STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY
MEETING SUMMARY
March 5, 2025

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

For full meeting recording, please visit the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NenaM2a_t-o
For specific agenda items, click the agenda title to go directly to the recorded segment.

Meeting Called to Order

Chair Jim Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:15 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	
Alexi Lovechio	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

Staff present to support the meeting included Interim Deputy State Forester Tim Holschbach, who served as the Board's Secretary until Acting State Forester Kate Skinner could join, Board Administrator Eleni Collins, Matt DeVore, Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice and Anika Marriott, Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice.

CONSENT AGENDA

Joe Justice moved for approval of the consent agenda as presented. Ben Deumling seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and Board members voted as listed below. Motion passed 7-0.

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

AGENDA ITEM 1 – OPENING COMMENTS

Chair Kelly noted that Acting State Forester Kate Skinner was providing testimony to the legislature on the Wildfire Funding Workgroup's recommendations. She would be providing her opening comments later in the morning, and Interim Deputy Forester Tim Holschbach would serve as the Board's Secretary until her arrival.

Board member comments were largely focused on the State Forester recruitment, which included the following:

- Plans to initiate discussion around State Forester desired attributes at the April meeting
- Opportunities for the public to provide their opinion on desired attributes
- Recognition of Senate Bill 1051, which would remove authority from the Board of Forestry to appoint the State Forester, and remove the practical forester requirement. SB 1051 would authorize the Governor to appoint the State Forester.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – PUBLIC FORUM

3 individuals provided live, in-person testimony and 4 individuals provided testimony via Zoom. Written Testimony can be viewed here:
(LINK WILL BE ADDED AFTER THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD END DATE, MARCH 21, 2025)

AGENDA ITEM 3 – PRIVATE FOREST ACCORD DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT

With consensus from the Board, Chair Kelly made the decision to pull this item from the agenda. The Board was in agreement that letters written to the Legislature from the Board of Forestry should be unanimously agreed to. Without unanimous support for this letter, the Board encouraged its members to consider their position as an individual, offering the reminder that Board members can provide their own testimony to the legislature as private citizens.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – AGENCY DEMOGRAPHICS AND WORKFORCE TRENDS

Amy Pena (DEI Strategic Coordinator) provided a presentation that served as a response to the motion made at the January 2025 Board of Forestry meeting, requesting 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. Board members expressed interest in seeing regular updates from the DEI Strategic Coordinator.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND BOARD LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT

Derrick Wheeler (Legislative Coordinator) provided the Board with an update on the 2025 legislative session, which included an overview of proposed bills tracked by the agency, as well as an update on the Wildfire Funding Workgroup's recommendations. Board members discussed the potential impact of collective testimony to the legislature.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Brenda McComb (Board Vice Chair, Governance Committee Chair) presented draft language for additions to the Board Policies Manual. Liz Agpaoa (Board and Committee member) presented proposed changes to the language listed in the Board Policies Manual. Board members discussed modifications to both the additions and changes presented. The Governance Committee will perform revisions and offer their final recommendations for adoption at the June Board meeting.

MID-DAY COMMENTS

The Board was ahead of schedule prior to the lunch break. Chair Kelly provided the Board with time to discuss what interests motivated the Board members and what topics they wanted to see come through the Board. The Board discussed potentially taking a stance on SB 1051 and offering suggested language changes to the proposed bill.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – BRIEFING ON TETHERED LOGGING TO INFORM RULEMAKING

Department staff including Josh Barnard (Forest Resources Division Chief), Scott Swearingen (Field Support Unit Manager), and Adam Coble (Water Quality and Monitoring Manager) provided an overview on the legislative requirement to initiate rulemaking on Tethered Logging. Subject matter experts provided presentations, including Amanda Sullivan-Astor of the Associated Oregon Loggers, Woodam Chung of Oregon State University and Marc Cannon of Weyerhauser. After the presentations, Department Staff facilitated a Q&A session that focused on providing the Board with information needed for future decision making related to tethered logging rules. The Board will receive additional information on the subject during the tour planned for April, 2025.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Kelly offered the Board an opportunity to provide closing comments. Board members discussed the potential of voting on a letter that could be sent to the legislature regarding SB 1051, but ultimately did not pursue this proposal at this time.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:34 p.m.