



Oregon State Board of Agriculture Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
05/19/2021	Virtual	8:30 AM	12:15 PM

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Karla Valness	kvalness@oda.state.or.us	503.986.4554

Meeting recording available at: <https://youtu.be/YE1xiVawXM4>

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 (Audio = 0:00)

Agenda Item 01

Vice chair Bryan Harper called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Introductions of board members followed. Guests on-line were asked to use the chat box to sign-in.

- Board members present: Vice-chair Bryan Harper, Chad Allen, Barbara Boyer, Shantae Johnson, Elin Miller, Tyson Raymond, Luisa Santamaria, Randi Svaty, Josh Zielinski, ODA Director Alexis Taylor, OSU Dean Alan Sams
- Board members absent: Stephanie Hallock (excused absence)
- Others present: Lisa Hanson, Lauren Henderson, Jess Paulson, Isaak Stapleton, Stephanie Page, Jonathan Sandau, Jim Johnson, Karla Valness, Jan Lee, Jennifer Euwer, Andrea Cantu-Schomus, Dave Losh, Wym Matthews, Tami Kerr, Amy Wong, Debbie Bunch, Diann Washburn, Sunny Summers, Greg Holmes, Samantha Bayer, Roger Kaye, Amanda Hoey, Douglas Woodcock, Danette Faucera, Mary Anne Cooper, Madeline Unger, Susanna Pearlstein, Casey Prentiss, Jeff Stone, Darren Nichols, April Snell, Smitya Mehta, Shaun Clements, Eric Nigg, Gordon Howard, Hilary Foote, Jim Rue

Approval of minutes (Audio = 9:50)

Draft minutes from the January 20, 2021, board meeting was presented for review and approval.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Elin Miller to approve the minutes with no changes or corrections. Seconded by Tyson Raymond. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Director’s report (Audio = 10:46)

Director Taylor provided an update to the Board on the following:

Director Taylor welcomed Chad Allen from Tillamook and Randi Svaty from Ontario as new members on the Board who will fill the partial terms previously held by Marty Myers and Grant Kitamura. We will begin the recruitment process later this summer to fill positions of two board members who will be coming off the Board later this year. We will recruit for a producer position when Tyson Raymond term ends and a public member position when Stephanie Hallock term ends.

Director Taylor provided an update to the ODA Market Access Program Area report regarding the Kentucky 31 grass seed investigation administrative hearing. Since the time the ODA report was written and provided to the Board a settlement in that case has been reached and the ODA will not be going to administrative hearing on that case. More information is available about the settlement in the ODA News Release. There are still other Investigations going on in conjunction with the larger Kentucky 31 investigation and more information to come later and will be share with the Board. Thanked ODA Seed Program staff for the hard work over the past year and one-half to bring this investigation to completion.

ODA gave its budget presentation to the Legislature last month. The May revenue forecast is due to be announced today and this information will assist the Legislature to finalize agency budgets. Since the budget presentation, ODA has continued to participate in informational hearings to the Legislature on pesticides, organic agriculture, general agriculture 101, and climate change and carbon sequestration.

The ODA along with OWEB and ODF submitted joint comments to USDA around climate change and how agriculture can continue to support the forest sector as we work to adapt to climate change and identify needed resources. A copy of the comments will be provided to the Board.

ODA has been participating in the State workgroups around re-opening state government buildings to the public. Currently ODA staff are continuing to work virtual as much as possible and meeting with the public in the ODA building by appointment only. Discussions and work is ongoing to navigate through the changes and making plans to re-open as best as possible to the public.

The ODA receives about \$1.5-2 million dollars annually as part of the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program for projects to support the specialty crop sector in Oregon. We are in the process of finalizing the awards for the 2021 funding cycle. This year due to additional funding available from the Federal Government for COVID Recovery Programs, Oregon will receive an additional \$2.5 million in funding to help invest and support specialty crop programs targeted towards COVID impacts and recovery. We anticipate having a request for proposals notice out early this summer.

