology of Oregon; having
48 no vacant positions; and adding limited duration positions to address current work and needs.
49 Regarding the status of the 2023-25 Budget process, State agencies are in the midst of the legislative
50 process. Director Day-Stirrat presented the DOGAMI budget in Salem on February 15th, and staff
51 have attended a number of legislative hearings when required to support grants the Agency is asking
52 for permission to apply for, as well as Senate Bill 220, 221, 222, which deal with ePermitting.

53
54 In Summary, DOGAMI is doing well and has a very healthy outlook. The Business Office continues to
55 track the projections, working on contracts and agreements, and grant reporting. The Agency
56 continues working on its partnerships with various federal and State agencies on projects and
57 techniques that benefit everyone. DOGAMI is working closely with its CFO and LFO analysts, and the
58 Governor's Office, updating them on its progress and what is coming ahead.

59
60 Chair Ashford said Dahlberg was consistent and in line with his projections from the last meeting
61 presentation.

62
63 Board Action: **Teeman moved to accept the Budget Status Report as presented. Kozlowski**
64 **seconded. Motion carried.**
65

66 **5) Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB):**

67 Ruarri Day-Stirrat, Director & State Geologist, provided a brief overview of the Governor's
68 Recommended Budget (GRB) for the Agency.
69

70 Day-Stirrat stated the Governor's Recommended Budget increases the overall Agency budget by
71 17.2%, to \$22.2 million over the 2023-25 biennium. There is an increase in FTE positions from 34.67
72 to 41; most of the positions are in MLRR, and will come to those related to Policy Option Packages.
73 For GS&S, which includes the Business Office, there are 23 positions and \$15M. The proposed MLRR
74 budget is \$7.2 million with 18 positions, which is a significant increase in positions.
75

76 The Policy Option Packages (POP) that have been supported either in full or in part were: POP 101:
77 ePermitting & IT Modernization, for the implementation of the ePermitting system, which comes
78 with two positions and a significant amount of funding to build out this ePermitting system,
79 leveraging what has been put in place by DEQ; POP 104: Consolidated Mining Permit, MLRR Other
80 Fund position on cost recovery, that increases the position from .75 FTE to a full FTE, which has full
81 support from the applicant; POP 105: Organizational Adjustments, a technical correction that
82 increases one GS&S position from .92 to 1 FTE; POP 106: Infrastructure Permit Support, was
83 approved in full for two additional positions, an Interagency Coordinator and a Permit Reviewer; POP
84 107: Unpermitted Surface Mining, was approved in part (50%), this had two positions to look at the
85 number of mine sites around the State with no permits. The overall budget, the CSL, was approved
86 and essentially incorporates a number of technical adjustments related to inflation and different
87 inflation factors.
88

89 Chair Ashford asked if expanding the position from .92 or .75 to 1 FTE, increases it to a full time job,
90 or does it take them off one funding source to focus their efforts on the one related to the Policy
91 Option Package. Day-Stirrat answered they are not moved around, it actually creates more position
92 to allow for more billing against the position.
93

94 Medley asked if the MLRR positions are all permanent and is there any concerns that the work may
95 not be sustained once the permitting process is completely online. Day-Stirrat explained only one
96 will be permanent, the IT Support position, and the rest are Limited Durations for 2 years, with the
97 ePermitting Project Manager overlapping into the next biennium to finish the project.
98

99 Kozlowski said there seemed to be more enthusiasm and support for DOGAMI from the Legislature,
100 which is very positive for the Agency, and asked if Day-Stirrat can explain the change. Day-Stirrat said
101 it may be due to the overall direction the Agency has taken the last 2 years; the work the Board has
102 done to put DOGAMI in a good position; the effort staff have done to embrace the changes in
103 reporting of managing projects; and the continued ability of DOGAMI staff to positively impact
104 Oregonians. Kozlowski said it is impressive and exciting, and she is pleased with what the Board has
105 done in terms of support of the financials and moving the Agency to more accountability.
106

107 MacDonald asked with the increase in grant applications, how will that affect the Agency, especially
108 with Day-Stirrat being a little nervous about having the staffing capacity to really make use of the

109 Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation for other Federal Funds. Day-Stirrat said it is a good problem to
110 have instead of the other way around, and with the availability of funds, the Agency can work out
111 staffing issues later.

