STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY
MEETING SUMMARY
January 8-9, 2025

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

For full meeting recording, please visit the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4Q5eNQs9qo&t=15961s
For specific agenda items, click the agenda title to go directly to the recorded segment.

9:00 AM – Meeting Called to Order

Chair Jim Kelly called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held in-person and by video conference in the Tillamook Room of Building C at the Oregon Department of Forestry's Salem Campus, at 2600 State St SE, Salem Oregon. All members of the Board of Forestry were present in person.

Chair Kelly called roll and provided general housekeeping information.

Board Member	Present	Absent
Liz Agpaoa	X	
Heath Curtiss	X	
Ben Deumling	X	
Joe Justice	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Bob Van Dyk	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

Staff attendance present to support the meeting included State Forester Cal Mukumoto, Board Administrator Eleni Collins and Matt DeVore, Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice.

CONSENT AGENDA

Bob Van Dyk moved for approval of the consent agenda with the exception of item E. Liz Agpaoa seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and Board members voted as listed below. Motion passed 7-0.

Board Member	Yes	No
Liz Agpaoa – *seconded*	X	
Heath Curtiss	X	
Ben Deumling	X	
Joe Justice	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Bob Van Dyk – *motioned*	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

Chair Kelly opened a discussion on agenda item E: Vision for Oregon's Forests. Bob Van Dyk shared concern over "Vision for Oregon's Forests" replacing the strategic plan, "Forestry Program for Oregon", and expressed that

"Vision for Oregon's Forests" did not satisfy the requirements of a strategic plan. Chair Kelly invited members of the defunct Forestry Program for Oregon subcommittee to share comments. This included:

- The agency had submitted a different but similar document as its strategic plan to meet requirements of the Governor's office
- The Vision for Oregon's Forests is not intended to be a strategic plan. It operates as a higher-level vision document that can guide the board and agency in its decision making
- There is shared desire for more work to be done in building a strategic plan that offers more details on timelines and goals

Ben Deumling moved for approval of the consent agenda item E: Vision for Oregon's Forests. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and Board members voted as listed below. Motion passed 6-1.

Board Member	Yes	No
Liz Agpaoa	X	
Heath Curtiss	X	
Ben Deumling – *motioned*	X	
Joe Justice	X	
Brenda McComb – *seconded*	X	
Bob Van Dyk		X
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

AGENDA ITEM 1 – OPENING COMMENTS

State Forester Mukumoto offered opening comments, highlighting the Department's goals and priorities for 2025, interagency efforts to support wildfire funding strategies, and recognition of the Oregon State Fire Marshall's office support in sending firefighters to Southern California.

Board Members made the following comments:

- **Heath Curtiss:** Brought attention to the Board's responsibility to participate in the 5 Year Rule Review, and offered recognition of Cal's leadership.
- **Bob Van Dyk:** Described dissatisfaction with the Board Chair's behavior, and recommended board members review Robert's Rules of Order.

Chair Kelly offered opening comments that included the recognition of the severity of wildfires and climate change impacts, and encouraged the Board to focus on what makes sense for Oregon's drier forests.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – PUBLIC FORUM

5 individuals provided live, in-person testimony and 7 individuals provided testimony via Zoom. Written Testimony can be viewed here:
https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/bof/20250108-bof-public-testimony-all-items.pdf

AGENDA ITEM 3 – FINAL ORDER, DOUGLAS COUNTY, BY AND THROUGH THE DOUGLAS COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Greg Wagenblast (Civil Penalties Administrator), Scott Swearingen (Field Support Unit Manager) Matt B. DeVore (Assistant Attorney General, Dept. of Justice) provided to the Board the facts related to the matter of Douglas County, by and through the Douglas County Public Works Department. The Board was provided with 4 decision points to consider, and the board asked clarifying questions and discussed their position on the case.

Ben Deumling moved for approval of option 3: Enter a final order adopting the recommendations (proposed order) of the hearings officer. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. Roll call was performed and Board members voted as listed below. Motion passed 6-1.

Board Member	Yes	No
Liz Agpaoa	X	
Heath Curtiss		X
Ben Deumling – *motioned*	X	
Joe Justice	X	
Brenda McComb – *seconded*	X	
Bob Van Dyk	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

AGENDA ITEM 4 – JOHN KRAUSE 45 YEAR SERVICE AWARD

Mike Cafferata (Forest Grove District Forester) shared with the board recognition for John Krause, a Stewardship Forester who has recently retired after 45 years of service to the Department. Cafferata highlighted Krause's career and awarded him with a plaque and clock in thanks for his service.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – FOREST PRACTICES OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

John Krause (Stewardship Forester) and Scott Swearingen (Field Support Unit Manager) provided an overview of the Operator of the Year Award program. They highlighted merit award recipients and celebrated the 3 Operator of the Year Award recipients. The Board viewed videos of each recipient's work, and recipients were thanked for their efforts by the Board Chair and State Forester.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW AND WILDFIRE FUNDING WORKGROUP UPDATE

Derrick Wheeler (Legislative Coordinator) offered the Board an overview of how a bill becomes a law within the State of Oregon and how the Department and Board can engage with this process. Kyle Williams (Deputy Director of Fire Operations) provided an update on the Wildfire Funding Workgroup's progress in determining additional ways to secure funding for wildfire response.

