



Oregon Ocean Science Trust Meeting Summary

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 11:00 AM 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 (virtual), Cristen Don; Senator Anderson (virtual); Representative Gomberg (virtual)

DSL Staff

Ivy Jones (virtual); Linda Safina-Massey (virtual)

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; Kate Sullivan, CSULA; Amanda Gannon, Sea Grant Fellow, Intern; David Irvin, Director, OSU Guin Library at HMCS; Tom Halfredy, Natural Resources Research & Development; Jena Carter, The Nature Conservancy; Deanna Caracciolo, COO, Sea & Shore Solutions; Liz Whiteman, ED, California Ocean Science Trust; Melanie Bukovec, OHA Council

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Anderson welcomed everyone. Some board members introduced themselves as well as members of the public. Introductions were continued after the Legislative Update.

2025 Oregon Legislative Session Debrief on HB 3786

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

- Representative Gomberg stated that he wished he had better news. Just about everything with General Funds attached to them did not move forward during the Legislative session unless they were part of a current service level budget; even in those cases, those were being reduced. Some of the legislative items that did not move forward are:
 - OOST request for \$2 million
 - Eelgrass
 - Rockey Habitat
 - Wind Energy

- However, some good news was that a position for ODFW's Marine Reserves position was funded.
- Karina noted that in Rep. Gombert's newsletter, he reported that funding was approved for the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Council.
- Senator Anderson reported that he appreciated the OOST for having board members testify during hearing sessions, noting the more times that you can get in front of legislatures, the better. He thanked all for the efforts on furthering ocean science.

Welcome and Introductions (continued)

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 6:20 minute mark.)

Board members and members of the public introduced themselves.

Approval of April 2025 meeting summary

Karina Nielsen moved, and Ted DeWitt 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

Laura reported that due to schedule conflicts, the presentation by Georget Waldbusser, Oregon State University, will be postponed to a future OOST Board Meeting.

Trust Administrative Items

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 12:01 minute mark.)

- Annual Report – The document was shared on screen. This document is posted on the OOST website (oregonoceanscience.com) under the About tab, Resources and Links.
 - Laura noted that Lisa and True Wind Collaborative did most of the work to create and write the Annual Report 2023-2024.
 - Lisa reported that she also worked with the California Ocean Science Trust (OST). The OOST tried to align components of the OOST annual report with the CA OST Annual Report because of joint initiatives, such as fundraising and other projects. The report presented was a draft report, and OOST Board members were asked to review and provide any suggested edits by the end of the month.
 - The board provided some edits during the meeting.
- Review of Trust Budget, Grant applications, and fundraising – OOST Budget Summary
 - Lisa provided an update on which Trust funded projects have been completed as well as those that are in progress. The spreadsheet included the total budget amount for each project and the balance remaining for each project.
 - Lisa provided an overview of the Trust's discretionary funds current balance. She reported the OOST has applied for three grants: Autzen Foundation \$25,000;

Oregon Community Foundation \$25,000; and West Coast Ocean Alliance \$65,600. Additionally, the OOST is having conversations regarding applying for three more grants before the end of this year: Blue Convergence; Heising-Simons Foundations; and Reser Family Foundation. Anticipating the total request for the last three grants mentioned will be approximately \$250,000.

- Status of Trust-funded grant projects to date – 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.

Followed by Q&A with board members.

Working Lunch and Break – Trust Action Plan and Succession Planning

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 28:52 minute mark.)

- Laura – Noted that once a year it is a good idea for board members to review where we are currently, what we might want to change/update, etc. in our Trust Action Plan as well as review board member's beginning and ending term dates. Additionally, it would be good for the OOST to have an electronic location where board members can access OOST documents such as the OOST By-laws, board member term dates, OOST legislation, etc.
 - Board members discussed: their role and responsibilities regarding board member recruitment and appointment; succession planning; and expanding the number of board members to increase diversity of skills and knowledge/expertise such as scientists, fundraising, etc.
 - Plan to propose statute amendment language in the Spring of 2026.

Laura and Lisa walked through the following topics to inform the board of what has been completed and what is in progress on the OOST's 5-year plan through 2028.

- Enhancing Capacity –
 - Completed January 2024 – Oregon Coast and Ocean: State of the Science
 - Completed December 2023 – Summit Report
 - In Progress – West Coast Ocean Science Action Agenda
- Sustainable Funding –
 - The Trust is in progress on many tasks/projects such as increasing networking/fundraising, applying for grants i.e. funds to administrative support, and increasing engagement with the Oregon Legislature.
 - The Trust has set aside 10% of all grant funding for administrative expenses.
- Communications and Outreach –
 - Completed December 2023 – Contract with Sprout Media
 - Partially Completed (bi-annual legislative work) – Overview of presentations given and planned such as Oregon Coastal Caucus and the Governor's Natural Resource Policy Cabinet.
 - Completed/Continuous – Require grantees acknowledge/support, ensure that OOST is included in all media and outreach associated with grant deliverables.