112
113 Chair Ashford asked if there are opportunities for partnering with other agencies or universities to
114 help fill the positions instead of staffing up. Day-Stirrat stated State capacity is an overall challenge,
115 as several other agencies are not fully staffed, but the Agency has had no hiring problems. Other
116 options might include being more creative with internships, which could cause a workload increase
117 working with inexperienced staff.

118
119 Teeman asked if the funding being allocated will help with maintaining capacity to meet the reviews
120 for the increase in permitting applications MLRR is expected to receive. Day-Stirrat said for
121 exploration permits, internally the Agency is okay, but there may be challenges externally with other
122 agencies to meet statutory timelines.

123
124 Chair Ashford echoed Kozlowski's comments with being pleased where the Agency is heading and
125 having the support in Salem.

126
127 Briefing: **No Board Action Required.**

128
129 **6) Legislative Update:**

130 Christina Appleby, Legislative Coordinator, provided a Legislative update.

131
132 Appleby stated the Legislative Session began January 17th and ends June 25th. Throughout January
133 and February, several thousand bills were introduced to the House and Senate, then referred to
134 committees to be worked on through the process of public hearings, informational sessions, and
135 work sessions, to meet deadlines in April and May. This is the pruning stage to determine which bills
136 make the cut off and which ones do not; in the end, these bills need to be identical versions of the
137 language passed through both House and Senate with signatures from the Speaker of the House, the
138 Senate President, as well as the Governor.

139
140 The Legislature is focused on the Governor's top priorities of reducing homelessness, education, and
141 access to mental health and addiction services. There are other focus areas such as semi-conductors,
142 the I-5 bridge, and within the Natural Resource agencies, conversations around water and wildfire
143 management, climate change, and land use that overlaps with housing, semiconductors, and other
144 industries.

145
146 DOGAMI's Budget Bill is HB 5510, and supports the Governor's Recommended Budget. On February
147 15th and 16th, information and public hearings were held before the Ways and Means Joint
148 Subcommittee on Natural Resources. The next steps include a work session before the
149 subcommittee before being referred to the Full Ways and Means Committee.

150
151 DOGAMI has several bills to support improved customer service through IT modernization. These are
152 Senate Bill (SB) 220 and 221, regarding funding for the MLRR ePermitting System. SB 222 gives
153 authorization to DOGAMI to accept credit card payments and add a convenience fee to credit card
154 transactions. All of these would help increase the customer service for permittees. Sarah Lewis,
155 MLRR Program Manager, presented to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources giving them a

156 sense of how these bills interact and answering their questions, during a public hearing last week.
157 The next steps for these bills are to move through a work session, before this same committee,
158 before the bills are either referred to the Senate Floor for a vote or the Way and Means Committee
159 for financial review.

160
161 The Agency has had several opportunities to provide additional testimony. DOGAMI sought approval
162 to apply for federal grants: USGS STATEMAP and USGS Earth MRI, both were approved by the
163 Subcommittee and STATEMAP was approved by the Full Committee; Earth MRI still needs Full
164 Committee approval. The Agency is also seeking approval to increase Expenditure Limitation as part
165 of Omnibus Bill HB 5045, with a scheduled hearing on March 3rd. It is almost half-way through the
166 Session and recordings of all hearings are on Oregon's Legislative website.

167
168 Chair Ashford asked if SB 220 and 221 are independent. Appleby answered yes, and one could go
169 forward without the other one, depending on the funding around creating the ePermitting System,
170 and if it is General Funded versus through fees. Ashford asked if SB 220 went away due to General
171 Funding, SB 221 would still allow the Agency to cover the cost of the ePermitting, and if the declaring
172 of an emergency allows funding to take effect July 1, 2023. Appleby said yes to both questions.

