

# Oregon Invasive Species Council

## Business Meeting Minutes

### April 21, 2021 | Virtual (1:00 - 4:00 pm)

#### Summary of Outcomes:

- February 2021 meeting minutes were approved, pending minor text edits
  - The education and outreach grant funding will be reviewed in light of the time lapse since proposals were received and the reduced funding that is available
  - The apple maggot infestation in the Milton-Freewater area was declared an invasive species emergency by the OISC and \$30,000 in emergency funding (from the Emergency Control Account) was approved in response to the request from the Blue Mountain Horticultural Society
  - A new Working Group was created under the Education & Outreach Committee to continue exploring the topic of the OISC's role in the use of invasive species common names and promoting inclusive language
  - An OISC award with an emphasis on cultural and collaborative focus and inspired by Jim Seeley will be announced at the Primer Launch webinar
  - The Council will no longer call the invasive species list 'The Worst Invaders List'
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#### Welcome & Introductions

*Troy Abercrombie, 2021 OISC Vice Chair (Western Invasives Network)*

See participants list at the end of the minutes.

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 2021

*Troy Abercrombie, 2021 OISC Vice Chair (Western Invasives Network)*

Karen sent edits to Jalene for updating the February 2021 meeting minutes. Biggest update was related to the wildfire response and clarifying that it was a special effort in 2020.

**Peter moved to accept February 2021 meeting minutes, pending minor edits from Karen.**

**2nd: Christine Moffitt**

**All voting members approved.**

#### OISC Budget

*Rick Boatner, 2021 OISC Chair (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife)*

This workbook contains many tabs with a history of reports and budgets throughout the biennium. Of primary importance are the first 4 tabs (see [meeting packet](#), starting on page 13):

1. Draft budget report (updated version)
2. Revenue tracking - separated from the budget report for easier viewing
3. Federal grants summary

4. Project balances as of 4/2/21 (report from ODA)

Updated Budget Report - Proposed Feb 2021 (first tab)

- Personnel - Contracted Services & Payroll
- Supplies, Fees and other Project Costs

Use of funds from General Funds + Lottery Funds + Federal Grants

- Left hand side = Budgeted line items
- Right hand side = Expenditures as of the date of the most recent Project Balances Report from ODA
- Bottom rows = Summaries and totals, including proposed / estimated funding that would roll over into the 2021-2023 budget

Education Grants & Advertising/Marketing Funds: There has been discussion of bringing back 20% of the education grants to award a couple of the top awardees. There has also been discussion of using OISC funds for advertising / outreach materials as that is a key function that a majority of Council members would like to see enhanced. Proposing to the OISC that these projects (and associated funding) be allocated to the 2021-2023 budget and work plan.

2021-2023 OISC Budget: The final expected revenue total will not be clear until the closing of the legislative session. Currently, you'll see some estimates of what may rollover from this year's budget at the bottom of the budget report tab. Helmuth had previously confirmed that the Governor's Recommended Budget currently includes \$152,000 Lottery Funds for the OISC.

**Group conversation regarding partial funding for the Education Grants:**

*Q (Sam): Thanks to the Budget Committee for exploring the possibility of funding some of the education grants. Are we tied in to the existing proposals that were submitted, or is there a possibility that we would be sending out a new RFP? It's very possible that we rated them high based on their submitted proposal, but conditions have changed since then. Who will make those decisions/recommendations? Education/Outreach Committee? Budget Committee?*

*A (Rick): We will look at the grants that came in before rather than opening up a new RFP and we will lean on the Education/Outreach Committee for their recommendations.*

*A (Jalene): The plan was to reach out to the original awardees first. In the past, it has gone through Education/Outreach Committee and then to the full OISC for approval.*

- Sam: Based on the direction from the Executive Committee, I propose to contact the top awardees and inquire whether they still intend to continue work if funding is available. If the proposed awardees aren't planning on doing the work anymore, we will look beyond the top 10 awardees.
- Troy: I want to make sure that we are being strategic about how we are using those state and federal funds. It would be good to have a motion about delivering a smaller pot of money for the Education/Outreach grants.

**Christine moved to review education and outreach funding to reconsider strategy with time lapse and reduced total available.**

**Chuck Fisk: 2nd.**

**All voting members approved.**

## Request for Invasive Species Emergency Funding to Eradicate Apple Maggot Fruit Fly

*Troy Abercrombie, 2021 OISC Vice Chair (Western Invasives Network)*

The OISC received a request for emergency funding (\$30,000) for apple maggot eradication in the Milton-Freewater area from the Blue Mountain Horticultural Society. They will also be getting additional funding from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Numerous partners are involved in this effort. This situation meets criteria to declare this an emergency.

