



## Oregon Ocean Science Trust Meeting Summary - DRAFT

Thursday October 30, 2025 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Hatfield Marine Science Center, Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building and 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 (virtual), Dr. Ted DeWitt, Dr. Keith Wolf (virtual), Cristen Don; Senator Anderson; Representative Gomberg (virtual)

### **DSL Staff**

Jean Straight (virtual); Linda Safina-Massey (virtual)

### **Interested parties and Presenters**

Lisa DeBruyckere, Creative Resource Strategies; Tom Halfredy, Natural Resources Research & Development; Dick Vander Schaaf, The Nature Conservancy (virtual); Marnie Jo Zirbel, HMSC Research Facilities Coordinator; Dr. George Waldbusser; Oregon State University; Sarah Kolesar, Oregon Sea Grant; Lilah Ise, West Coast Ocean Alliance

### **Welcome and Introductions**

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

### **Approval of April 2025 meeting summary**

Ted DeWitt moved, and Keith Wolf seconded, the motion to approve the meeting summary from April 2, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Vote:

Ayes: Laura Anderson, Karina Nielsen, Ted DeWitt, Keith Wolf, Cristen Don (5)

Nays: None

### **Trust ocean and coastal grant project presentation**

*(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 4:03 minute mark.)*

- George Waldbusser, Ph. D., Oregon State University, Ocean Ecology and Biogeochemistry,

College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences – Olympia Oyster Growth and Survival with Climate Change: Space for Time Field Experiments – final report (PDF of the presentation is on the OOST website)

- Project Objectives:
  1. Measure Olympia Oyster shell and tissue growth throughout Yaquina Bay
  2. Monitoring of continuous and discrete environmental variables that could affect growth (temp, salinity, food, CO2 chemistry)
  3. Synthesize environmental data to characterize locational “climatology”
  4. Statistical growth model to determine effects of measure parameters
    - The funding has concluded; however, I am still working on a reduced set of monitoring at three sites and continuing to compile and analyze environmental data and oyster data.
    - The OOST funding provided resources to continue monitoring conditions through the Yaquina estuary, including previous funding from Oregon Sea Grant and unfunded work back to 2018.
- Data Highlights:
  1. Oyster responses to environmental data
  2. Time series data
  3. Surface Survey Data
  4. Discrete Data

Followed by Q&A with board members.

### **Trust Administrative Items**

*(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 51:00 minute mark.)*

- Update on Request for Proposal (RFP) for the OOST Administrative Support – Cristen Don
  - The RFP was announced, we received two proposals, and those were reviewed by Cristen, Karina, and Laura. We selected a candidate and DSL is working on the offer to the candidate. We anticipate that everything will be in place before January 1, 2026.
- Process for board member appointments and staggered terms – Jean Straight
  - Three members' terms end on December 31, 2026
  - Appointments need to go to the State Land Board (SLB) for approval and appointment
  - Jean explained the board member recruitment process including:
    - Position brochure/posting information
    - This process is similar to the recruitment process for DSL employees
    - A subgroup of the OOST Board will be a review panel
    - DSL works with the SLB Assistants on candidate pre-screening

- She provided suggestions on when to start the process and when to have the appointments on the SLB agenda.
  - Board Q&A with Jean regarding term staggering; she confirmed that the statute allows the board to change term limits to have the terms staggered on a different schedule than the current schedule.
    - **Action item:** Ted will work on a recommendation on how to stagger the terms for the board to review and discuss at the January meeting.
- Administrative rate – Jean Straight
  - Lisa clarified that the question on administrative rate is regarding grants that the OOST awards to other organizations.
  - Jean – There is no rule on the rate percentage. The federal government has a 15% cap on their administrative rates that they allow in grant applications. The State of Oregon usually uses the federal rate in grant proposals. DSL does not have a set rate. She provided examples, including South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR), which does not include an indirect percentage in their loans because it makes them more attractive. In statute, there is a 5% cap on what can be charged to OOST.
  - Lisa inquired about Jean's upcoming retirement: Will the new Deputy Director of Administration work with the OOST? Jean has been instrumental in our successful work with DSL.
    - Jean – Yes, I assume that person will take on my role with the OOST. We are in the final stages of candidate interviews. I have been asked to stay on for 3–8 months; number of months has not been decided; I will be working approximately 10 hours a week.
- Final Annual Report – Lisa DeBruyckere – The document was shared on screen.
  - Lisa – The annual report is available on the OOST website for all to view. Having an annual report has been very beneficial when we are applying for grants.
- Status of Trust-funded grant projects to date – Lisa DeBruyckere – The document was shared on screen.
  - Lisa explained that the yellow indicates when the project began, green indicates final report submitted, and red shows the anticipated date later in 2025 that we will receive their final report.
  - She reported that all projects are on schedule and doing well. We are maximizing the content from those on our social media. More importantly is the track record that we are establishing. When we are applying for grants, it is incredibly valuable to be able to show them the kind of work that the OOST supports.
  - Q&A with the board including:

- A lot of work has been done on many of the projects since the last time lead investigators presented to the OOST.
  - Members discussed when and if it would be a good idea to have some or all of the projects present again at an OOST Board Meeting; need to consider which topics are of particular interest throughout the year.
  - We should look at reevaluating our priorities regarding funding future projects and how those might intersect/interface with our partners such as the West Coast Ocean Alliance.
- Review of draft bylaw changes/amendments – Lisa DeBruyckere – The document was shared on screen.
  - At a board meeting earlier this year, the board discussed the need to take care of some “housekeeping” items. Karina and I are continuing to review this document.
  - Discussion with board members on items such as: Number of board members; language cleanup/clarification; board meeting occurrence cadence; and the length of board member terms.
- 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 (cash balance, Builder’s Initiative, remaining funds not yet invoiced).
  - She provided an update on grant requests that the OOST has submitted. OOST was recently awarded \$65,000.00 by the West Coast Ocean Alliance; this will allow us to do work with the California Ocean Science Trust to engage with Tribes. We will work with Tribes on their west coast ocean and coastal science priorities, which complement state, federal, and NGO priorities as well.
    - Board question: Do we have a round of RFPs planned?
    - Lisa – We do not because we did not get any funding from the Legislature last session. We are focusing our efforts on our pledge to the Legislature, which was to obtain non-state funding. We have done a good job as we have raised over half a million dollars in grants (to date).
  - Lisa noted that all of the OOST’s funds roll into the next biennium; we do not have to spend funds by a certain date. She pointed out that there are remaining funds for communications.
    - Board comment: It would be nice to get an update from the communications team regarding outreach on social media, visits to the OOST website, etc.
    - Lisa – We have tried some different approaches, and it seems that posts that focus on the science and what the trust is about seem to generate the most interest, which is great and makes sense. Over the last 6 months our communications team has been very beneficial in assisting with some of the

grant work, developing our submittals.

- Lisa introduced the board to the intranet page on OOST's website which will be a place where documents such as the bylaws will be posted for easy access by board members. Members can also post documents. This will be a reference library for board members. This is not a place for discussions or editing documents.

## **Board Member Open Mic**

*(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:33:35 minute mark.)*

- Laura – OOST board structure, organizational structure, 501c3 options and viability, etc. We reached out to the Oregon Department of Justice for an opinion on what the statute says regarding OOST interests, and the pros and cons in applying for 501c3 status.
  - Lisa – The questions we posed are: By statute, does the OOST have the authority to pursue creation of a 501c3 (as a sister entity to the Legislatively-created Trust? If so, what are the chances that the IRS would recognize this new entity?
    - There is tremendous value in being associated with a state agency.
    - DOJ advised the OOST to get approval from the Legislature and have it named in statute similar to other foundations connected to state organizations.
- Board members and Lisa discussed various pathways, partnerships, etc. that the OOST has explored previously to be able to receive funds from non-profit organizations. This topic will be an ongoing conversation; forming a foundation will be a multi-year process that appears to be a good avenue for the OOST.

Karina Nielsen motioned to ask DSL to create a Legislative Concept (LC): Start the process to prepare the legislative language as stated below and develop a legislative pathway for the creation of a tax-exempt organization aligned with the OOST's mission.

  - Proposed language to add: Creation of tax-exempt entity by authority. Pursuant to ORS 196.565-570 the Oregon Ocean Science Trust may create and maintain an entity which is exempt from federal income tax under section 501c3 of the Federal Revenue code as amended for the purpose of advancing the mission of the Oregon Ocean Science Trust.

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) (left the meeting just prior to the Open Mic agenda item)

## **The West Coast Ocean Science Agenda – Lisa DeBruyckere**

*(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 2:02:40 minute mark.)*

Lisa provided details on the following:

- At the October 2025 SLB Meeting, Laura and Katrina presented an update on OOST activities, and our West Coast Ocean Science Action Agenda piqued the SLB members' interest.
- The 2-page West Coast Ocean Science Action Agenda document – the idea is to develop 2 or 3 of these for different audiences such as federal legislatures, state legislatures, etc.
  - Phase 2 is to look at what other west coast organizations/agencies/Tribes are researching and identifying as ocean science priorities.
  - We plan to document the priorities, then summarize and bucket those priorities by theme. We do not want to reinvent the wheel when we are meeting with folks. Examples: NOAA has identified some ocean science priorities, and the Makah Tribe has done this as well.
  - I have contacted federal and state agency folks.
  - Currently there are 36 documents in this database.
  - We have 7 buckets of information so far. Each bucket has sub-content buckets.
  - We are preparing for Tribal meetings to begin in early 2026.
  - We will be able to identify where we have gaps in ocean science which will inform us on where and how to pursue funding.

Followed by Q&A with board members.

### **Public Comment**

*(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 2:21:50 minute mark.)*

- None.

### **Adjourn**

Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 2:54 PM.