173
174 Medley stated Appleby made the Legislature sound exciting.

175
176 Briefing: **No Board Action Required.**

177
178
179 **7) Technical Presentation: A Brief History of Nearly Everything About the DOGAMI Coastal Program:**

180 Jonathan Allan, Coastal Geomorphologist, gave a technical presentation on A Brief History of Nearly
181 Everything About the DOGAMI Coastal Program.

182
183 Allan stated he has been with the Agency for 22 years and his focus is primarily on coastal hazards.
184 The Coastal Field Office has been involved in multiple projects including: a landslide at Johnson
185 Creek; cable landings; outreach with coastal communities; and repeat surveys of beaches to
186 document what is happening with them. He shared and described a collage of pictures, including
187 some of the impacts of the Tohoku Japan tsunami near Brookings Harbor. He acknowledged previous
188 staff members of the Tsunami Program Rob Bitter and George Priest, who was/is his mentor.

189
190 The Newport Field Office was established by the 71st Oregon Legislature in 1999, and officially
191 opened in early 2000. Its Mission: assist coastal communities with land-use decisions and personal
192 safety by helping them understand the processes and hazards that shape our coastline. Its two main
193 areas of focus are tsunami related research and coastal change. The State of Oregon is exposed to
194 the effects of a great earthquake happening on the Cascadia Subduction Zone, which has tremendous
195 implications for its coastal communities, as well as inland communities, in terms of the earthquake
196 shaking and damage that could arise from that type of event. A major focus for the Coastal Team,
197 over the years, has been doing state-of-the-art tsunami inundation modeling, then taking those
198 model results comparing them with geologic data, and developing the appropriate maps to safeguard
199 the public, resident public population, as well as visitors.

200
201 In terms of scientific accomplishments, the Field Office team has over the years published: 50 articles
202 in scientific journals and another 72 DOGAM technical reports; many types of maps and products

203 oriented for tsunami preparedness, including evacuations maps, Beat the Wave maps, neighborhood
204 scale maps; and various other projects.

205
206 In 2004, Allan established the coastal beach monitoring program for the State of Oregon, called
207 Oregon Beach and Shoreline Mapping Program (OBSMAP). There is now over 26 years of repeat
208 surveys and multiple sites that provides them with critical information about seasonal and
209 interannual, and now the decadal changes taking place on beaches, dunes, and bluffs. These types of
210 data sets are used by both geotechnical consultants, and state and local agencies. This is an ongoing
211 project with the goals to: document short to long-term patterns and rates of Pacific Northwest (PNW)
212 coastal changes; how changes in sea level, wave climates, and sediment budgets affecting PNW
213 beaches; and what are likely future implications of climate change to coastal communities. The
214 outcomes are: 178 sites actively monitored; sentinel sites monitored seasonally; climate quality time
215 series record documenting change over the past 26 years; and data contributing toward informed
216 decision-making at local, state, and federal levels.

217
218 Allan explained this is done by using a technique called Real Time Kinematic GPS to collect these data
219 sets. There are different types of areas that can be measured: Topo surveying, using a buggy with the
220 GPS mounted on top of it; Cross-sections done by walking across the beach out into waiting depth;
221 and Bathymetry to pick up the near shore area using jet skis. This data collection is essentially
222 controlled by GPS using a base station mounted on a known point. It is done on a seasonal basis, and
223 Lidar can be integrated when it becomes available, or other types of datasets as they arise. Allan
224 explained graphs shown on a slide depicting the results from four different positions across the beach
225 that help determine what changes have taken place, negative values indicate erosion, and positive
226 values indicate accretion.

