

Oregon Ocean Science Trust Conference Call Summary
July 10, 2020
Zoom Video Conference
Department of State Lands
Salem, Oregon

Meeting documents are posted on the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST) webpage:
<http://www.oregon.gov/dsl/OOST/Pages/OOST.aspx>

OOST Members on conference call (Voting and Non-voting)

Laura Anderson, Jim Sumich, Krystyna Wolniakowski, Shelby Walker, Steve Marx
Representative David Gombert, Senator Arnie Roblan

Interested parties on call

Charlie Plybon, Oregon Policy Manager for Surfrider Foundation

Department of State Lands (DSL) Administrative Support

Andrea Celentano, Kaitlyn Wiggins, Lani Ahmadian, Eduard Bright

Welcome, Introductions and Member Updates

Laura Anderson called the conference call meeting to order at 9:04am and introductions were made. Laura announced that the meeting was being recorded and will be available to the public on DSL's YouTube channel.

Approval of January 24, 2020 meeting summary

Jim Sumich moved, and Krystyna Wolniakowski seconded the motion to approve the meeting summary from the January 24, 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 141-141 Rule Changes

Laura presented the proposed rule changes to OAR 141-141 detailed in OOST Agenda Item Packet 141-141 and explained the proposed rule changes were necessary to allow the OOST to be consistent with legislative changes and enable the trust to receive third party and private funding for OOST projects. *Please see the YouTube video for detailed conversation.*

Highlights are as follows:

- Removed "Competitive Grants Program" from the rule title and the Purpose and Applicability section as the rules are broader and more general to the Oregon Ocean Science Trust and no longer just a competitive grants program.
- Amended the Policies section to mirror the OOST bylaws.

- Adopted the name of Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST) in place of Ocean Science Trust (OST) and changed nomenclature references throughout the rule from OST to OOST.
- Updated the definition of Peer Review in the Definitions section.
- Updated the Competitive Grants Process to allow the trust to use a portion of available funds toward administrative costs for OOST, or those of a third party administrator selected by OOST.
- Replaced “technical review” with “peer review” where applicable in the Competitive Grants Process.
- Added a caveat to the Competitive Grants Process that OOST is the final decision authority in selection of proposals to be funded, unless such authority is inconsistent with the terms of any agreement that is reached.
- Added a new section “Grants to Public Entities” that allows OOST to make direct, noncompetitive grants to public entities, and further discussed amending the rule language of the section upon suggestion of legal counsel to define public entities as “a public body as defined in ORS 174.109, a public university listed in ORS352.002, or any federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon for projects that advance the strategic priorities of the OOST.” In addition to the language change, it was also suggested that public body as defined in ORS 174.109 be added to the definitions section of the rules. This discussion was the result of a Public comment received after the Public hearing on the proposed rule changes.
- Added a new section “Agreement with Private, Nonprofit Organizations” to grant the Executive Director of OOST, under direction of the board, the authority and parameters for entering into formal agreements with non-profit organizations, under which the non-profit may solicit gifts, grants, and donations in support of the Trust’s work, as well as distribute funds.

Shelby Walker moved, and Krystyna Wolniakowski seconded the motion to amended language in the “Grants to Public Entities” section as proposed by counsel, as well as adding the definition of public body as defined in ORS 174.109 to the definitions section of the rule. Motion carried unanimously.

Shelby Walker moved, and Jim Sumich seconded the motion to adopt the rule changes in full as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of agreement with Oregon Community Foundation

Laura presented the proposed agreement with the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) which is a Donor Advised Fund that would allow a funder to give money to OCF to place in the OOST account, the trust would then work with OCF to distribute funds. Shelby posed a question on Paragraph 5 of the agreement, whether it was consistent with the rule language just adopted with regards to public bodies and Krystina further questioned whether OCF would be able to

distribute funds to a federally recognized Indian tribe. After brief research by staff, it was determined that OCF may not be able to distribute funds to a tribe, however, per Laura's understanding, the OCF agreement allows for recommending an alternate distribution path where funds may be released to OOST and then distributed to the intended recipient. Based on the alternate distribution pathways available, Laura suggested moving forward with the agreement as is. *Please see the YouTube video for detailed conversation.*

Krystyna Wolniakowski moved, and Jim Sumich seconded the motion for approval of the agreement with Oregon Community Foundation. Motion carried unanimously.

