

Board of Agriculture Meeting Minutes, July 31, and August 1, 2008

Day one: July 31, 2008, The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles, Oregon

At 8:30 a.m. Thursday, May 15, 2008, Chair Ken Bailey called the State Board of Agriculture meeting to order.

Board members present: Bernie Faber, Ken Bailey, Pat Dudley, Jan Kerns, Doug Kraemer, Lynn Youngbar, Bob Levy, Dan Carver, Tom Fessler, Stephen Van Mouwerik, Katy Coba, Thayne Dutson (proxy for Bill Boggess)

ODA staff present: Lisa Hanson, Lauren Henderson, Bruce Pokarney, Gary Roth, Ray Jandl, Dalton Hobbs, Brent Searle, Jim Johnson, David Wilkinson, Stephanie Page, Madeline MacGregor, Chris Kirby, Sunny Jones

Others present and introduced: Mitch Lies, The Capital Press; Katie Fast, Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB); Geoff Horning, Agri-Business Council; Jim Krahn, Oregon Dairy Farmer's Association; Tammy Dennee, Oregon Wheat Grower's League; Kendra Kimbirauskis, Friends of Family Farmers; Jim Welsh, Oregon Cattlemen's Association; Megan Fuhrman, Friends of Family Farmers; Chris Mertz, USDA-NASS Oregon Field Office; Bob Stacey, 1,000 Friends of Oregon; Nan Evans, Nature Conservancy; Sara O'Brien, Defenders of Wildlife; Justin Martin, Perseverance Strategies; Joe Whitworth, Oregon Trout; Allison Hensey, Oregon Environmental Council (OEC); Peter Bloome, OEC; Andrea Malmberg, Oregon Rural Action; Mary Lou Faber

Approval of minutes from last meeting: Request by Chair Bailey for continuation until tomorrow, due to late submission of the minutes. Request agreed upon by all members of the board.

Director's report: The ODA budget is ready to submit to the Governor's Office. The governor's recommendations will be reviewed in October. The state's revenue forecast will be released in September and this will give the department a better idea of what funding for the biennium will look like. In a worst-case scenario, the department could be facing cuts—ODA will engage the board in developing a program priority list. One of the program areas needing additional resources is the Food Safety Division, for the following reasons:

- Heightened consumer awareness of food safety issues, and recent recalls of tomatoes and jalapenos highlight the need for FSD to track and test product.
- Increased capacity and efficacy of testing and sampling is required to support the Food Emergency Response plan. Additional funds are needed to update ODA's laboratory equipment.

Director Coba attended the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA) in California. Oregon will play host to the meeting next summer, and the

president's dinner will most likely be held in Portland. As part of this year's meeting, a discussion about California's PR problem with the light brown apple moth (LBAM) was held. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) moved forward with its aerial spraying plans. Conservation organizations were helpful in supporting the program, considering the extreme damage that LBAM could inflict on California's agricultural industry. However, a group opposed to the spray plan moved forward with an Internet blitz. They used blogging as a means of organizing, and shot the CDFA's plans down by using Web-based pressure. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) will host Internet workshops designed to help agencies maximize their Web communications tools. ODA should consider participation in some measure.

Global warming commission update – ODA Director Coba; Stephanie Page, ODA renewable energy specialist: The following items were highlighted:

- ❖ ODA has been required to face climate change as fast paced legislation moves state agencies to enact studies and regulatory measures. ODA's Brent Searle and Stephanie Page have devoted many hours and resources creating a knowledge base for the public. There is a legislative proposal on the table for a cap and trade system. Jim Rue, former Board of Agriculture member, is now Vice Chair of the Global Warming Commission. The commission is working at committee levels: natural resources, transportation, land use, and public health. The natural resources committee has split into four subcommittees: agriculture, water, forestry, and fishery. Page has attended the subcommittee meetings and acted as co-chair to the agricultural subcommittee with Director Coba. Board of Agriculture members Pat Dudley, Bernie Faber, and Stephen Van Mouwerik all participate on the agriculture subcommittee. There has been positive feedback, and the commission is instituting an action plan with long-term goals. The water subcommittee identified losing snow pack (water source) as the largest problem facing the state's water resources. Part of the focus of the commission is to identify the largest emitters (such as utility companies), and there has been interest in obtaining data about agricultural emissions.
- ❖ Page attended the Western Climate Initiative Consortium in Canada. A draft of the Cap and Trade System principles include allowances for agricultural emissions to be offset, thus sequestering or reducing emissions. There is a high allowance for using offsets, if the producer can decrease emissions by even 10 percent.
- ❖ Fertilizer management is another type of project that may reduce total emissions. David Van't Hof from the Governor's Office wants to know if the agricultural industry will help to frame the offsets in this kind of project.
- ❖ The largest challenge for an Oregon emission reduction plan is its agricultural diversity. The standards of offset must be tailored to each type of commodity produced.