227
228 Chair Ashford asked when the data is taken if it is the same day every year or just in the same season.
229 Allan answered they do it seasonally, Winter is done in February/March, Fall is done in
230 September/October, and then a full survey in December/January. As long as consistent seasonal
231 measurements are done, a good quality time series is maintained.

232
233 Allan provided recent examples of how the data is being used: Dune grading management plans in
234 Cannon Beach, Manzanita and Seaside; Assessing shoreline changes at Twin Rocks, Tillamook County
235 for the purpose of installing coastal engineering; Assessing responses of dynamic revetment cobble
236 beaches at the Columbia River south jetty, Cape Lookout, and HMSC in Newport; Assessing shoreline
237 changes at the mouth of Hunter Creek, Curry County; Calibrating remote sensing (satellite) data for
238 extracting “shorelines”; and Assessing telecommunication cable landing sites on the Oregon coast.

239
240 Allan said they also collect shorelines where they actually physically measure a title datum-based
241 shoreline. He reviewed the shorelines collected over many years for Tillamook County Shorelines,
242 and explained from this data, patterns and changes related to things such as storminess can be
243 extrapolated. By working with the USGS, and individuals in Japan and Australia, these same data sets
244 enable the development of basin scale responses to El Niños.

245
246 A major focus of the Oregon Tsunami Program has been doing tsunami inundation mapping and
247 modeling. The entire Oregon coast was completed in 2013, with the north coast being updated in
248 2021 to address some bathymetric errors. From these data sets, standard evacuation brochures can
249 be extrapolated and printed on high format sheets. A much higher resolution is being developed

250 called Neighborhood scale maps that can be used by local communities, businesses, or hotel/motels
251 to further educate the public and visitors that come along the Oregon coastline.

252
253 A lot of work has been done over the last 5 years to boost tsunami awareness through establishing
254 tsunami signage. There have been: 201 You Are Here and 280 Entering/Leaving signs installed along
255 US Highway 101 (136 sites); \$205,000 spent for individual communities on wayfinding signage (2015-
256 2022); Thermoplastic blue lines and signage in multiple communities; Original “large-format”
257 Evacuation Brochures for the entire coast; “Beat the Wave” Evacuation Modeling and tsunami
258 evacuation brochures; completed Multiple Guidance Documents for developing guidance for building
259 disaster caches; and Coastwide exposure & risk analysis (Hazus) for most of the coast, except Curry
260 County.

261
262 From the risk assessments, data has been generated to look at things, such as fatalities, for different
263 tsunami events. A chart regarding Earthquake and Tsunami Risk Assessments was shared that
264 compared Oregon coastal cities to Japan’s 2011 event regarding fatalities, displaced, building losses,
265 and debris. These numbers are quite sobering, and serve as a reminder about the importance of the
266 work being done to try to prepare Oregon coastal constituents and visitors.

267
268 Additional products used for evaluating evacuation challenges are being developed for specific
269 communities. They look at the age and structure of people to make determinations about their
270 relative success of getting to high ground. Looking at where all the hotel/motels and the resident
271 populations are, the data can be used to do simulations about where best to either retrofit bridges or
272 look at vertical evacuation structures that could improve people's ability to get to safety in time.

273
274 Allan wrapped up his presentation discussing the Geologic Assessment of Potential Cable Landing
275 Sites Along the Oregon Coast that has been spearheaded by Reed Burgette. It is an ongoing project,
276 requested by the Department of Land Conservation Development (DLCD), to evaluate the entire
277 Oregon coast to determine best possible sites offshore that could be used for cable landings, from
278 which the data would then be used to ultimately guide policy decisions.

279
280 Chair Ashford said it is an amazing amount of work and extremely important work for the Oregon
281 coast. He asked if the comparison to Japan related to the cost and amount debris is because they
282 have a more developed coastline/extensive infrastructure than Oregon. Allan said he believed that
283 was correct, they have a more expansive infrastructure. The other part is the estimates of volume
284 and debris provided by Hazus is a first order estimate but does not cover everything, such as mobile
285 items, such as cars and rip ups.