### **Group conversation about emergency funding in response to apple maggot detection:**

*Q (Chat) Karen Ripley to Everyone: They are requesting \$30,000 from OISC. What is the current balance in our Emergency fund?*

*A (Chat) Jalene Littlejohn to Everyone: The current emergency fund balance can be found in the Budget reports workbook under the tab "ODA Balances 2021 0402" - balance: \$82,994.*

*Q (Jake): Was the Horticultural Society supposed to join the OISC meeting today?*

*A (Troy): Unsure.*

*A (Jalene): Not a requirement for them to be here.*

*Q (Christine): What's the assurance that this would be an eradication?*

*A (Jake): Delimitation would take place before eradication. Traps would be placed around each positive detection. Outside of that delimitation zone, another 80 traps would be placed to help determine extent.*

- Peter: It's disappointing that the industry isn't willing to put more than an in-kind effort into this.
- Jake: They probably just didn't account for that in the best way in the information provided. That would be a good thing to ask them.
- Rick: If we aren't spending the Emergency Account down, it's not showing that we are using the funds. If they don't see movement, it might not get replenished.
- Sam: We need to have a game plan for how to replenish the Emergency Account so the policy makers can see the good that has been done, but that it's important to replenish.
- Karen: I support providing \$30,000. We can ask the Budget Committee to investigate ways to replenish the Emergency account.
- (Chat) Jake Bodart to Everyone: Can we replenish the emergency funds through the e-board?
- (Chat) Jalene Littlejohn to Everyone: OAR says the OISC would need to determine an invasive species emergency.
- Troy: We need a motion to declare that this is an invasive species emergency based on EDRR nature and ODA risk assessment of this pest in that area.

**Rick moved to declare the apple maggot infestation in the Milton-Freewater area an invasive species emergency.**

**Peter: 2nd.**

**All voting members approved.**

**Karen moved to provide \$30,000 from OISC emergency funds to address the apple maggot request.**

**Christine: 2nd.**

- Christine: I want to reiterate my worry about possibility for eradication. I would hate to make this too little of an effort and then find out it wasn't effective. I'm looking for assurance from the folks who understand this type of thing.
- (Chat) Sam Chan to Everyone: And/ or we learn that the apple maggot is not contained and detected outside of the designated area.
- Jake: I think the treatment is for next May. All farmers in the area would be treating their fields.
  - Troy: The letter says 2 foliar applications in June 2021

*Q (Troy): What's the possibility of success without the OISC's contribution to this effort?*

*A (Jake): Not sure I can answer that question.*

- Peter: I don't have a problem with funding it, but in the future, I think we would be within reason to make a grant request to those apple industries to help replenish the Emergency Account.
  - (Chat) Sam Chan to Everyone: Good suggestion Peter. One option is for the industry to consider a cost sharing match to replenish the Emergency Account.

**All voting members approved.**

- Karen: I want to reiterate the need for us to investigate ways to replenish the Emergency Account.
- Rick: ODA would have to make a request in a policy option package to replenish emergency funds.
- Troy: Would be a great task of the Budget Committee, Executive Committee, and others on the Council to explore. I will commit to revisit this with the Executive committee.
- Jas.: With new Senate liaison (Senator Lew Frederick, if he is confirmed) we will have several voices on the Joint Committee for Ways and Means.
- Jalene: We will follow-up with the draft meeting minutes to Rick & ODA.

**Leveraging Partnerships & Activities to Advance Statewide Objectives: Update on detection and response re: zebra mussels on marimo balls**

*Rick Boatner, 2021 OISC Chair (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife)*

A Seattle pet store employee found zebra mussels on marimo balls and US Geological Survey (USGS) got the report on February 9th. Didn't get it to Washington state until March 2nd. On March 3rd, I (Rick) received notification from North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) which started the inspections at local pet stores here in Oregon. This started an instant command system. Oregon was the first state to release a news release on this issue. We sent Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) staff around the state looking for these moss balls. ODFW has authority over zebra mussels, but not over the moss balls. Found in 32 different states. What's needed for future events: better communication protocols for notifications, spot inspections, identification of "aquarium dump sites", prioritizing sites based on Ca and pH levels, eDNA sampling, and looking into other unusual vectors.

**Group conversation about moss balls/zebra mussels:**

*Q (Sam): Great job on the rapid response. What do we do about internet sales? I was able to order the moss balls online and they are quarantined in my office now. 2 of 9 internet purchases had suspected mussels.*

A (Rick): Working with US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and sending those cases to them. Enforcement will be difficult. If we find zebra mussels, we have authority. ODA came in as a partner to provide greater authority.