Discussion: ODA has requested funding by the Legislature in the next biennium for a staff member to perform the work that is necessary to coordinate Oregon's climate change initiative requirements. The board proposes developing relationships with environmentalists and to be open to new ideas, not act defensively. Communication is imperative. Another place for the board to focus their work is around water and

snowmelt. Stream health is beginning to deteriorate with the scarcity of snowmelt; there needs to be a mechanism for impoundment. Ecosystem health in agriculture is imperative, and building a coalition is vitally important. Progress is being made in measuring carbon emissions accurately. Data already exists on conservation tillage.

Western states China trade mission update – ODA Assistant Director Dalton

Hobbs: Hobbs showed a PowerPoint presentation of the most recent trip to China. The following were highlights of the trip:

- ❖ Twenty-seven participants, including representatives from 11 states in the Western State Departments of Agriculture (WUSATA) traveled to Zhuhai China.
- ❖ The Chinese per capita income allows many of their citizens to enjoy Oregon products like wine, seafood, and artisan cheeses.
- ❖ The subtropical climate of China is noncompetitive with Oregon's agricultural commodities.
- ❖ Marketing opportunities for US value-added agricultural products abound, particularly with the expansion of China's upscale businesses such as five star hotels and casinos.
- ❖ US western states representatives met with their official Chinese counterparts; the Chinese CIQ official's qualifications and responsibilities are similar to officials within the FDA.
 - The CIQ sample laboratory samples millions of food products and uses world-class equipment and highly credentialed personnel.
- ❖ China's distribution infrastructure in the Jiangsian Market serves 20 million people daily with distribution and processing of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- ❖ The US group attended the grand opening of CUPFIC:
 - The ceremony hosted 500 dignitaries, including the US General Counsel
 - 800,000 square feet encompass the logistics center
 - There is a designated foreign free-trade zone
 - A full time display of WUSATA products will be featured at the center
 - The center incorporates dry/chill frozen storage capacity
- ❖ Other messages from the trip:
 - Southern China is a growing market for Oregon's high value products
 - Oregon leads the nation in the development of innovative export items
 - CUPFIC will be fully operational in December 2008
 - A showcase of Oregon seafood will take place in the spring of 2009

Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS) annual report – ODA Pesticide Division

Administrator Chris Kirby; Sunny Jones, ODA pesticide use specialist (see http://oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/purs_index.shtml#Annual_reports for full text of the 2007 PURS report): The material for pesticide users was presented in a variety of ways, and encompassed 551 active ingredients. The system focus began with the top 100 ingredients, but reduced the number to the top five. A 2006 amended report was included. Challenges to the new system included:

- ❖ Trying to create a user friendly online system
 - Using main registration numbers
 - Screen design changes

- ❖ Glitches identified in the system:
 - IS techs worked with the Pesticide Division to correct problems for users
 - The Legislature was notified there were definite online problems; for example, users were unable to locate their first year reports.
- ❖ For continued reporting, help sessions will be set up this coming fall.

Kirby and Jones answered the board's questions: Q: What was the percentage of reporting compliance? A: There was really no way to determine; many operators have rental properties, and the use on the entirety of those properties is an unknown. Q: Do all states provide some type of system for reporting pesticide use? A: Oregon is unique among the states in its forward thinking system. California reports, but their system does not extend to hotels, restaurants, and rental properties. The state of New York also reports. Researchers are watching the results carefully.