286
287 Chair Ashford asked if focusing on the central and north coasts is because that is where the
288 population is. Allan stated they started with areas that had the most significant erosion in the late
289 1990s and gradually moved to central coast and south coast. This is all funding dependent and only
290 so much can be done with what is received through the Northwest Association of Network Ocean
291 Observing Systems (NANOOS). A future hope is to do more refined work looking at bluff erosion, he
292 has been reaching out to Mike Olson of OSU for collaboration.

293
294 Medley asked if they have thought about using InSAR for coastal erosion work. Allan said they have
295 not been using it and does not think it is used for documenting changes on beaches and dunes.

296

297 Medley asked if on the tsunami inundation mapping, they also consider the potential for coincident
298 landslides along the evacuation routes or infrastructure, like bridges, that are probably not going to
299 withstand Cascadia. Allan said they do consider whether bridges are able to survive the earthquake
300 shaking and do incorporate that as part of their modeling and remove those from the evacuation
301 route if they are considered not safe; a database has been compiled working with ODOT and county
302 engineers. For coincident landslides along evacuation routes, they are considered but it is a tough
303 topic to evaluate adequately, but there are alternative routes to evacuate people.

304
305 Day-Stirrat said he wanted to draw the Board's attention to the offshore cable landing sites and the
306 importance of them being resilient as possible for the likely offshore wind activity and increased data
307 needs.

308
309 Kozlowski said as a user, DOGAMI is extraordinarily helpful in making decisions that need to be made.
310 The work is really important to coastal communities.

311
312 Medley asked for the modeling of tsunami inundation mapping if they use a medium/median(?)
313 Cascadia event or it is scaled up for a higher return for risk. Allan said for the tsunami modeling is
314 basically deterministic, they use five potential scenarios of Cascadia rupturing to model and work
315 with coastal communities to adopt the most conservative, but are moving to a more probabilistic
316 based tsunami modeling. Collaborative work is being done with the University of Victoria in British
317 Columbia, US Geological Survey (USGS), through the Seismic Hazard Program, entire West Coast, all
318 State Geologic Surveys, and others, but it probably will not be ready until the middle of next year.

319
320 Medley stated the 2023 National Seismic Hazard Mapping update will have some more site specific
321 probabilistic results that can be used.

322
323 Chair Ashford said it is encouraging that the cities and counties are looking at the bridges. He
324 thanked Allan for all the work being done for the residents on the Oregon coast/coastal communities
325 and the rest of the State.

326
327 Briefing: **No Board Action Required.**

328
329 **8) MLRR Update:**

330 Sarah Lewis, MLRR Program Manager, provided an update on MLRR.

331
332 Permit Status Summary

333 Lewis stated the general permit activity and total permit numbers are stable, and active applications
334 are down predominantly due to the impact of the hires over the last year. She introduced Brianna
335 Weaver as the new Front Office Specialist who started February 22nd, replacing a 30 year retirement.
336 MLRR is also in the final recruitment stages of an additional Permitting Specialist at the NRS 2 level to
337 assist with the workload. With respect to hires, it does take staff 6-9 months to get up-to-speed due
338 to the technical nature of most of the positions. This does place added workload on the experienced
339 staff to do training, which requires careful management to maintain Program productivity.

340
341 Lewis stated there is a new figure being used to better share both the dynamics of the increased
342 workload and permits, and the productivity of staff. She explained it has been modified to combine
343 all the applications received, and now includes Exploration Permits due to the increase in workload.

344 Exploration Permits have fewer strict requirements, but do have a statutory timeline to process them
345 and require both technical and administrative staff work. The data she presented was from February
346 2020 through February 2023.