Conditional approval to proceed to grant writing and submission for Oregon Marine Reserves Assessment

Laura asked Shelby to walk the board through the Oregon Marine Reserves Assessment. Shelby shared that she is the Chair of OPAC's Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). STAC was charged with managing the assessment of the Oregon Marine Reserves Program, and to provide a final report to the state legislature in 2023. STAC has developed a plan, including criteria and a timeline, to enable the assessment to be conducted by a Public University in Oregon. Unfortunately, funding support was not included in the mandate by the state and attempts to secure funding through the legislative process were unsuccessful. To ensure the assessment is robust and objective, funding will need to be secured and several sponsors have suggested using the OOST grant process. Based on the process currently outlined in the STAC materials and the RFP, the suggested figure needed is in the \$150 – 160K range. Using the OOST process as enabled, proposals would need to go to potential sponsors within the next few months.

Laura added input regarding other options considered and felt that OOST should try to do the job that was expected in its creation. She cautioned the need to strongly consider the perception of outside influence when recruiting funds, as well as the need to build stronger relationships with in-state organizations, both private and public. The current request on the table is pre-approval to pursue fundraising, future meetings will be needed to actually approve moving forward on accepting funds.

Steve Marx asked if the metrics, and the performance evaluation criteria and methodologies for the assessment have been established by STAC, or if they will be up for discussion in the grant writing process. Shelby confirmed that the criteria will be articulated in the RFP and are not areas for negotiation.

Senator Roblan added his frustration regarding not being able to obtain funding from the state during the legislative session and re-iterated the need for an independent analysis. He explained it is the function of OOST to make sure that the process is held consistent, and along with STAC, that the right criteria are in place, and he hopes the need for OOST being created in the first place is realized through this process.

Both Senator Roblan and Laura mentioned up-coming conversations they intended to have regarding funding. Laura also discussed the need to define OOSTs role in supporting the assessment process moving forward, and to discuss how much administrative support OOST may assume in future meetings. *Please see the YouTube video for detailed conversation.*

Krystyna Wolniakowski moved, and Jim Sumich seconded the motion for approval of submitting grant proposals for the Marine Reserves Assessment project.

Member Updates & Other Business

None.

Next steps and assignment of tasks

- DSL staff will submit rule changes to the Secretary of State for adoption.
- Laura will sign the OCF agreement and get clarification regarding OCF / Tribal questions.
- Shelby will take the lead on grant writing for the Marine Reserves Assessment.
- Members may start conversations regarding fundraising with contacts for the Marine Reserves Assessment project.
- Shelby to provide a two-page summary on the assessment to help facilitate discussions with potential donors.

Public Comments

A public comment was provided by Charlie Plybon, Oregon Policy Manager for Surfrider Foundation, from South Beach, OR. Charlie wanted to thank the OOST team for their work on the rule making efforts and appreciated the efforts to include tribes. He expressed some frustration in the fact that the state was not able to provide funding for the Marine Reserves Assessment, however, was heartened by the OOST's effort to raise funds through the grant process. Charlie gave some background on the Marine Reserves assessment and requested OOST be thoughtful in the request for resources, as there are other groups looking for help from the same pool and we need to need to be mindful not to step on each other. *Please see the YouTube video for the detailed comments.*

Discuss Possible Dates and Topics for Next Meeting

Several topics brought forth for upcoming meeting and are detailed below. *Please see the YouTube video for the detailed conversation.*

- Laura proposed meeting in early Fall and suggested a Doodle poll the beginning of October.

- Krystina asked if OOST is requesting any additional funding from DSL in the upcoming biennium budget requests due the end of July. Discussion ensued regarding potential requests through agency budgets and the legislature. DSL confirmed their budget requests for the next biennium were already sent to the Land Board for approval, however a discussion for the following biennium. DSL does have a Policy Option Package in the budget for support capacity which includes roles that support OOST.
- Discuss support of Marine Reserves assessment grant with Director Walker with regard to
- Steve suggested a future agenda include review of the Nearshore Research table on the OOST website for ongoing activities that may be impacted by Federal and State budgets. Additionally, some of the data may help to inform the Marine Reserve Assessment process.
- Shelby suggested the trust members hear from Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Council.

Adjourn

Laura adjourned the meeting at 10:28 am.