Oregon State University bee project – Katie Fast, Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB), Chair, Bee Health Task Force: The task force members are a mixture of farmers and researchers. OSU plans to hire a fulltime researcher, and is currently soliciting applicants. Three beekeepers sit on the selection committee. The task force hopes to have made their selection by this coming fall; at the same time, sampling the state's beehives. Some hive population numbers have dropped while others have remained stable. There are many differing opinions about the underlying cause. There needs to be a solid scientific baseline. The OSU POPS for the next biennium will need support. Additionally, USDA is offering \$4 million to study the impacts of colony collapse disorder (CCD).

Four hundred and fifty-seven million Oregon crops rely on bee pollination: fruit trees, clover, cranberries, blueberries, and seed crops. Native pollinators will be included in the study. One of the challenges is competition for hive rental; California's almond industry will pay up to \$165.00 per hive, while Oregon might only pay \$40.00 per hive for clover pollination. California may be able to outbid Oregon and contract for all hives. Oregon producers can expect to pay more for hive rentals in the coming months.

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Eradication – Katie Fast, OFB: ODA and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) secured \$400,000 in grants to combat SOD in southern Oregon. The funding will only cover eradication efforts through October 1, 2008. More federal funding must be secured from Community Credit—a subsidiary of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). There will be a formal request made to USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The potential for SOD to escape containment zones could affect the marketing capabilities of Oregon's nursery industry. The Board of Agriculture should draft a letter to Community Credit in support of continued funding. Fast will help the board deliver the letter to the appropriate person and be in touch with the board. The board wanted to know if the efforts to contain SOD were winning. Fast said that compared to California, Oregon's progress is outstanding. California trees killed by SOD added to that state's wildfire problems. Oregon has been able to slow the progression of the disease in wild settings. In many ways, Oregon is dealing with unknown outcomes; 98-99 percent of Oregon's nursery products travel to other states, and 87 percent of our timber products are exported. SOD has the ability to

cripple this export business both within the US and internationally. California has lost the ability to market their nursery products outside their state. ODA's Plant Division Administrator Dan Hilburn, has said that SOD is spreading in Oregon but at a much slower rate.

Conservation panel discussion – Nan Evans, Nature Conservancy: Evans said it is important for agriculture and conservationists to share information and work together where there is common ground. Evans identified the following issues for the 2009 legislative session:

- ❖ Invasive species:
 - Fund the work of the Invasive Species Council
- ❖ Funding for all natural resources (NR) agencies:
 - NR agencies receive less than 2 percent of the state budget
 - Appropriate districts to state agencies for restoration projects
 - Maintain diligent oversight of Measure 66 dollar-distribution
- ❖ Policy issues:
 - As part of the mission to protect biodiversity, continue to purchase land, engage in water resource discussions, and management of public land.
- ❖ Improvement of economic incentives:
 - Encourage voluntary programs
 - Tax credits for landowners who use long range management practices beyond regulatory programs
 - Advocate for tax credits that can be rolled forward

Conservation panelist Justin Martin, Perseverance Strategies – on behalf of Deborah Kane, Eco Trust: Eco Trust is focusing on the Farm to School Program.

Components of the program were identified:

- ❖ Create new market opportunities for Oregon food products to enter into school nutrition programs.
- ❖ Oregon has not provided incentives for producers—Eco Trust would like to see that change.
 - It will be a priority for the 2009 session to procure General Fund dollars for the Farm to School Program.
 - This requires bi-partisan support, and seems to fit with the goals of the Senate President and Speaker of the House.
 - The new position created for the program now needs to be funded.
 - At seven cents per school lunch meal, the program will require \$1.5 million per year, for the biennium.

Conservation panelist Sara O'Brien – Defenders of Wildlife (DW): The following items from the 2009 DW legislative agenda were addressed:

- ❖ Establish state policy for an ecosystem marketplace (see handout for full text)

- ❖ Climate change:
 - Address impacts of climate change on natural resources
 - Create a policy framework for integrated inventory and monitoring of its effects
- ❖ Oregon conservation strategy:
 - Implement the state's 2005 comprehensive wildlife conservation plan; restore the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W) \$12.5 million General Fund budget option package
- ❖ Measure 66/Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB):
 - Maximize appropriation of non-capital Measure 66 funds to OWEB
- ❖ Oregon Landowner Assistance Center:
 - Provide a central location for landowners to gain information and technical assistance on conservation and sustainable practices
- ❖ The Big Look:
 - Incorporate habitat conservation into state land use planning policies

Conservation panelist, Allison Hensey – Oregon Environmental Council (OEC):

Hensey reviewed components of the Healthy Food and Farms Program (see <http://www.oeconline.org/our-work/food-and-farms> for more information) and identified other OEC objectives for 2009:

- ❖ Healthy Food and Farms Program:
 - South Coast sustainable foods brand
 - Ensure that food and farm businesses receive the resources they need
 - Fund the Oregon Sustainable Agriculture Resource Center (OSARC)
 - Expand ODA's Agricultural Development & Marketing Division (ADMD); provide position funding to help producers understand the various certification programs available
 - Climate change: Resources needed in Oregon to help producers, companies, and private citizens find out how they can participate in reducing emissions.
 - Farm Fresh: Encourage Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) participation in the workplace; educate consumers about their food choices and how they affect the environment.
 - Published a summary of interviews with environmentalists who were asked about working on common ground with the agricultural community: "Working on Common Ground," by Peter Bloome.
 - Carbon neutral challenge: Over thirty wineries and vineyards have committed to becoming carbon neutral by mid-2009.

Conservation panelist, Kendra Kimbirauskas – Friends of Family Farmers:

Kimbirauskas identified the following goals for 2009:

- ❖ Land use planning:
 - Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zones; farmers are feeling the pinch when it comes to purchasing new land
 - Federally defined Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

- State inspected meat program; on-farm processing could increase consumer access to locally processed meat and poultry, and increase farmer's ability to produce organic animal feeds
- Next generation farmer's program
- Food security and safety; fuel the national trend of established alternative operators

Kimbirauskas also thought ODA should devote more resources to marketing products locally, rather than using costly international trade missions to promote Oregon's high value-added products.

Conservation panelist, Bob Stacey – 1,000 Friends of Oregon: Stacey provided the board with a handout entitled "Blueprint for Oregon's Future." (Please refer to <http://www.friends.org/issues/blueprint.html/> for full text) Stacey participated in the Big Look Task Force. The committee held 18 different town hall meetings in anticipation of funding and land use discussions. 1,000 Friends would like to see a strengthening of the incentives, and an increase in regulatory measures. Stacey identified problems with the current EFU statute; one being the number of non-farm dwellings that can occur on EFU land. Limiting the number of dwellings will be a measure of control. 1,000 Friends is working with Representative Brian Clem, and with other members of the House. One proposal is to find funding to protect farming and farmland by possibly selling away rights to seek development of their land in the future. This might require purchasing farmlands in order to preserve them. Also discussed as goals were the following:

- ❖ Urban Growth Boundary expansion projects
 - The values of acreage close to the urban/rural divide (boundaries are reset as urban areas expand into agricultural regions) have risen to the point where it becomes more and more difficult for farmers to recapture if sold by another producer to developers.
 - 1,000 Friends proposes easements that provide a steady stream of funds to maintain farming rather than lump sum pay-outs.
- ❖ Global warming
 - Proposals on the table do not include agriculture
 - Goals are to reduce the greenhouse gas load
 - 80 percent of emissions are from highway transportation (vehicle emissions)—there needs to be land use and highway development limits:
 - ❖ due to Oregon's population growth there needs to be ways to improve the use of existing structures

Conservation panelist, Joe Whitworth – Oregon Trout: Whitworth's organization is looking forward to the 2009 session. The following element of their legislative agenda was discussed:

- ❖ Water
 - Climate disruption will have a huge influence on water resources
 - Support and approve Water Trust to merge with Oregon Trout
 - Encourage in-stream water rights
 - Landowners will ultimately do the right thing for their land

- Encourage people to stay in an information gathering mode

Ag industry survey results, Geoff Horning – Executive Director, Agri-Business

Council: (Refer to handout for full text) A 2008 telephone survey was conducted to assess public opinion on the following seven objectives:

- ❖ Urban/rural interface
- ❖ Sustainability
- ❖ Crop protection
- ❖ Food safety
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Labor
- ❖ Energy

The survey was not an Agri-Business Council (ABC) survey but a project shared by the agricultural industry. The following are examples of the results (In descending order; in percentage of importance to each topic):

- ❖ Oregon's most important industry:
 - Agriculture was chosen as the second most important industry behind technology. Urbanites recognize the economic importance of agriculture to the state
- ❖ The good things about agriculture in Oregon:
 - Availability of locally grown products
 - Important to survival of state's public
 - Diversity of products
 - Emphasis on organic
 - High quality and freshness
 - Strong industry/positive effect on economy
 - Focus on sustainability
 - Creates jobs
 - Conducive growing climate
- ❖ The concerns associated with agriculture:
 - Loss of farmland from urban sprawl
 - Use of pesticides
 - Impact on water quality; pollution
 - Economic decline; loss of farm contribution
 - Use of illegal labor
 - Rising cost of fuel
 - Water supply
- ❖ Biggest challenge facing agriculture:
 - Cost of fuel and energy
 - Availability of land and water
 - Cost of transporting goods to market
 - Government regulations
 - Availability and cost of labor
 - Cost of fertilizers and pesticides

- ❖ Rating concerns about agriculture:
 - Conversion of farmland to residential and industrial areas
 - Fifty-two percent very concerned
 - Use of approved pesticides on crops for human consumption
 - Forty-five percent very concerned
 - Long term supply of fresh water
 - Forty-two percent very concerned
 - Treatment of farm animals and livestock by producers
 - Twenty-eight percent very concerned
- ❖ Financial outlook question: Will the standard of living for farmers stay the same, improve, or decline?
 - Forty-eight percent felt there would be a decline in the quality of living for Oregon's farmers

Other subjects in the survey covered the following:

- ❖ Factors impacting the cost of food
- ❖ Options for family farms
- ❖ Changing farming practices
- ❖ Changing specific practices
- ❖ Crop protection
- ❖ Strength of government; restrictions on pesticide use
- ❖ Restrictions and food prices
- ❖ Agriculture as a sustainable industry
- ❖ Defining sustainable practices
- ❖ Food safety
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Labor
- ❖ Communication

In summary: Agriculture is well liked and favorably perceived; other factors are impacting food prices and food safety, not agriculture; operators are good stewards of the land and water; agriculture is thought of as an important industry in Oregon; opportunities and vulnerabilities exist—water is key—but agriculture is seen as a positive stakeholder and needs to do a better job engaging the public on crop protection and labor.

The next steps:

- ❖ Develop a plan
- ❖ Oversight committee formed and met; will continue to prioritize key issues to work on
- ❖ Identify target audiences; don't forget the stakeholders
- ❖ Organize trusted communications; train and activate
- ❖ Fundraise

Day two: Aug 1, 2008, The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles, Oregon

Board members present: Bernie Faber, Ken Bailey, Jan Kerns, Doug Krahmer, Lynn Youngbar, Bob Levy, Dan Carver, Tom Fessler, Stephen Van Mouwerik, Katy Coba, Thayne Dutton (proxy for Bill Boggess) Absent: Pat Dudley

ODA staff present: Lisa Hanson, Lauren Henderson, Bruce Pokarney, Gary Roth, Ray Jaindl, Dalton Hobbs, Jim Johnson, David Wilkinson, Stephanie Page, Madeline MacGregor

Others present and introduced: Mitch Lies, The Capital Press; Jim Krahn, Oregon Dairy Farmer's Association; Chris Mertz, USDA-NASS Oregon Field Office; Allison Hensey, Oregon Environmental Council (OEC); Peter Bloome, OEC; Andrea Malmberg, Oregon Rural Action; Andy Ginsberg, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Mary Lou Faber; Paul Smull; Les Ruark; Dr Mark Wuestenberg, Tillamook Creamery Association; Len Bergstein, Three Mile Canyon

Dairy Air Task Force update, Dr Mark Wuestenberg – Tillamook Creamery

Association: (Please refer to the full text at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/dairy>)

Wuestenberg reviewed the task force's process used in completing the final report:

- ❖ Study of average information on dairy operations contained in the Oregon Dairy Farm Overview chapter
- ❖ Environmental regulations: EPA Clean Air Act
- ❖ Air emissions from dairies: quantifying emissions from dairies
- ❖ Human health impacts
- ❖ Environmental impacts: ammonia—issues of regional haze in designated Oregon National Scenic Areas