347
348 Lewis provided her interpretation of the data. Going back to February 2020, staff's productivity,
349 measured by permits issued, did not really decrease with the shift to remote work in March of 2020
350 and COVID. MLRR maintained a steady level of permits issued, and active applications were fairly
351 steady, but in late 2020 and early 2021, an influx of applications happened, with nine applications in
352 December. Immediately after that, the number of permits decreased as staff worked to intake and
353 start processing the applications, so their focus shifted from permit issuance to permit processing.
354 Starting in August 2022, productivity returned to similar levels as before the increase of applications,
355 staff are issuing between one and three permits a month, and are still receiving three to four
356 applications a month. MLRR's productivity is equal to where it was before the spike in applications,
357 but the Program does not have the staff on hand to keep pace with the increased number of
358 applications.

359
360 Lewis stated she believes this is a clear demonstration that this is not about staff not doing their
361 work, but about needing more staff to do the work they have. The Policy Option Packages in the
362 Budget will hopefully help deal with some of that issue and will be re-evaluated in 2 years, depending
363 on this Budget's cycle outcomes, and determine what is needed for long term sustainability of the
364 Program.

365
366 Lewis added the MLRR Report included the list of the applications actually received, and the permits
367 issued in the last 3 months; this will continue going forward so the Board can see there are things
368 coming in and going out.

369
370 Lewis said response to complaints and compliance actions remains a significant portion of MLRR
371 workload, in addition to the applications, routine renewals, and site inspections. MLRR is actually
372 responding to 21 active complaints right now and tracking 103 violations across 65 mine sites. This is
373 background work that the Program needs to stay on top of because it does have a responsibility
374 when neighbors or the public reach out to ask what is going on at a mine, it becomes its priority to be
375 able to give them an answer about that mine. Many of these complaints are not from permittees but
376 from neighbors. The permittees may be doing nothing wrong but it is MLRR's job to be that liaison
377 between the complainant and the permittee, and to try to find resolution, which does take significant
378 staff and sometimes DOJ time.

379
380 Chair Ashford asked if there is a timeline for replying to complaints. Lewis stated the complaints are
381 responded to within 48 hours.

382
383 Lewis said MLRR has no changes to sites under Suspension Orders, but do have five new Civil
384 Penalties for Non-payment of Renewal Fees, which have been approved by our State Geologist. All
385 this compliance activity has slowed the development of the Notice to Civil Penalty for the Mining
386 Without a Permit site approved at the December Board Meeting, and she hopes to have an update
387 on that site in June. That site is under Suspension Order and not active; the goal there is to move the
388 permittee forward into compliance and reclamation of the site.

389
390 Grassy Mountain Project Update

391 Lewis said at the Technical Review Team (TRT) meeting in early February, the TRT recommended
392 approval of the Cultural Resources Baseline Data Report (BDR), which was actually the last of the
393 BDRs to be approved for this project. There were originally 24 Baseline Data Reports requested, the
394 final three have been approved in the last year, which means that package of Baseline Data Reports
395 is complete. This is a milestone for the company, as approved Baseline Data Reports are a
396 requirement of a complete application; and they are working toward a complete application. The
397 Consolidated Permit Application (CPA) is not complete yet, there are 242 unresolved comments from
398 State agencies on the material submitted by the applicant, and 104 comments that still need to be
399 resolved before the TRT can determine completeness.

400
401 The next TRT meeting is March 15, 2023. There will be a presentation at the meeting on the scope of
402 the Environmental Evaluation that the State will be doing. Stantec will be leading that effort, and
403 MLRR has received approval from the applicant to go ahead and start it. Normally that would wait
404 until after the Notice to Proceed, but the applicant has received approval from the Bureau of Land
405 Management on their Plan of Operations, and are moving forward with initiating their NEPA process.
406 One of the features of the Division 37 process for the State, is MLRR coordinates as much as possible
407 with the Federal Government, so it is also going to begin the Environmental Evaluation and
408 coordination to minimize duplication of work on behalf of the applicant.

