



State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

# Notes: Oregon Environmental Quality Commission meeting

## 424<sup>th</sup> regular meeting: Jan. 19, 2023

Draft   x    
Approved as presented \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved with amendments \_\_\_\_\_

### Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Present: Chair Kathleen George, Vice-chair Sam Baraso, Commissioner Greg Addington, Commissioner Molly Kile and Commissioner Amy Schlusser

#### **Welcome and meeting open**

Chair George convened the meeting at approximately 10 a.m. The meeting was held partially in-person, with commissioners and presenters at the DEQ Portland office and other attendees connected through Zoom.

*Note: Item A (draft meeting minutes) was removed from the meeting agenda*

#### **B. Informational: Legislative updates**

Nancy Bennett, Interim Deputy Director, introduced the item and her co-presenters. Annalisa Bhatia, Senior Legislative Analyst, Aeron Teverbaugh, Air Quality Legislative Analyst, Abby Boudouris, Land Quality Legislative Analyst, and Rian Hoof, Water Quality Legislative Analyst, presented updates about bills and other legislative matters, including changes to legislative committee assignments and leadership.

Commissioners discussed the updates and noted their appreciation for the work of the staff and agency to keep the commission updated throughout the Legislative Session.

#### **C. Action: Action: Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program rules**

Jennifer Wigal, Water Quality Division Administrator, introduced this item and her co-presenters. Chris Marko, Clean Water SRF Program Coordinator, described the program background and outlined the proposed rule revisions. Marko provided detail on the development process for the rule revisions, many of which were based on updates necessary for Oregon to receive additional money to support the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other program enhancements. He outlined the engagement opportunities DEQ provided as part of the rule development, and commissioners asked clarifying and informational questions throughout the presentation.

**Action:** Adopt the proposed rules and rule revisions seen in Attachment A of the staff report for this item as part of Chapter 340 of the Oregon Administrative Rules.

**Move:** Commissioner Addington

**Second:** Commissioner Kile

*The commission unanimously approved the motion as presented.*

#### **D. Informational: Commissioner reports**

Commissioners provided verbal updates on their activities and work of interest to the commission and DEQ.

#### **Working lunch and executive session**

Chair George recessed the commission for a working lunch and executive session from approximately noon to 1:15 p.m. The executive session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) and (h).

#### **E. Informational: Director's report**

Interim Director Leah Feldon and members of DEQ's Leadership team provided an overview of agency activities and projects of interest to the commission. Leadership team members summarized entries included with the written report for this item with additional verbal clarifications based on commissioner questions. Interim Director Feldon provided additional verbal updates on relevant matters not included in the written report for this item.

#### **F. Public forum**

Chair George opened a public comment opportunity on general topics related to Oregon's environment. Two people presented comment during this item. A summary of their comments is below, associated with individuals' names and affiliations, if provided.

1. Dale Feik, Washington County Citizen Action Network, provided general comments supporting DEQ and EQC's work, noting a copy of his comments were provided by email.
2. Ruben Goldenberg, North Plains resident, provided comments regarding poor air quality caused by a composting facility in North Plains.

Following the close of the public comment period, commissioners noted their appreciation for their long-time EQC assistant, Stephanie Caldera, who will move to a new role at the agency in February 2023.

#### **Executive session: Director's recruitment**

Chair George recessed the commission for an executive session, specific to the DEQ Director's recruitment process, from approximately 2:45 to 3:20 p.m. The executive session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a).

**G. Action: Determination of Director recruitment finalists**

Nancy Bennett, Interim Deputy Director, provided background on this matter, including a note that EQC is the hiring body for DEQ's Director. Chair George and Commissioner Kile, as the two designees of the commission for the recruitment process, provided their individual recommendations for two finalists for the DEQ Director position. The commission discussed their individual recommendations, deliberated and voted on the proposed finalists for the DEQ Director recruitment.

**Action:** Approve Leah Feldon and Jamie McLeod-Skinner as finalists for the DEQ Director recruitment position, and direct DEQ to conduct necessary reference checks and other standard hiring practices to ensure candidate viability for finalist interviews, to occur in February 2023.

**Move:** Commissioner Schlusser

**Second:** Vice-chair Baraso

*The commission unanimously approved the motion as presented.*

Following the commission vote, commissioners discussed logistics and process notes for next steps, and affirmed that a special meeting would be scheduled in February 2023, dates to be determined.

**Adjourn:** Chair George adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

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