Discussion from the board included interest and guidance in the Board drafting a letter to the legislature in support of Private Forest Accord funding, which was proposed as a potential topic for the March meeting agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – BOARD PLANNING CALENDAR OVERVIEW

Eleni Collins (Board Administrator) provided the Board with an overview of the Board Planning Calendar, a tool for the Board, Department and members of the public to use in identify upcoming topics for Board Meetings over the next two years.

Discussion from the board included interest in the following items:

- Identifying regular updates for:
    - Climate Change and Carbon Plan implementation
    - Diversifying workforce trends in the agency
- Preparing appropriately for conversations on:
    - Agency key performance measures
    - Budgetary items such as legislative concepts and policy option packages
- Seeing workplans and written reports overlap with the calendar

AGENDA ITEM 8 – ANNUAL UPDATE ON THE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Josh Barnard (Forest Resources Division Chief) provided background on the establishment of the Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC) and Independent Research and Science Team (IRST). Josh Barnard provided insight on how the agency engages with these groups, and introduced Terry Frueh (Adaptive Management Program Coordinator). Terry Frueh offered an overview of the purpose, composition and charge of both the AMPC and IRST. AMPC Co-Chairs, Seth Barnes and Stacey Detwiler provided an update on the work the group has performed and outlined the upcoming work and key dates, highlighting when their work will overlap with the State Board of Forestry. The IRST Chair, Kelly Burnett and Director of the Institute for Natural Resources, Lisa Gaines, provided an overview the IRST's establishment and work to date.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – CLOSING COMMENTS

The Board Chair provided an opportunity for Board members to offer closing comments. Brenda McComb offered comments on her interest in knowing the long-term data associated with the employee demographics for the Department of Forestry so that the Board can be aware of the trends in diversifying the agency workforce.

Ben Deumling moved to request that the State Forester provide to the Board of Forestry the headcount and percentages of employees by job category (permanent and seasonal) and self-reported protected class identity for each year from 2015-2024 in order to understand trends in diversifying the ODF workforce. Liz Agpaoa seconded the motion. Roll call was performed and Board members voted as listed below. Motion passed 6-1.

Board Member	Yes	No
Liz Agpaoa – *seconded*	X	
Heath Curtiss	X	
Ben Deumling – *motioned*	X	
Joe Justice	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Bob Van Dyk	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

Board members raised questions on spontaneous motions, asking when topics can be added to the meeting organically and when there should be advance notice. It was acknowledged that additional guidance and clarity may benefit the Board for future meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Thursday, January 9, 2025

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Ben Deumling	X	
Joe Justice	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Bob Van Dyk	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

Staff attendance present to support the meeting included State Forester Cal Mukumoto, Board Administrator Eleni Collins and Anika Marriott, Counsel from the Department of Justice.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – OPENING COMMENTS

State Forester Mukumoto offered opening comments, highlighting ODF response to the fires in Southern California. 30 engines and 70 firefighters were dispatched to aid the crisis.

Board Members made the following comments:

- **Liz Agpaoa** offered recognition to former president, Jimmy Carter, on the date of his state funeral. She reflected on President Carter's legacy in environmental conservation and personal experiences, recalling his involvement in the American Chestnut Foundation and his commitment to Habitat for Humanity.
- **Bob Van Dyk** reaffirmed his comments from the previous day.

AGENDA ITEM 11 – PUBLIC FORUM

3 individuals provided live, in-person testimony and 4 individuals provided testimony via Zoom. Written Testimony can be viewed here:
https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/bof/20250108-bof-public-testimony-all-items.pdf

AGENDA ITEM 12 – BOARD OF FORESTRY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Brenda McComb (Vice Chair) provided an overview of the discussions and work done by the Board Governance Committee, reminding the Board of the Governance Committee's role and responsibilities, as outlined in the Board Policies Manual. Brenda McComb shared the DRAFT additions to the Board Policies Manual, which included new policies for stipends and reimbursements.

Discussions from the board included the following:

- Interest in discretionary educational funds for board members to engage with stakeholders or attend relevant site visits.
- Concern over potential public perception of the policy as proposed, specifically regarding the 1 hour minimum for Board Member official duties
- Clarification on stipend eligibility and Board Member income requirements

Vice Chair Brenda McComb identified the discussion had gotten off-topic, and called for a break. The presentation will be reintroduced at the March meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 13 – OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF FORESTRY PANEL

Dr. Thomas DeLuca (Dean, Oregon State University's College of Forestry) introduced colleagues and faculty for a panel presentation on the college's work and research in forestry. Panelists included Dr. John Bailey, Dr. Matthew G. Betts, Dr. Emily Jane Davis, Dr. Meg Krawchuk, Dr. Mark E. Swanson. Each expert provided an introduction and overview of their research and then the Board was provided an opportunity to ask questions.

AGENDA ITEM 14 – CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

John Tokarczyk (Resources Planning Manager) and Danny Norlander (Forest Health Monitoring Specialist) provided the board with an update on the Climate Change and Carbon Plan Implementation Plan, including work to date and work anticipated.

AGENDA ITEM 15 – STATE FORESTER REVIEW PROCESS OVERVIEW

Chair Kelly announced that he received a 2-week notice of resignation from State Forester Cal Mukumoto, stating that Cal Mukumoto's final day as State Forester would be Thursday, January 23, 2025. Chair Kelly stated that Acting Deputy State Forester Kate Skinner would serve as the State Forester in the Interim. The State Forester Review Process Overview was postponed until the following year.

AGENDA ITEM 16 – CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Kelly and members of the Board offered parting words to State Forester Mukumoto.

Meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.