409
410 Lewis said the continuation of determination of completeness is expected to continue, and does not
411 want to speculate on the timeline because it is heavily dependent on the applicant's response to the
412 comments, but she is pleased with the progress they have seen. She explained once the TRT is
413 comfortable that the CPA is complete, DOGAMI will issue a Notice to Proceed, that starts a 225 day
414 clock for State agencies to draft permits. Stantec will complete the Environmental Evaluation, and
415 that evaluation must be complete 2 months before the draft permits are issued. As part of that draft
416 permit process, there is public review of both the Environmental Evaluation and then the draft
417 permit. When it gets closer to that time, she will have Dane Doucet give a formal presentation to the
418 Board on what can be expected as the Agency moves forward with the draft permit.

419
420 Chair Ashford said that with the new Board Members, it would be helpful if the presentation also
421 included the background on Grassy Mountain.

422
423 MacDonald asked if MLRR is able to coordinate the work on Grassy Mountain with other lithium
424 exploration projects. Lewis said no, the project is independent and separate, but it does give them a
425 better understanding of dynamics, and there are a lot of public outreach opportunities that DOGAMI
426 can take advantage of to have broader conversations.

427
428 Day-Stirrat said there is a working group within the State on understanding what the lithium resource
429 in southeast Oregon looks like right now to discuss the potential work; some of the same players,
430 who are in the TRT, are in those conversations. He thinks what DOGAMI has learned from Grassy
431 Mountain is maybe how to move a Consolidated Permit in a more constructive way. This has been a
432 difficult process, as the State has been careful, and the applicant has had a lot of questions to
433 answer; the Agency has a much better understanding of the process. As for lithium, DOGAMI will
434 have to wait for them to come forward with their Notice of Intent, but at this moment it has no
435 indication of when that will happen.

436

437 MacDonald said it sounds like there is synergy in the process, Program, and Agency, which is a
438 significant advantage. Lewis agreed, stating DOGAMI/MLRR is building better, more robust
439 processes, and have established relationships to coordinate these things going forward.

440

441 Briefing: **No Board Action Required.**

442

443 **9) GS&S Update:**

444 Jason McClaughry, Interim GS&S Program Manager, provided a brief update on the GS&S program, a
445 more detailed report on publications, grants, staffing, and outreach efforts being done is in the Board
446 Packet .

447

448 McClaughry said one new grant DOGAMI received is a new opportunity with State Parks for multi-
449 hazard research at Ecola State Park on the coast. This is an exciting opportunity as the Program has
450 been working with State Parks for a number of years to build strong relationships and partnerships,
451 and have finally been successful to get together a cooperative project with them to begin looking at
452 hazards along the coast. This may turn into multiple opportunities in the future.

453

454 DOGAMI is entering into a new program with the USGS called Earth Mapping Resource Initiative or
455 Earth MRI, which is based on the need across the nation for investigating and inventorying what
456 critical minerals are available to deal with upcoming strategic needs in the country, economic
457 changes, and where to find these resources. This new project with USGS prioritizes and acquires data
458 for critical mineral focus areas in Oregon; the FY23 Earth MRI focus areas are southern Malheur
459 county and the McDermitt Caldera.

460

461 Chair Ashford asked if DOGAMI is partnering with Nevada on the project. McClaughry said yes, the
462 Agency will be working properly across the border with the Nevada Geological Survey. Thacker Pass
463 is an area of lithium exploration and the Nevada Geological Survey has Earth MRI studies ongoing
464 there.

465

466 McClaughry said with the end of the biennium coming up, General Funds will be used in support of
467 geologic mapping to collect additional data by flying two flights for high resolution aeromagnetic data
468 and radiometric data in: Harney Basin of Southeast Oregon; Baker Valley, Baker City, and Northeast
469 Oregon preparing for future groundwater studies; and Dixie Butte, near Prairie City, is another area
470 of known critical mineral potential and has extensive mineralization with cobalt.