Laura noted that to keep on schedule with the meeting agenda timeline, we will come back to this discussion as it is time for the Executive Session agenda topic.

Executive Session – Board discussion regarding administrative contractor position

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:15:10 minute mark.)

- During the Public Session, Laura explained that the current contract for the OOST's administrative contractor ends December 31, 2025. The board will go into Executive Session pursuant to ORS192.660(2)(a) to consider employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent. Members of the media may attend the session; however, they may not report on anything from the Executive Session. No decisions will be made, and compensation will not be discussed.

Return to Public Session

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:17:55 minute mark.)

- Laura reported that the meeting is now in Public Session and that pursuant to ORS192.660(2)(a) no decisions were made during the Executive Session. Next steps:
 - Develop and release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an OOST administrative contractor.
 - The board has a recommendation to form a subcommittee to work on the RFP, which would be Cristen Don and Karina Nielsen.

Ted DeWitt made a motion that the board form a subcommittee to work on the Administrative Consultant RFP.

Keith Wolf seconded the motion.

Vote:

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

Nays: 0

Ted DeWitt made a motion that the title of the position will be Director of Strategic Initiatives and Programs.

Karina Nielsen seconded the motion.

Vote:

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

Nays: 0

Board Member Open Mic

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:24:13 minute mark.)

- Discussion regarding topics for the October Board Meeting:
 - Language on appointments to the board, conversation regarding board terms, what should we have in our operating procedures and by-laws to align with DSL and state OARs.
 - Overhead rate, research on DSL's and the board's roles and responsibilities.

- In 2026 do we want to issue one RFP for an actual science research project?
 - How do we put ourselves in a position so that we have “shovel ready” projects to ask for funding?

Working Lunch and Break – Trust Action Plan and Succession Planning – continued

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:41:00 minute mark.)

- Administration and Board – Continued from earlier discussion.
 - Laura – We talked about a contract to support operational program coordination for overseeing our program and contractual work. We discussed how this role has expanded to be more strategic in building new programs and initiatives.
 - Pros and cons in relation to seeking changes to OOST’s current statutes.

The West Coast Ocean Science Agenda – Lisa DeBruyckere, OOST & Liz Whiteman, California Ocean Science Trust (OST)

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:47:52 minute mark.)

Lisa and Liz provided details on the following:

- Outreach – To other organizations such as Washington Department of Ecology
- Fundraising – Information was shared earlier in this meeting.
- Advisory Committee – We did put out a call for Advisory Committee members. We had 34 responses that included a wide range of experience. It is very exciting to have this level of interest.
- UNESCO endorsement – The West Coast Ocean Science Agenda has a page on their website. This is a huge achievement.
- Encouragement to consider AK, HI, and Canada – There are pros and cons to this expansion.
- Next steps – Continue to look for more funders, relationships, and partnerships.

Followed by Q&A with board members.

Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH) Council Update and Discussion

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 2:08:05 minute mark.)

Keith introduced Melanie Bukovec. She recently finished a job rotation as the Acting Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Policy Project Leader with ODFW and was OAH Council staff.

- Melanie provided an overview of the current OAH Council members. She presented information on the evolution of the council, milestones, their Fourth Biennial Report, and the Oregon Ocean Action Change Plan.
- Melanie noted that over the previous six months a lot of our focus was on the OAH Council ending; however, now that funding has been approved, we are entirely switching gears. Thank you to OOST for your support and help, especially with HB 3114 as well as project funding. We would love to continue our partnership.

Followed by discussion and Q&A with board members.

Public Comment

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 2:38:27 minute mark.)

- Tom Halfredy, Natural Resources Research & Development. I am very interested in ocean kelp farming which would help bring sea otters back to Oregon. In the Atlantic Ocean, the sargasso is multiplying rapidly. It sucks carbon out of the atmosphere then washes on shore and dies, which puts the carbon back into the atmosphere. We need to find a way to prevent carbon from going back into the atmosphere. Those are the types of things that I am working on. I am attending meetings such as Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and taking classes at the University of Oregon. The OOST is doing great work. I hope it continues.

Other business, closing remarks

(Please see the GoToMeeting video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 2:42:39 minute mark.)

- Karina provided an update on Sea Grant and Oregon Sea Grant (OSG), noting it received 59% of fiscal year 2025 funding. Some projects were paused due to funding pause; however, after receiving partial funding, projects received funding to continue. Additionally, OSG will be able to retain staff and we expect to receive the remaining 41% funding as that has already been approved. She provided an update on Ocean Policy Advisory Council activities, such as writing letters to the Governor's Natural Resources Office to point out the need for fully funding state priorities for oceans and highlighting other gaps due to the lack of federal funding.

Adjourn

Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM.