



Notes: Oregon Environmental Quality Commission

440th Regular Meeting, Dec. 2, 2025

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025

Welcome and Meeting Open

At 9:04 a.m., Chair Matt Donegan opened the meeting, reviewed the day's agenda and introduced the new commissioner, Silvia Tanner.

Attendees: Chair Matt Donegan, Commissioner Karen Moynahan, Commissioner Silvia Tanner and Commissioner Mark Webb. Also present were DEQ Director Leah Feldon and Department of Justice Counsel Gary Vrooman.

The meeting was held via Zoom and in person at the DEQ Portland headquarters (700 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, Oregon 97232) in the 3rd floor conference room.

Item A: Draft Meeting Minutes (Action)

Commissioners reviewed and took action on the proposed draft minutes from the September 2025 regular meeting and the November 2025 special meeting.

Action: Approve minutes as presented for the September 2025 regular meeting and the November 2025 special meeting.

Move: Commissioner Karen Moynahan

Second: Commissioner Mark Webb

The commission approved the motion unanimously. Chair Matt Donegan, Commissioner Karen Moynahan, Commissioner Silvia Tanner and Commissioner Mark Webb in favor.

Item B: Three Basin Rule 2025 (Action)

Presenters: Jennifer Wigal Connie Dou, Aron Borok

DEQ presented proposed amendments to the Three Basin Rules which are designed to allow limited issuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits while preserving the original intent of the rule. The proposed changes aim to streamline the Onsite-Wastewater Treatment and Control Facility permitting process, enabling facilities to obtain permits for system repairs without needing EQC approval, provided there is no increase in flow or waste strength. DEQ emphasized that the rules are designed to ensure high-level environmental protection, including protections for public water sources and beneficial uses. Staff reported that the proposed rules received broad public support, with comment letters submitted from Marion County, the City of Salem, and other local communities and water advocacy groups.

Commissioners inquired about the feasibility of permit compliance, particularly for facilities

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required to meet groundwater discharge and beneficial use standards. DEQ staff noted that proposed limits align with standard water quality requirements and that no significant concerns have arisen from individual facilities. Staff highlighted ongoing coordination with counties, sewer authorities, and advisory committees to maintain transparency and support planning and design for permit compliance.

Commissioners raised questions regarding differences between surface discharge and subsurface (groundwater) treatment standards and how groundwater standards relate to eventual surface water impacts. DEQ staff clarified that while monitoring parameters differ, evaluations ensure that the objectives, protecting surface water quality after infiltration, are met.

Following discussion, the commission considered the proposed amendments. Commissioners expressed appreciation for DEQ's presentation and the thorough stakeholder engagement process.

Action: Adopt the proposed rule amendments in Attachment A as part of chapter 340 of the Oregon Administrative Rules.

Move: Commissioner Mark Webb

Second: Commissioner Karen Moynahan

The commission approved the motion unanimously. Chair Matt Donegan, Commissioner Karen Moynahan, Commissioner Silvia Tanner and Commissioner Mark Webb in favor.

Item C: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (Informational)

Presenters: Colin McConnaha, Morgan Schafer, Kali Glenn-Haley

Director Leah Feldon introduced the item and provided a brief status report as well as information on Governor Tina Kotek's action to advance climate protection. DEQ staff provided an informational update on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program, a five-year, \$197 million federal initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon.

DEQ outlined the program's origins under the Inflation Reduction Act, funding allocations across materials and waste management, transportation, and residential and commercial buildings, and highlighted the program's collaborative structure involving multiple state agencies and nonprofit partners. DEQ emphasized successes in establishing cross-agency partnerships, integrating funding into existing programs, and engaging communities, while noting challenges related to federal requirements and equitable access.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions regarding program timelines and allocations, and acknowledged DEQ's ongoing efforts to implement the program, monitor outcomes, and report on greenhouse gas reductions and co-benefits over the grant period.

Break

At approximately 10:45 a.m., the commission took a short break. Chair Matt Donegan reconvened the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Item D: Climate Protection Program: Update on Community Climate Investments (Informational)

Presenters: Colin McConnaha, Nicole Singh, Whitney Dorer

DEQ provided an informational update on the Climate Protection Program and Community Climate Investments. Staff reviewed the CPP's declining greenhouse gas emissions cap, program engagement with energy-intensive, trade-exposed, or EITE, manufacturers, and the voluntary CCI program that allows regulated entities to invest in projects benefiting historically disadvantaged communities and tribes. DEQ described progress on compliance instrument distribution, data collection from facilities, and development of EITE targets, with regulation expected to begin in 2028.

The Equity Advisory Committee for CCI was established, held two public meetings, and will review draft work plans to ensure alignment with program priorities. Staff outlined the upcoming application period for CCI entities, oversight processes, and timelines for agreements with approved entities and regulated companies, noting the voluntary nature of CCI credits and associated uncertainties in projected fund contributions.

Commissioners discussed equity, capacity, and implementation timelines, and DEQ committed to ongoing outreach and updates to the commission.

Working Lunch and Executive Session

At approximately 12:15 p.m., the commission recessed for lunch and executive session. Chair Matt Donegan reconvened the meeting at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Item E: Public Forum

The commission held a comment opportunity for any environmental and public health issues relevant to DEQ and EQC. Sign-ups to comment occurred shortly before the start of this agenda item, and people were asked to limit comments to two minutes or less.

Name	Affiliation (if stated)	Topic
1. Dale Fiek	Washington County Citizen Action Network	General federal and state government issues.
2. David Meier		Toxic emissions. E.g., VOCs; scented (chemical) dryer sheets; health concerns; DEQ says they don't handle residential issues. Asked commission to search VOCs and dryer

		sheets.
3. Sharla Moffet	Oregon Business and Industry	Climate Protection Program
4. Nicole Morris		Anti racism at DEQ; requests Director action
5. Kirk Blaine	Wild Salmon Center	Outstanding Resource Waters; appreciates DEQ's commitment.
6. Farrah Fatemi	Air Quality Division/speaking as a member of the public	DEI at DEQ, firing of EJ coordinator and denial of her benefits; pattern of discrimination and retaliation. Suggests using Metro's plan.
7. Owen Rudloff	Air Quality Division/speaking as member of public	Firing of EJ Coordinator; agency response and denial of benefits.
8. Kevin Howard	Climate Changes Everything, LLC	Community Climate Investments
9. Bre Irish		Morrow County water contamination; high levels of nitrates in water; DEQ needs to hold POM accountable. Need stronger protections for water.

Chair Matt Donegan closed the public forum at 11:39 p.m.

Item F: Agency Budget Updates (Informational)

Presenters: Matt Davis, Rian Hooff, Aeron Teverbaugh

DEQ staff provided an overview of the agency's budget status and preparations for the upcoming biennial budget development cycle. Staff explained that DEQ is in the agency request budget phase and described the complexity of the agency's funding structure, including general fund, federal funds, and other funds. Commissioners were briefed on outcomes from the 2025 legislative session, noting that DEQ avoided general fund position reductions and received limited targeted investments, while overall staffing levels remain below historic levels given program growth. Staff discussed recent state revenue forecasts, uncertainty related to potential federal funding reductions, and DEQ's response to legislative direction to prepare five percent general fund reduction options, emphasizing priorities to minimize impacts to core operations, required services, and positions, and to protect environmental justice and equity resources. The commission discussed federal funding risks, long-term trends in funding sources, and alignment of budget planning with the agency's strategic plan, diversity, equity, and inclusion goals, and the Governor's priorities, including climate resilience. Staff outlined next steps in the budget development process and committed to continued engagement with the commission as the agency request budget is developed and submitted.

Break

At 2:35 p.m., the commission took a short break. Chair Matt Donegan reconvened the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

Item G: Director's Report (Informational)

Presenters: Director Leah Feldon and the Leadership Team

At 2:52 p.m., Chair Matt Donegan called for the final informational item. DEQ presented written and verbal updates on agency activities and other issues of interest to the commission.

Director Feldon provided agency updates, including the introduction of Jen Parrott, who recently joined DEQ as the new Land Quality Administrator; an update on the commission's recent action authorizing temporary fuel supplier variances under the Clean Fuels and Climate Protection Programs, which expired on Dec. 1, 2025; and a summary of the State of Oregon's 2025 employee engagement survey results.

Director Feldon highlighted the employee engagement survey results which showed a 76% participation rate and an increase to 49% of employees classified as actively engaged, exceeding statewide and national government benchmarks, with strengths in development and recognition and opportunities for improvement related to clarity of expectations and employees' ability to do their best work. Feldon will provide commissioners with the slide deck for the Gallup survey. Commissioners asked clarifying questions.

DEQ provided reports on recent Governor's executive orders, federal regulatory developments, strategic plan implementation, and regional program updates. DEQ summarized executive orders related to accelerating clean energy development, statewide climate and landscape resilience, and alignment with the Statewide Energy Strategy, noting DEQ's roles in program implementation, interagency coordination, and future rulemaking, including anticipated updates to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard. Commissioners discussed expedited permitting, community engagement, smoke management, and public health considerations.

DEQ also presented an update on federal Clean Air Act rollbacks and potential impacts to Oregon programs, including changes to greenhouse gas regulations and other air and water protections.

DEQ then provided a brief update on implementation of DEQ's Strategic Plan and DEI Plan, including governance structure and future commission engagement.

DEQ staff shared additional air and water quality program updates, including grant implementation, permitting workload, and water resources coordination.

DEQ reported on Eastern and Western Region activities, including draft permitting work for the Grassy Mountain Gold Mine, wastewater infrastructure improvements at the Port of Morrow, and

observed water quality improvements following the J.C. Boyle Dam removal. DEQ provided updates on enforcement actions and regional coordination efforts, including ongoing landfill enforcement, reservoir drawdowns conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to support fish passage, and coordination with state agencies and affected communities to manage water quality and drinking water impacts.

Adjourn Meeting

Chair Matt Donegan adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Other Resources

- [Tuesday, Dec. 2 Zoom recording](#) – passcode: Et93%?gU
- [December 2025 EQC web page](#)

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