



Oregon Ocean Science Trust Meeting Summary

Wednesday, April 2, 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, Dr. Ted DeWitt, Dr. Keith Wolf, Cristen Don

DSL Staff

Jean Straight; Linda Safina-Massey

Interested parties and Presenters

Lisa DeBruyckere, Creative Resource Strategies; Will Kammin, True Wind Collaborative; Francis Chan, OSU; Kayla Anderson, Riparian Media; Cory Archer, True Wind Collaborative

Welcome and Introductions

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

Approval of January 2025 meeting summary

Karina Nielsen moved, and Ted DeWitt seconded the motion to approve the meeting summary from January 8, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Nays: None

Status of Trust-funded Grant Projects – Lisa DeBruyckere

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 2:20 minute mark.)

- Lisa shared on screen a graph with the status of each grant funded project.
 - In progress
 - Extended agreements
 - Completed projects

We have completed two-thirds of all grant funded projects. The remaining projects will be completed by the end of this year. There have been no major hiccups. Everything

looks great; we continue to check in with folks to make sure the dates are still good and it's working well with DSL managing these contracts.

Board Q&A – Location of published reports? They are published the day we receive them. These are on the OOST website, under the tab Funded Research, Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia, click on the hyperlink READ MORE.

OOST ocean and coastal grant project presentation – Francis Chan, OSU

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 6:23 minute mark.)

- This is an aggregated report on tidal and subtidal ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH) in Oregon. Francis shared a PowerPoint presentation and provided background information and additional information including:
 - If our ocean changes, will we know?
 - Oregon faces some of the most severe OAH exposure in the nation.
 - Collaborative ocean observing partnerships are invaluable. Example of some partners are local fisheries/fishermen, local organizations and governments, as well as other research entities.
 - Long-term measurements are key for detecting and characterizing change.
 - We have ocean acidification and hypoxia; we also have harmful algal blooms on top of temperature changes that are affecting our coastal ecosystems and industries.
 - Sustaining observations is vital, comparisons with data from previous decades allows understanding of what and how the ocean is changing that facilitates efforts to improve the health of our ocean.
 - He noted the complexity of the Oregon coast with examples of Cape Perpetua, Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, Otter Rock, and Red Fish Rocks.
 - Overview of the tremendous value of sustained observations to answer questions such as: Is the baseline changing and are there predictable patterns?
 - The correlation between wind/upwelling and OAH.
 - Are we reaching people with our science?
 - Funds provided by OOST were leveraged to obtain additional funds/grants to assist with this scientific research.

Followed by Q&A with board members.

The West Coast Ocean Science Agenda – Laura Anderson, Lisa DeBruyckere

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 55:19 minute mark.)

- Laura – Originally Liz Whiteman, California Ocean Science Trust (OST), was going to help deliver this item today. However, Liz was invited to the Ocean Caucus in D.C. to present today to D.C. staff members a concept of what you are going to hear about from Lisa. Lisa is going to give us an update on the *West Coast Ocean Science Agenda* and the great work that she and Liz have been advancing.

- Lisa walked the board through each section of the document to provide additional details and background on the items. The *West Coast Ocean Science Action Agency Frequently Asked Questions* document was shared on screen.
 - She stated that the goal is for this to be a collaboration; currently a three-state collaboration (California, Oregon, and Washington), as well as tribes, and state agencies. This is a framework; it is not a new list or list of goals and priorities. This is not a policy document, it is about amplifying ocean and coastal science and data needs for a variety of needs from tribes to local businesses to governments. We want policy makers to be aware of it. We have shared it with Senator Merkley's staff and Wyden's staff as well as outreach in our respective states. We are looking at where we are crosscutting with other interest groups to help us articulate accurately to all groups.
 - This frequently asked questions document is a work in progress.
 - 2025 is our first year and the whole year is about building partnerships, getting the word out, building the website, helping people understand what it is as well as building funding.
 - The West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) is in the middle of submitting their final year of funding from NOAA. They asked us what role they can play in helping us realize the vision for this agenda.
 - Help us work with tribes to ensure their representation.
 - Help us with the convening function as well.
 - From WCOA's grant from NOAA, WCOA has set aside \$116,000 which will be \$58,000 for each trust (OST and OOST) plus an additional \$2,000 - \$4,000 for travel. They have also proposed supporting tribal participation across the 3 three states (CA, OR, WA).
 - We helped with the budget package that is going to NOAA this week.
 - We have been meeting with other potential funders. This is for the long term.
 - The idea is to develop a governance or advisory committee of 10 – 12 individuals that represent all 3 states and interests to meet with us to start setting some parameters.
 - We have a roadmap draft that we hope to have ready for your review in the next week or so.
 - Lisa provided an overview of the current timeline including convening of sub-groups, tasks, projects, etc.