Agenda Item 02 – Oregon Department of Agriculture budget and legislative updates (Audio = 18:33)

Assistant Director Lauren Henderson and Special Assistant Jonathan Sandau provided the board an update on the Legislative Session. The ODA delivered a virtual budget presentation to the Legislative committee over a 2-day schedule in mid-April. The Governor's 2021-23 Budget (GB) for the ODA shows total funds increase from \$128 million in the current budget to \$133 million, resulting from fund shifts, reductions and new funds added to the overall budget. Policy committees are wrapping up and will close and shift to agency budget reviews. ODA's six policy bills, including three fee bills, are schedule for a vote in the Senate in the coming weeks. In addition to the budget presentations, Director Taylor and staff have participated in several legislative information sessions on topics including, organic, hemp and pesticides. The next state revenue forecast is due out today and will impact final 2021-23 budgets. Discussion followed.

Agenda Item 03 – ODA Produce Safety Program Update (Audio = 49:30)

Susanna Pearlstein, ODA Produce Safety Program Manager and Casey Prentiss, Assistant Program Director provided the Board with an update on the ODA Produce Safety Program. The presentation included a Produce Safety Rule refresher, ODA's program and the status of FDA inspections in Oregon.

The FSMA Produce Safety Rule sets mandatory standards for growing, harvesting, packing, and holding produce primarily eaten raw for human consumption. Compliance dates for most requirement was phased in based on farm business size. Large size farms were required to come into compliance in 2018, followed by small business in 2019 and then very small businesses in 2020.

The ODA Produce Safety Program currently has three full time staff and has an Intergovernmental Agreement with OSU to complete education and outreach, farm inventory and technical assistance around the state. Since 2017 the program has provided education and outreach to 1148 people and held 48 classes in both English and Spanish. The program conducts outreach to identify and compile a farm inventory of covered farms. The ODA program does not conduct FDA inspections in Oregon.

ODA is current in the last year of the current 5-year grant cycle and recently applied for the next 5-year funding cycle July 1, 2021- June 30, 2026, to continue in a non-regulatory capacity. ODA does have the option to request for permission to apply for regulatory funding if the produce industry and ODA should desire to move in that direction. Funding has not been awarded at this time.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspected 117 farms in Oregon during the 2019 growing season. In 2020 FDA led inspections were largely postponed due to COVID and wildfires they are expected to resume in 2021.

For more information on the ODA program visit <https://oda.direct/producesafety>

Resource:

- ODA Produce Safety Program presentation

Agenda Item 04 – Planning for long-term agricultural water supply in Oregon (Audio = 1:06:00)

ODA Natural Resources Program Director Stephanie Page along with representatives Doug Woodcock, Oregon Water Resources Department; Shaun Clements, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Smita Mehta, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; Mary Ann Cooper, Oregon Farm Bureau; April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress; and Jeff Stone, Oregon Association of Nurseries came together to review and discuss with the board the existing agricultural water supply planning tools, including reservations and place-based planning tools and benefits and limitations of these tools. Panelists also shared perspectives on practical tools and processes for water supply planning for agriculture in the future.

Long-term agriculture water supply planning is important to Oregon agriculture because a large percentage of Oregon's value of agriculture production comes from irrigated lands.

Irrigated agricultural lands have a higher value per acre, and the value of the production is much higher than on non-irrigated lands. About 43% of all farms in Oregon use irrigation, but irrigated farmlands account for about 78% of the total market value of agricultural products sold in Oregon. Agriculture is the largest consumer of water withdrawn in our state, and about 78% of the water drawn from surface or groundwater sources is used for irrigation.

Resource:

- Memo to Board of Agriculture – water briefing
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Water Supply Planning presentation

Agenda Item 05 - Public Comment (Audio = 2:00:19)

Vice chair Bryan Harper acknowledged the receipt of written comments from three individuals/organizations related to the current resolutions under review. Written comments were distributed to board members and posted on the ODA website prior to the meeting.

Verbal comments were heard from three individuals/organizations related to the current resolutions under review.