Task force guiding principles include the following:

- ❖ Program development:
 - Initial focus on reducing ammonia, methanol, and odor
 - Make technical decisions based upon review of existing data
 - Allow flexibility for dairy farmers to make compatible decisions for their operations and their environmental obligations
 - Provide economic feasibility and stability for dairy farmers
 - Emulate ODA's CAFO program; prevent water pollution
 - Encourage early voluntary action to extend beyond requirements
 - Tailor program to realities of the state budget; regularly review and update as data is collected
 - Ensure level playing field for all of Oregon and the Northwest's dairy producers
 - Recognize that the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Occupational Safety and Health Acts still apply
 - Create a solution that all interests can support

In summation of the recommendations for ODA: ODA should receive funds necessary to determine compliance, provide technical assistance, and conduct enforcement. ODA should develop a periodic report of Best Management Practices (BMP) based on reports and inspections. Annual reports should be provided to the Environmental Quality Commission and the Board of Agriculture, posted on the Web, and otherwise communicated to the public. ODA should communicate to CAFO permit holders the requirements for air BMPs, record keeping, and reporting. ODA should determine compliance, provide technical assistance, and conduct any enforcement.

Update on reporting for the Greenhouse Gas Rule – Andy Ginsberg, DEQ: (refer to proposed rule for full text: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/climate/rulemaking.htm>)

Ginsburg summarized elements of the rule:

- ❖ The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is proposing rules that would require sources to report greenhouse gas emissions to DEQ. The proposed rules require all sources in Oregon that are required to obtain permits under the Title V Operating Permit Program, and certain sources that are required to obtain permits under the Air Contaminant Discharge Permit Program, to report their emissions beginning with the 2009 reporting year. The proposed rules also require certain solid waste disposal facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, electric generating units and electricity transmission and distribution systems, that emit 2500 metric tons or more of greenhouse gases per year, to report their emissions beginning with the 2010 reporting year.

At this time, there are no plans for agriculture to be involved. However, there will be opportunities for the industry to become involved, and offsets may be provided through the Western Climate Initiative (WCI). Companies will either reduce their emissions or need to purchase allowances. No more than 10 percent of offsets will be allowed. It is advisable to track and keep your eye on the proposed legislation in 2009. Hard data will be needed in order to obtain the offset credits. Oregon will be eligible to purchase credits from other states, so we need to establish quality offsets. Thresholds are important. Director Coba said there are many issues which ODA shares with DEQ, and the agencies will be working together more often in the future.

Working on Common Ground, Interviews with Oregon Environmentalists – Peter

Bloome, OEC: (Please refer to <http://www.oeconline.org/our-work/food-and-farms/working-on-common-ground> for full text) Bloome introduced the second installment in interviews between environmentalists and the Oregon agricultural community. The study incorporated five mirror questions from the original study. The questions were posed to 12 environmentalists and to seven agricultural producers. The questions used in the interviews were:

- ❖ What do you see as the greatest environmental challenges facing Oregon?
- ❖ Of these challenges, which are related to agriculture?
- ❖ What does it take for you to work constructively with agriculturists and the agricultural community?
- ❖ As you imagine these relationships, what concerns you about working with agriculturists and the agricultural community?

A discussion by the board followed Bloome's presentation of the study. There was a strong message by Bloome to focus on what may be possible. What kind of things are the board working on today, that are laying the foundation for future accomplishments that can't be imagined now? Focus on the good that may result from your work.

Board member Bernie Faber suggested that the Agri-Business Council and the OEC might want to combine their studies and work together. Oregon Dairy Farmer's Association Director Jim Krahn suggested that Bloome speak at the next ODFA convention. Director Coba suggested board members consider industry organizations and associations they are connected with, as possible places for Bloome to speak.

Public comment period:

- ❖ Len Bergstein, Three Mile Canyon Farms: Spoke about the need for important incentives for climate control and the greenhouse gas rule—he asked the board to pay special attention to the legislation that develops around the proposed rule. Make sure that existing practices are included in the benefits of early voluntary action enacted by producers.
- ❖ Paul Smull, farmer: Mr Smull referred to the Right To Farm legislation, and the need for the board to discuss inherent problems and troubling definitions. He feels there should be a moratorium on dairy emissions (as referred to in the Dairy Air Task Force report), and not wait until 2015 to enact legislation against emissions from “large scale” dairy operations.