471

472 McClaughry wrapped up with landslide mapping success story. DOGAMI receives funding from the
473 FEMA Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) and the Agency submitted to them a brief article
474 describing its workflow for mapping landslides and debris flows based on the recently published
475 Special Paper 53, which outlined the Agency's Lidar based mapping methods for channelized debris
476 flows in the post wildfire environment. FEMA chose to highlight's DOGAMI best practices. He
477 acknowledged the staff in GS&S continue to do a great amount of work that is being nationally
478 recognized by Agency partners.

479

480 MacDonald said she is wrapping up participation for clean water services in the Washington County
481 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, they made heavy use of the Landslide Susceptibility and Multi Hazard
482 Risk Assessment that DOGAMI produced and she very much appreciates that work. She had one
483 request, as staff scope study areas she would like them taken to the basin divides/drainage basin. A

484 discussion took place and McClaughry said a conversation with the landslide program to understand
485 the full issue would need to take place.

486

487 Briefing: **No Board Action Required.**

488

489 **10) Director's Report:**

490 Ruarri Day-Stirrat, Director & State Geologist, provided a brief update on the Agency.

491

492 Agency Update

493 Day-Stirrat stated he has been in the role for just under a year and wanted to reflect a little bit. He
494 recognized how hard DOGAMI staff work in both programs and is amazed and impressed with the,
495 volume of productivity, reports, and insights the Agency generate; it is a constant source of
496 motivation for him.

497

498 The Agency is focused on recognizing and supporting staff for their work, the really hard things they
499 have to do, and at times facing challenges from external parties.

500

501 Regarding hiring, the Agency has had a successful year compared to the other State agencies. The
502 hired staff either have advanced degrees or licensure in one or more states. A large cohort of
503 DOGAMI staff are set to sit for professional exams this year, and the Agency has supported that
504 career development through study groups and trying to make it a collaborative effort in joining
505 professional ranks.

506

507 Federal Funding

508 Day-Stirrat said the Agency has highlighted the mapping program as an area it has tried to grow over
509 the last year, by using creative ways in putting match funding work together to allow it to seek
510 greater funding from the USGS in terms of STATEMAP. DOGAMI entered Earth MRI, this is a first year
511 entry, and based on federal funding, this is likely to continue in future years, so the Agency has been
512 putting a package together to increase its mapping capabilities.

513

514 Carbon Sequestration

515 Day-Stirrat said he previously stated in July the Agency would not focus on carbon sequestration, he
516 backtracked that statement by saying DOGAMI put in a joint proposal, with the Washington
517 Geological Survey, to the Department of Energy to look at a potential site for carbon sequestration.
518 Washington is going to be leading this survey, DOGAMI will be a sub-recipient; the collaboration is
519 important. DOGAMI is openly looking to partner with the right entities, be it they are state surveys,
520 federal partners, or universities, and hopes that appears in the future.

521

522 Chair Ashford asked if there are any meetings needed before the next Board meeting due to the GRB.
523 Day-Stirrat said no, he thinks the process now lies with the Legislature to appropriate the Agency a
524 budget, which the Agency will report back to the Board.

525

526 Briefing: **No Board Action Required.**

527

528 **11) Public Comment:**

529 Only written comments received prior to or by 11:45 a.m. on the day of the meeting were to be
530 accepted. Chair Ashford asked for any written public comments. No public comments.

531
532 Chair Ashford thanked the new Board Members for being engaged with the meeting and appreciated
533 the dialogue and expertise they are bringing to the Board. He appreciates the work of Day-Stirrat
534 and the DOGAMI staff. Ashford is happy with the direction the Agency is going and believes the
535 reason DOGAMI is receiving positive input from the Legislature is the Agency is delivering on its
536 mission.

537
538 Kozlowski agreed with Ashford and is amazed at the energy that Day-Stirrat and staff have brought, it
539 is like a whole new organization, and thinks they are building on a good foundation.

540
541 **12) Board Adjourn:**

542 Chair Ashford adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

543
544 APPROVED

545
546 
547 Scott A. Ashford
548 Scott A. Ashford, Chair

549