Speaker	Name	Topic
1	Greg Holmes Food Systems Program Director 1000 Friends of Oregon	Resolution 314
2	Jennifer Euwer County Planning Commissioner in Hood River County	Resolution 314
3	Samantha Bayer Policy Counsel Oregon Farm Bureau	Resolution 314

Resource:

- Agenda Item 05 – Written Public Comments May 2021

Agenda Item 06 – Agricultural land use discussion with Department of Land Conservation and Development (Audio = 2:13:05)

Department of Land Conservation and Development Director Jim Rue and Farm and Forest Specialist Hilary Foote provided an update on the Oregon Land Use Planning Program and the important role the program has in protecting Oregon farmland. Today Oregon has about 15.9 million acres of land in farm use, and about 15.5 million acres of that is inventoried and protected as farmland by the Oregon planning program.

Key issues in land use include the urban growth boundary, non-farmland uses, right to farm and co-existence issues.

To review and discuss some of these issues, Hilary Foote reviewed highlights from the 2018-2019 Farm Forest Land Use Report. Highlights included the categories of dwelling approvals on farmland by type and by county, soils challenges, use approvals on farmland, agri-tourism approvals, renewable energy, farmland zone changes, and the Urban Growth Boundary expansions over time.

Resource:

- Department of Land Conservation & Development Agricultural Land Use – 2018-2019 Farm Forest Land Use Report

Agenda Item 07 - Board Business (Audio = 3:17:20)

ODA Program Area Reports

Vice chair Harper thanked the ODA program areas for the recent quarterly reports prepared for the Board. Board members had no questions for ODA staff on the reports.

Resource:

- ODA Program Area Updates to the Board May 2021

OWEB Report

Barbara Boyer reported on the March 8-9 OWEB meeting which included a presentation from DEQ Director Richard Whitman on the Klamath Falls dam removal project. OWEB approved additional funding for that project if needed. Also approved funding for Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) project technical assistance, monitoring and stakeholder engagement work. OWEB also approved a climate change consideration in the grant making process to address climate considerations more fully across all grant programs. During the meeting they also reviewed and approved Noxious Weed Control grants. Much of the noxious weed control work done in Oregon is funded through OWEB and the ODA conducts a grant program to the counties to conduct projects. ODA has also added a climate change lens on grant programs like the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and the County Noxious Weed Control Grants as a result of the Governor's Executive Order 20-04 on Climate Change.

Nominating Committee Report

Tyson Raymond reported the nominating committee met and are recommending Bryan Harper to serve as Board chair and Luisa Santamaria to serve as Board vice-chair for the upcoming year beginning at the November 30 Board of Agriculture meeting. Chair Hallock will continue to serve as Chair through the September meeting.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Elin Miller to accept the nominating committee recommendations for chair and vice-chair. Seconded by Barbara Boyer. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Action Items

Vice chair Harper asked for a report from Board Workgroup B on the resolutions under current review.

Workgroup B – resolutions under review

Josh Zielinski reported on the work completed by Workgroup B on the Resolutions under review and recommended the following actions.

- **Resolution 266 – Collective Bargaining for Agricultural Workers and Employers**
After review of public comments and discussion during the Workgroup meeting held May 18, Board members of the workgroup recommend the full board approve the proposed edits to the resolution.
- **Resolution 314 – Permitted uses on lands zoned exclusive farm use and on high-value farmland and agricultural land**
After review of public comments and discussion during the Workgroup meeting held May 18, Board members of the workgroup recommend the full board approve the proposed edits to the resolution.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Josh Zielinski to approve the proposed edits in the red-line version of Resolution 266. Seconded by Barbara Boyer. No discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Josh Zielinski to approve the proposed edits in the red-line version of Resolution 314. Seconded by Barbara Boyer. Discussion followed. Motion passed with a vote of 7 members (Allen, Boyer, Harper, Raymond, Santamaria, Svaty, Zielinski) voting Aye and 2 members (Johnson, Miller) voting Nay.

Resolutions are policy statements by the Board of Agriculture. Members of the public can request the Board to consider creating or modifying a resolution at any time. Resolutions are regularly reviewed by the Board.

Newsletter Topics

Suggested topics for the Board newsletter included: new board member profiles, highlights from panel presentations on planning for long-term agricultural water supply in Oregon and the Agricultural Land Use discussion with the Department of Land Conservation and Development and Resolution updates.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

**Next virtual meeting:
September 14-15, 2021**