Board of Agriculture Subcommittee reports:

- ❖ **Government relations, Tom Fessler**
 - Letters were sent to various members of the Senate about the Social Security (SS) mismatch court case. Should hear the result in September. There was a recent article published stating that \$600 million in tax revenue within the state would be lost if some of the agricultural labor community was forced to leave Oregon.
 - In regards to metal theft problems, members of OAN, recyclers, and other interested groups want to see the final bill have more “teeth.”
- ❖ **Marketing, Lynn Youngbar**
 - There has been continued conversation about certification. It is important for ODA leave a mark for sustainable certification, on a commodity basis. The Wine Board (WB) has created such a program, and hopefully maybe the WB and ODA can come back and work together.
 - Specialty crops update; new resources are available.
 - State meat inspection; OSU is participating; draft of progress so far in creating a list of existing producers and processors. The study is slated for November 2008 completion.
 - Film crew is at Orchardview; segment of “How Did This Get on My Plate” being filmed.
 - Truitt Brothers and 50 other Oregon producers will participate in a sustainable agriculture tour.

- ❖ **Water and Air, Bob Levy and ODA Natural Resources Administrator Ray Jandl**
 - Ongoing relationship between ODA and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) to achieve goals in water quality, restoration programs, and present updates to the Legislature in 2009.
 - Will have the OACD address the SWCD report at the next Board of Agriculture meeting.
 - In the Umatilla groundwater region, DEQ identified significant groundwater issues; nitrates were discovered. No pending regulation at this time, but a report will be needed by 2010. Insurance liability problems might cause ODA to inherit current problems.
- ❖ **Land use, Doug Krahrmer and ODA's Jim Johnson**
 - Progress on the Big Look Task Force; timing of their reports do not coincide with the Board of Agriculture meetings. Some decisions that involve both committees will need to be reached by teleconferencing.
 - The Big Look is under pressure to provide their report results for the 2009 legislative session. They are looking for comments from the Board of Agriculture members to be in by early October. There should be enough material to review in early to mid September, so the board can make their conclusions. A final letter will be drafted for the board.
 - Ken Bailey cannot chair the Land Use subcommittee if he is on the Big Look Task Force; someone else on the board will have to assume responsibility and, all of the board members will need to participate.
 - Metro/urban reserves; ODA has been asked to assemble a technology group. Johnson has formed the group, and they will meet soon.
 - Three legislative work groups are currently meeting; a) destination resorts; b) water supply and agriculture; c) EFU zones (Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) has formed an advisory group.)

Board business

Resolution and action items

- ❖ Approval of minutes from last meeting: Doug Krahrmer so moved; Bob Levy seconded. Motion carried. Absent: Pat Dudley
- ❖ Sudden Oak Death (SOD), action item: Draft letter of support. Tom Fessler so moved; Bernie Faber seconded. Motion carried. Absent: Pat Dudley

Other reports

- ❖ OWEB, Dan Carver: OWEB met in Ontario; a summary follows of discussion topics:
 - The next meeting will be in Dallas, specifically to approve grants. Fourteen million dollars per cycle is portioned out—at least \$40 million worth of grant applications were submitted, so OWEB must prioritize and decide who will receive the grant money.
 - Climate change
 - Measure 66 monitoring; will go back to the vote in 2014. Need to keep the momentum for agriculture going.

- ❖ Grasshoppers, Jan Kerns:
 - Kerns described her region's battle against grasshoppers. Next year it will be critical to find the egg masses. ODA may have to go to the governor's Emergency Board to request reinstatement of its Eastern Oregon entomologist position. Possible new areas of infestation must be located. The grasshopper-specific pesticide dimilin, could not be used on insects past the molting stage, so a stronger, more broad-spectrum product needed to be applied. The grasshopper problem has the potential to be much worse next year,

Adjournment and next meeting:

Valley River Inn, Eugene, Oregon

Monday November 10, 2008, 6:30 p.m. – Subcommittee meetings

Tuesday November 11, 2008, 8:15 a.m. – Full board meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 8:30 a.m. – Full board meeting