Oregon Ocean Science Trust Meeting Summary

Tuesday, May 26, 2026 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Hatfield Marine Science Center, Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building and virtually on Zoom
Meeting documents and video recording are posted on the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST) website:
https://www.oregonoceanscience.com/trust-meetings

OOST Members present
Chair Laura Anderson; Vice-Chair Dr. Karina Nielsen; Dr. Ted DeWitt (virtual); Cristen Don (virtual); Representative Gomberg (virtual)

OOST Contractors
Lisa DeBruyckere, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Programs; Cory Archer (virtual), True Wind Collaborative

DSL Staff
Alexa Piscanio (virtual); Linda Safina-Massey (virtual)

Interested parties and Presenters
Tom Halfredy, Natural Resources Research & Development; Dick Vander Schaaf, The Nature Conservancy (virtual); Brad Bailey, CTO Oo-Nee Sea Ranch; Liz Whiteman, ED, California Ocean Science Trust; Marnie Jo Zirbel, HMSC Research Facilities Coordinator

Welcome and Introductions
Chair Anderson welcomed everyone. Board members and members of the public introduced themselves.

Approval of January 2026 and April 2026 meeting summaries
Karina Nielson moved, and Cristen Don seconded the motion to approve the meeting summaries from January 7, 2026, and April 1, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Vote: January 2026 meeting summary –
Ayes: Laura Anderson, Karina Nielsen, Ted DeWitt, Cristen Don (4)
Nays: None
Absent: Keith Wolf (1)

Vote: April 2026 meeting summary –
Ayes: Karina Nielsen, Ted DeWitt, Cristen Don (3)
Abstain: Laura Anderson (did not attend the April meeting)
Nays: None

Absent: Keith Wolf (1)

Trust Administrative Items

(Please see the Zoom meeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 2:25 minute mark.)

- Review of Trust budget – Lisa DeBruyckere – Budget Summary document shared on screen.
    - Lisa provided an overview of non-discretionary funds (contractor name, purpose, contract dates, allotted budget, and remaining balance) and discretionary funds.
    - She provided an update on grant requests that the OOST has submitted.
        - Successful Grants:
            - West Coast Ocean Alliance (2025) $65,000; Builder's Initiative (2025) $35,000; Builder's Initiative (2023) $300,000
        - Grant Applications in Process:
            - Renewable Natural Resources Foundation – WCOSAA - $200,000
            - Northwest Area Foundation – WCOSAA engagement with Tribes that are not members of the West Coast Ocean Alliance - $150,000
            - Paul M Angell Family Foundation – capacity building - $100,000
            - UNESCO – Blue Carbon workshop - $13,000
            - UNESCO – WCOSAA engagement with Tribes $150,000
        - Exploring Applying for in 2026:
            - Helsing-Simmons Foundation; Reser Foundation; and Meyer Memorial Trust. Not applying to Blue Convergence because it is only for Puget Sound.
- 501c3 – The draft bylaws document was shared on screen.
    - Entity name – Laura began the discussion with explanation of OOST's name in the Oregon State Treasury: Oregon Ocean Science Fund. Board members discussed several possibilities. Representative Gomberg and the public attendees were asked to give their input. The board will recommend to name the new 501c3 the Oregon Ocean Legacy Fund.
    - Draft Bylaws – Representative Gomberg's questions:
        - The initial Fund Board is appointed by incorporators. Who are the incorporators? Lisa – Initially the concept is that the OOST board would solicit for the Fund's board members. The Fund's new board would establish the Fund and adopt bylaws for the Fund.
        - Where are the funds acquired by the Fund maintained? Lisa – The Fund must maintain the funds per IRS rules.
        - Is there a requirement for the Fund to report to the Trust? Lisa – Yes.
        - The Trust is appointed by the Land Board. The Fund is self-appointed. Is that an issue? Ted – Per the bylaws, up 49% of the board will be OOST Board Members; as we discussed at the previous meeting, have at least two OOST members on the Funds Board.

- The Trust ED is not paid. The Fund ED is paid. Is that an issue? Board discussion comparing roles of OOST members and the Fund's members. Board discussion – Good idea to have legal council review the bylaws.
    - Lisa – This is a draft of the bylaws. We are trying to get your input and insight to get a head start for when the new entity/Fund will develop its own bylaws.
- Regarding HB 4097 – Is the independence of the 501c3 consistent with the statutory obligation that the Trust maintain the Fund?
    - Chair Anderson – The 501c3 is for other broader charitable purposes and the need to be a somewhat independent entity.
    - Lisa – We looked at other models such as Friends of State Parks. They have a contract with the Friends Group or non-profit that states requirements such as an annual plan and an annual report. There are stipulations on what can and cannot be funded, budget requirements, etc. The Trust and the Fund will have a cooperative agreement that we can model after State Parks and other entities.
- Board discussion regarding accountability and connection with OOST, it would be a good idea to have at least two OOST Board Members be voting members of the Fund's board.

o Board Member Profiles
- 1) Financial Strategy and Oversight, 2) Philanthropy and Development 3) Coastal Industry and Working Waterfronts, 4) Organizational Management and Governance, and 5) Ocean and Coastal Science.
    - Laura – Provided a brief explanation of each profile. Anything missing or additions for improvement?
        - Ted – Is representation of community/civic leaders and state agencies appropriate?
        - Board discussion.
            - The Fund is not only for coastal people; we need to be broadly represented across the state to be effective in messaging and fundraising.
            - Does this fit into one of the existing profiles or add a sixth profile? The Board decided to add a sixth profile. Lisa and Ted will work on the language for number six.
    - Laura suggested adding a seventh profile: Communications/marketing/outreach/education expertise. Board members agreed that would be a good addition.

o Next Steps in developing the 501c3
- Lisa shared on screen the Fund's timeline and schedule for creating the Fund. She walked the board through each step. Initial steps are draft bylaws, conflicts of interest policy, and article of incorporation; all of which we will have drafts for them to consider. The most important step right now is to choose and name a Board of Directors. OOST board members will each email to Lisa names of people to consider. She will compile the names and

put them on a shared document. She will also create a letter for board members to send to prospective board members. A subcommittee will review resumes and letters of interest.

- OOST Board Appointments
    - Ted explained the differences between board member term scenarios 3 and 4. Scenario 3 is a faster track to staggering board member terms.

        - Karina Nielsen motioned to recommend scenario 3 to the Department of State Lands.
        - Ted DeWitt seconded the motion.
        - There was no further discussion on the item.
        - Vote:
        - Ayes: Laura Anderson, Karina Nielsen, Ted DeWitt, Cristen Don (4)
        - Nays: 0
        - Absent: Keith Wolf (1)

    - All board members present expressed interest in continuing on the OOST Board after December 2026.

Board Member Open Mic

(Please see the Zoom meeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:04:30 minute mark.)

- Karina – Keith is OOST's representative on the OAH Council. I am Sea Grant's representative on the OAH Council. The Council is still unstaffed. They have not been able to do required reporting such as the biennial report to the legislature. The opportunity to make public comments regarding ODFW's agency budget is coming up soon. Keith and I recommend that individuals provide comments if they feel the OAH Council's work is important.

Fall Portland Event

(Please see the Zoom meeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:32:52 minute mark.)

- Lisa provided an overview of the intent to reach out to community leaders and legislators to generate interest in OOST, WCOSAA, and the new nonprofit Fund. We considered locations along the coast. To reach a different audience, we could potentially have an event in Portland as well as a Capitol Rotunda event, and coastal locations.
- Cory explained OOST's goal of bringing together people to demonstrate OOST's role as a convener to build relationships and partnerships.
- Cory shared onscreen a draft of event details, Currents of Change. She walked the board through the document and provided examples of potential scenarios for various event themes and locations. As Cory explained each item, she, board members, and Lisa discussed details, options, etc.
    - Event locations

- When to hold the event – fall verses early 2027
- Why will people want to attend the event/the hook to pique interest to attend
- Invitation messaging

Public Comment

(Please see the Zoom meeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 2:17:16 minute mark.)

- Brad Bailey, CTO Oo-Nee Sea Ranch. We are mission driven to remove the purple urchin to rebuild the understory of the kelp forest, create diversity and bring the ecosystem back into balance. Things are going well.
  - We have completed our studies and trials for the feeding.
  - We will open a commercial urchin facility this summer.
  - Currently working on restoration which includes:
    - Harvesting green crabs.
    - Surveys in the Yaquina Bay Estuary to find out the number of clams and oysters.
    - Bring native oysters back to the estuary.
    - Increase the declined claim population.
    - We are talking with the Siletz Tribe on how we can help bring back native food sources.
    - Continuing kelp restoration work.
- Tom Halfredy, Natural Resources Research & Development. I am interested in ocean gyre kelp farming. Since it is floating it does not interfere with native species on the shelf; this is my long-term goal.

The West Coast Ocean Science Action Agenda – Lisa DeBruyckere and Liz Whiteman, California Ocean Science Trust

(Please see the Zoom meeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 2:26:21 minute mark.)

- Lisa shared onscreen the draft document of the West Coast Ocean and Coastal Sector Workforce Development Roadmap that was created by California Ocean Scient Trust (OST) and Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST). She provided background information and an overview of the document. This is to facilitate a $3 million request to the federal government for CA, OR, and WA to do an assessment regarding jobs in relation to the climate. This will assist with increasing the pipeline of people that can work in the ocean and on the coast to meet existing and emerging needs. Followed by Q&A with board members.
- Liz – Regarding where the strategic add is, I have been in a lot of conversations on the blue economy. A missing thread is not looking at the public civil sector. Who is going to do the permitting, etc.? They are a highly trained technical workforce; training for the future of this workforce is not occurring.
  Followed by discussion and Q&A with board members and Lisa.
- Liz – We have a contract in place with West Coast Ocean Alliance to support advancing convenings in new venues for shared articulation of science priorities. There is a need for

more dialog before we choose geographies and scopes of convenings to deploy funding to build capacity for tribal government engagements in these conversations.
Followed by discussion and Q&A with board members and Lisa.

Adjourn

Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 2:54 PM.