Followed by Q&A with board members, comments, and discussion.

Board Member Discussion – Topics of Interest Laura Anderson, Lisa DeBruyckere, Jean Straight, Department of State Lands (DSL)

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:27:44 minute mark.)

- Laura explained the purpose of setting aside time for this topic. She introduced Jean Straight, Deputy Director of Administration for DSL. Jean is here to help board members understand state rules regarding board member compensation, how the OOST is approaching this and how it is in compliance.

- Jean stated that House Bill 2992 passed in 2021 and the state has recently begun implementation. Board/commission members have been eligible for travel reimbursement expenses such as mileage, lodging, and meals; all of which remains the same. The purpose of the new rule is to help alleviate hardships on people who may not be able to participate because of financial burden such as time away from work. Board/commission members who meet certain criteria are entitled to a stipend for the work they do for the board/commission. The daily stipend amount is \$164.00. Some of the criteria to be eligible for the daily stipend are income based and cannot be a full-time public employee. Each member needs to submit an attestation form to determine eligibility. We (DSL and Lisa) have been working diligently to put together a policy and procedure document. Laura has reviewed the document. (The policy/procedure document was shared on screen.) We recently learned that if a person is on multiple boards/commission, you get to pick which one you would like to receive reimbursement from each year. An individual can receive reimbursement from only one board/commission each year.
- Lisa provided some additional information while the document was on screen. Followed by board member Q&A, comments, and discussion.

2025 Oregon Legislative Session – HB 3786, legislative engagement

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:40:42 minute mark.)

- Ted – During my conversations with people regarding the role of the OOST and encouraging support for OOST, I have been asked about HB 3786 and that one-third of the funding ask is for coastal erosion and sand dunes. I missed where those had come up as one of our priorities.
 - Karina – There has been a lot of science focus on rocky shores, etc. Oregon has not done much to provide updates on marine protected areas, etc. There is a lot to be done around management of erosion and sea level rise, the littoral cells and the management of sand flow, etc. I think that is where it got characterized as dunes and coastal erosion in part because there is also interest in how that affects coastal infrastructure like roads and critical transport. That seemed to get some traction in the Legislature as a nexus of interest in the two topics.
 - Lisa – We tried to not use technical language. Therefore, instead of littoral cells, we used “movement of sand”. Representative Gomberg did a great job in his Legislative presentation of connecting the dots in these sand management issues. Followed by further discussion on coastal ecosystems and littoral cells.
 - Oregon has not done much updating around their sediment management plans for beaches, coastal hazards, etc.
 - There is a need for some new science to inform and update those policy areas thus the connection to multiple elements and topics.
- Ted – How likely is this bill to get support in light of significant funding shortfalls? How do we make it a priority when funding is needed for things such as food, jobs, housing, etc.?

- Karina – There are many important priorities in the world. I see it as our charge as OOST Board Members to advance ocean science and present that to the Legislature. It is the Legislature’s job to decide what is most important to fund.
- Laura – It is very important to advance this for the future generations. This is important to the health and wellbeing of people and the planet. Need to advance research, food production, how to responsibly develop energy, etc. This is very worthwhile work.
- Cristen – I agree with all that has been said. These are longer term issues that we are trying solve.
- Keith – Regarding his seat on the OAH Council as an OOST representative, need guidance on what and how to express concerns regarding how ODFW uses their budget, make sure good use of funds, how and when reports are released, etc.
 - Board discussion and clarification on Keith’s inquiry. Laura recommended scheduling a meeting with ODFW to clarify the roles of ODFW, OOST, OAH, etc. She asked Keith to take the questions to ODFW as part of being a liaison between OOST and OAH.
- Lisa provided an update on the status of HB 3786. Representative Gomberg did a great job testifying in support of the bill. The bill will move to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

Public Comment

None.

Other business, closing remarks

Suggestions for future meetings:

- Add agenda items for future meeting: Update from OAH Council, OOST report on budget expenditures,
- Revisit our 5-year Action Plan that was written 2 years ago
- Update on when board member term dates end so that not working on recruitment at the last minute.

Adjourn

Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 2:57 PM.