



State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Notes: Oregon Environmental Quality Commission meeting

Special meeting: Feb. 9-10, 2023

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023: 9:30 a.m. to 5 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 special meeting at 9:35 a.m. The meeting was held partially in-person, with commissioners and candidates at the Portland DEQ office and other attendees connected through Zoom.

The commissioners asked a set of standard questions to both finalists during a 90-minute interview session.

- Interview: Jamie McLeod-Skinner
- Interview: Leah Feldon

Recess: Chair George recessed the public portion of the special meeting at 12:15 p.m., until 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023. Following the recess, the commission met for a working lunch and held executive sessions with a series of invited guests to serve as feedback panels for the morning's interviews. These executive sessions were held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a).

Working lunch and executive sessions

The commission reconvened in executive session at 12:35 p.m. Penny Robertson, DEQ HR manager, attending the working lunch to provide some general procedural information to the commissioners.

The commission held a series of feedback sessions following their working lunch. Invited panelists provided their feedback on the finalists' interviews, and commissioners asked clarifying and informational questions during each session.

- Executive session, feedback: DEQ Leadership Team representatives
- Executive session, feedback: DEQ Union representatives
- Executive session, feedback: DEQ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council and affinity group representatives
- Executive session, feedback: External partners and organizations

- Sharla Moffett (Oregon Business and Industry), Mike Eliason (Oregon Forest and Industries Council), Mike Freese (various clients), Jana Gastellum (Oregon Environmental Council), Mary Peveto (Neighbors for Clean Air), Lauren Goldberg (Columbia River Keeper), Susie Smith (Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies), Tiffany Monroe (Oregonians for Food and Shelter), Shaun Jillions (Oregon Manufacturers Association)
- Executive session, feedback: Other government partners
 - Peggy Lynch (Oregon League of Women Voters), David Breen (Port of Portland), Steve Dietrich (Lane Regional Air Protection Authority), Gabriela Goldfarb (Oregon Health Authority), Anthony Barber (Oregon Operations Office, EPA Region 10)

The commission closed its executive session at 4:55 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 10, 2023: 8:30 to 11 a.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 reconvened the special meeting at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was held partially in-person, with commissioners and candidates at the Portland DEQ office and other attendees connected through Zoom.

The commissioners conducted 30-minute follow-up interviews with the two finalists for the DEQ Director position, with questions individual to each candidate and based on the February 9 interviews.

- Interview: Leah Feldon
- Interview: Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Executive session

The commission met in executive session at from 9:42 to 10:20 a.m. This executive session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a).

Action: DEQ Director appointment

The commission returned to the public meeting at 10:27 a.m. to deliberate on the interviews and decision for DEQ’s Director. Each commissioner discussed their perspective and individual feedback on the interviews with Feldon and McLeod-Skinner.

Draft _____
Approved as presented x
Approved with amendments _____

Action: Appoint Leah Feldon as the permanent DEQ Director, with a start date to be determined and final salary as determined by applicable state law, regulations and policies.

Move: Commissioner Kile

Second: Commissioner Schlusser

The commission unanimously approved the action as presented.

Following the vote, the commission invited Leah Feldon to join the meeting to provide short remarks.

Adjourn: Chair George adjourned the special meeting at 10:37 a.m.
