



## Oregon Ocean Science Trust Meeting Summary

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting – Zoom

Meeting documents are posted on the DSL Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST) webpage:

<https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/waterways/pages/oost.aspx>

### **OOST Members present**

Vice-Chair Dr. Karina Nielsen, Senator Anderson, Cristen Don, Dr. Ted DeWitt, Dr. Keith Wolf

### **Interested parties and Presenters**

Lisa DeBruyckere, Creative Resource Strategies; Nadia Gardner, Oregon Ocean Science Fund/Oregon Community Foundation; Cory Archer, True Wind Collaborative; Dr. Wilson (Will) White, OSU; Kirsten Grorud-Colvert, OSU; Tabatha Rood, Elakha Alliance; Liz Whitman, Executive Director, California Ocean Science Trust; Alexandra McInturf, Oregon Sea Grant/OSU; Shannon Browne, True Wind Collaborative; Brad Bailey, Oo-Nee SeaRanch

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Vice-Chair Nielsen called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. She asked the Board Members to provide a brief update with their introduction, if they had any, instead of at the end of the meeting.

- Vice-Chair Nielsen mentioned that the OOST Workshop (March 2024) was very fruitful; gave new members a chance to learn more about each other. She noted that work is continuing to integrate the findings from the research summit into the OOST vision and strategic next steps; these have not been solidified and we will discuss these later in the meeting.
- Keith commented that the OOST Workshop was a good wrap-up of the science summary (from the Oregon Ocean and Coast Research Summit Nov-Dec 2023) and the input from the public, universities, etc. That information helps us meld and mesh that into our strategic plan and processes. I very much appreciate all the time and effort from the Board Members.

**Approval of January 2024 meeting minutes**

*Ted DeWitt moved, and Cristen Don seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 3, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.*

**OOST Ocean and Coastal Grant Project Presentations**

*(Please see the Tube video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 10:38 minute mark.)*

Karina introduced each grant presenter.

- Will White, Oregon State University, presented their trophic modeling of Oregon's nearshore reefs. Will provided an overview of the key questions that they are trying to address about the way the kelp forest rocky reef nearshore food webs will interact and will respond to different types of management interventions and environmental forcing. Followed by Q&A with Board Members and the public.
- Kirsten Grorud-Colvert, Oregon State University, presented their research of juvenile dynamics of key commercial and recreational fisheries. Our focus is very strongly on groundfish in Oregon. Nearshore fisheries in Oregon are data poor. There is a lot happening in the Oregon nearshore. Followed by discussion and Q&A with Board Members.

**California Ocean Science Trust – Memorandum of Understanding and other next steps**

*(Please see the You Tube video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:01:26 minute mark.)*

- Karina provided background information on the initial discussions in 2023 and steps taken to begin working together to benefit both states.
- Lisa provided additional information on California Ocean Science Trust (OST) and Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST) discussions in 2023 as well as that the MOU is more about collaboration rather than binding us to each other. OST and OOST are the only two ocean science trusts of their kind, established by state governments, in North America.
- Liz expressed her appreciation for the invitation to join the research science summit last year. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with OOST and the Oregon research community. It was a reminder of our shared mission and purpose set by the legislature. Additionally, we are at the same stage for one piece which is how we use our unique position with the landscape to draw additional resources to the ocean science and research community.

- Lisa reviewed the legislative requirement of OOST to secure funding such as grants and donations. OOST has received funding from the Legislature two sessions in row. We have been working on how to build relationships and acquire private donations and federal funding to create a robust sustainable consistent stream of funding for ocean and coastal research. Liz and I interviewed lobbying firms in Washington D.C. We evaluated those interviews and selected ESP Advisors. One of ESP's strong points is that a couple of those lobbyists have ocean science backgrounds. They very quickly understood our challenges and needs.
- Liz agreed with Lisa's feedback regarding ESP Advisors. Liz said that she was impressed with how quickly ESP knew what is important for our research, our relationships with the university systems, and that we are not competing with universities but to work alongside them. Followed by Q&A and discussion between Liz, Lisa, and the Board Members.

### **Updates on 2023 OOST Research Summit and Emerging Board Priorities – Synthesis and Next Steps**

*(Please see the You Tube video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:18:40 minute mark.)*

Karina reported that the Board had hoped to come out with some more polished results from our Workshop. We are not quite there because we decided to have the OOST Communications Team work with us on it before we finalize it. Some of the items that we are continuing to work on are our mission statement and Board priorities. Followed by Board comments and discussion.

### **Fund Development, Next steps and OOST Communications Plan update**

*(Please see the You Tube video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 1:31:39 minute mark.)*

Cory Archer, True Wind Collaborative, provided an overview of each member of the Communications Team. She reported that Shannon Brown, who attended the OOST Workshop, is working on a fundraising plan. Cory then reviewed the communications objectives: demonstrate value, build understanding, and drive donations. She provided a refresher on the primary target audiences and secondary target audiences. Cory shared the outline of activities that they are working on with completion timeline.

Followed by Q&A, comments, and discussion with Board Members.

Cory provided an update on their legislative engagement. She asked the Board for feedback and approval on their plan regarding presentations to legislative committees in Fall 2024.

- Senator Anderson provided additional information on legislative committees and the Coastal Caucus. He added that an informational briefing update on where the funding has gone and how it was used so far would help reinforce the importance of OOST goals.
- Keith provided insight into federal funding sources and stressed that tribal engagement would be a good path to explore.

### **Public Comment**

*(Please see the You Tube video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 2:13:42 minute mark.)*

None

### **Member Updates and Other Business**

*(Please see the You Tube video for the detailed comments and discussion beginning at the 2:14:29 minute mark.)*

- Lisa indicated that OOST is going to do some additional outreach related to notifying people about our Board Meetings. Karina said that it should go out also via DLCDD (Department of Land Conservation and Development) listserv. She encouraged others to inform OOST of other places/entities to post meeting information. Linda indicated that OOST Board Meeting notices are sent out on the DLCDD listserv.
- Ted asked about the status on selecting which items to use related to the grant review process (criteria to rank proposals). Lisa reported that they have developed a survey for the Board Members to select their top 10 of 26 criteria. It will be sent out soon.
- Karina noted that there are 3 points of access to OOST: DSL website, the OOST website and another. Lisa said that she will talk with DSL regarding what is required to be on the DSL website.

### **Adjourn**

Vice-Chair Nielsen adjourned the meeting at 2:20 PM.