



Oregon Ocean Science Trust Meeting Summary - DRAFT

Wednesday, January 8, 2025 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Virtually on GoToMeeting

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, Representative Gomberg, Dr. Ted DeWitt, Dr. Keith Wolf, Cristen Don, Senator Anderson

Interested parties and Presenters

Lisa DeBruyckere, Creative Resource Strategies; Shannon Browne, Sprout Media; Ellie Forness, DSL; Linda Safina-Massey, DSL; Jena Carter, The Nature Conservancy; Dr. Liz Whiteman, Executive Director, CA Ocean Science Trust (OST); Andrea Sumerau, CTSI; Will White, OSU; Sarah Wolf, Sea Grant Fellow/Surfrider Foundation; Will Kammin, True Wind Collaborative

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Anderson welcomed everyone. Each board member introduced themselves as well as members of the public.

Approval of October 2024 meeting minutes

Ted DeWitt moved, and Keith Wolf seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 2, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

2025 Oregon Legislative Session – Laura Anderson, Senator Anderson, Representative Gomberg

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 7:45 minute mark.)

- Laura – We have a bill in this Legislative Session, HB 3786 for \$3 million for disbursing competitive grants for research on: understanding and addressing changing ocean chemistry; warmer ocean water that holds less oxygen which threatens Oregon's economy and ecosystems; sandy beach & dune ecosystems for informed management of coastal erosion; and nearshore data collection to understand how changing ocean conditions effect species and ecosystems.
- Representative Gomberg –

- The Oregon Legislative Session will convene January 13, 2025, which is a day largely of formalities such as new House members will be sworn in, presentations by the Governor and Leadership. I have heard that approximately 4,000 bills have been introduced, which is more than usual. It's likely that about 500 bills will be passed. During this long Session we will also be crafting a 2-year State budget. We are always told that the budget is tight; I believe that is particularly true this year due to increased demand on revenue such as wildfires, roads/bridges, K-12 education, and healthcare for our elderly population.
- Regarding the OOST House Bill 3786, it may be an uphill climb, but we are certainly going to do our best to move it through the process. We are going to need folks to show up and advocate for it.
- Rep. Gomberg described the budget review process for all bills.
- Senator Anderson –
 - Helpful conversations with other state agencies regarding OOST's role and achievements plus the need for continued funding research grants, etc. Include who is benefiting from the work and how it affects Oregon communities.
- Laura –
 - This helps show how the work of our communications team in this area is very important.
- Board Q&A – who would be the target audiences to talk with and educate about the OOST; status of HB 3786: has been “dropped”, currently with Legislative Council (LC), explanation of process after LC review/approval, procedure through Committees, etc.

OOST Ocean and Coastal Grant Project Presentations

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 20:40 minute mark.)

- Will White, OSU; Mark Novak, OSU; Leif Rasmuson, ODFW; Andres Pinos Sanchez, MS Student; and Jess Hopf, Researcher

Science and monitoring on nearshore keystone species including sea otters, nearshore marine ecosystems, kelp and eelgrass habitat and sequestration of blue carbon. Will shared a PowerPoint presentation and provided background information and additional information on:

 - How will kelp forests respond to urchin culling?
 - How would kelp restoration affect urchin populations?
 - How would otter reintroduction affect urchin, kelp, and crab populations?
 - How might regional ocean geographic differences lead to different outcomes for kelp forests?
 - What are physical indicators of the potential for kelp restoration success?
 - Expected outcomes
 - Model schematics representing fish/crabs, otters, kelp forests, etc.
 - Progress to date

Followed by Q&A with board members.

The West Coast Ocean Science Agenda – Laura Anderson, Lisa DeBruyckere, and Liz Whiteman, Executive Director, California Ocean Science Trust

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 52:01 minute mark.)

- Lisa – She walked the board through the pages of the new website for The West Coast Ocean Science Agenda. The goal is to create a platform to engage funders (private and government). It is currently under review by our Comms Team. We want to keep it streamlined, easy to understand, and move towards using language that is easily understood by all audiences. Highlight the shared characteristics of OST and OOST. We would love to have board members of both OST and OOST review the website and provide feedback.
- Liz – Thank you for the collaborative approach. Huge appreciation for Lisa's work on the website. OST is excited and committed to this work. The California Governor's Office is interested and supportive of our work. This makes it feasible to launch discussions with federal and state partners in April. She further explained her thoughts and hopes on how this website can help foster and build support for this very important science and research.

Followed by board member Q&A, comments, and discussion with Liz and Shannon Browne.

Status of Trust-funded Grant Projects Laura Anderson, Lisa DeBruyckere (partial recording)

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:28:17 minute mark.)

- Lisa reported:
 - Project 5: Develop best practices for sustainable shellfish cultivation in Oregon – expect it by next week.
 - Nearshore Habitats – requested to extend through June.
 - Trophic Modeling Nearshore Reefs – completed in December.
 - The last 3 are slated to be completed in March. Reminders have been sent to others that need to be completed by the end of March. We need to stay on track with the grants to not cause issues with the DSL budget process.

Followed by Q&A, comments, and discussion topics including process/guidelines for grant exceptions; ways to increase OOST awareness in local communities to the Oregon Legislature to other ways to assist in raising funds for research.

Communications Team – Shannon Browne and Will Kammin

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:37:11 minute mark.)

- Shannon noted that the OOST is really coming into its own, exciting to see the growth and collaboration.
- Will provided additional insight on his background in areas such as clean energy, environmental science, marine biology, and research and stakeholder engagement.

- Shannon provided an overview of projects completed in 2024. She noted projects that they are working on for 2025 such as continued coordination with OST, the new website for the West Coast Ocean Agenda, legislative engagement, and relationship building.
- Shannon reported that growth is continuing to increase for the OOST's social media: posts, followers, etc. LinkedIn has the most engagement. She encouraged board members to like, share, and comment on posts (i.e. Instagram) to get more traction.
- She reviewed fundraising priorities and activities from 2024. Some things that the Comms Team and board members can do to increase awareness and value of OOST:
 - Do press releases
 - Newsletter for followers and to targeted audiences
- Fundraising Next Steps: Individual donor growth – Private Foundation Grants
- Status of 2025 grant applications:
 - Murdock Trust – Letter of Intent
 - Roundhouse Foundation – spring cycle
 - Oregon Community Foundation – summer cycle
 - Looking at Packard Foundation opportunities.
- Keith noted the importance of NGOs and other funding sources needed regarding climate change especially in light of the change in Federal government this month as well as potentially at the state level.
- Senator Anderson mentioned that in his fundraising experience in Oregon that “the kicker” is often brought up. It can be beneficial to suggest donating your kicker or part of it to the OOST.
Followed by discussion and Q&A with board members.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 2:57 PM.