Q (Chat) Alex Staunch to Everyone: Is there a database for reporting these possible sites?

A (Rick): The OISC Hotline or call me directly.

Q (Chat) Mark Sytsma to Everyone: Has anyone contacted Amazon? I just found them still for sale there.

A (Rick): USFWS is supposed to be contacting those people.

- (Chat) Amira Streeter (she/her) to Everyone: Might be a hard issue with Amazon because there are so many sellers and I think Amazon has an issue with banning certain products generally. Most sellers are independent with little accountability to Amazon, besides paying for their "store space".
  - (Chat) Nikki Brooks to Everyone: Amira is correct on the challenges with Amazon. I know that USDA has had problems with regulating prohibited food items sold through Amazon.
  - (Chat) Heidi McMaster, Bureau of Reclamation to Everyone (2:37 PM): I would add that Etsy is another difficult source to regulate. I know you can get seeds from Etsy and some are invasive. <https://www.etsy.com/search?q=aquarium%20moss%20balls>;  
<https://www.etsy.com/search?q=purple%20loosestrife%20seeds&ref=auto-1>
- (Chat) Heidi McMaster, Bureau of Reclamation to Everyone: I want to thank everyone for sharing so much information during this!
- (Chat) Troy Abercrombie to Everyone: Great feedback and input in the chat. Thanks to all!

## Leveraging Partnerships & Activities to Advance Statewide Objectives: Species Common Name

*Catherine de Rivera, (Portland State University), Sam Chan (Oregon Sea Grant), Jalene Littlejohn (Oregon Invasive Species Council Coordinator)*

Jalene: We've been discussing the OISC's role in the use of invasive species common names. From the statewide strategic plan, Education & Outreach Strategy #3 is: "promote focused, inclusive outreach and engagement to build public support and involvement among historically underrepresented audiences"

Sam: When it comes to naming invasive species, it can be used to describe particular species characteristics, describes impacts, etc. Other times, common names are used that may not serve the purpose of our mission. For example, "Japanese beetle" is not very descriptive. Recently, there has been more and more awareness about the language we use and how it affects our ability to reach audiences. With the social strife that has been accelerated recently, the impacts dawned on us. For example: "Asian giant murder hornet". We want to focus on what we can do as professionals. The role of the OISC is not to bring about huge social change. What can we do within the scope of our mission to address how we use common names for invasive species?

Cat: How can we be better communicators about invasive species issues? By listening to students, I've learned from them that they are eager to use more inclusive language. Research out there also supports what I've heard from these students. It's important to listen to future generations of managers. We want to also empower the diversity of Oregonians. Descriptive names, rather than names that incorporate the

source, might help with identification, reporting, and interest. We want to hear from you all about actions we can take as a Council that might help with promoting the use of more inclusive names.

Possible role of OISC:

1. Identify actions to implement the Strategic Plan's Education & Outreach Strategy 3
2. Promote common name options without racial identifiers to Species of Concern database
3. Assess outreach materials for simple options to update common name references (e.g., the Primer)
4. Develop a vision statement for the OISC that incorporates diversity, equity, and inclusion for effective invasive species prevention and management
5. Series of updates/discussions at future meetings
6. Convene a Working Group

**Group conversation about invasive species common names and promoting inclusive language:**

- (Chat) Amira Streeter (she/her) to Everyone: This is so important to recognize language barriers, especially for non-English speakers who work with natural resources.
- (Chat) Mark Sytsma to Everyone: I don't think place names are necessarily bad. Oregon grape is a nice name. It is racial and ethnic names associated with negative messages that are the problem. Asian pear and Japanese maples are good things. Talking about killing gypsy moths and Asian giant hornets gets problematic.
- Amira: I really like this idea and the recognition that action needs to be taken to be more inclusive and that these names have connotations that aren't useful. I would welcome a conversation with the Environmental Equity Committee that I am involved in. If you all decide to do that, I can flag that with the co-chairs and could invite Jalene, Sam, and Cat to present.
- Troy: I think a lot of this comes out of laziness, ignorance, and utility. Thank you all for that presentation.
- Christine: I feel strongly that this needs to go back to the professional societies that name these organisms. American Fisheries Society made large changes, changed the names of several fish and those names are no longer recognized in those publications. We could send a letter or something like that.
  - (Chat) Mark Sytsma to Everyone: I slightly disagree with Christine's comment about moving unilaterally. We can just refuse to use certain names, even if they are "accepted" by professional societies. Just use the scientific name.
- Mark: Place names aren't necessarily bad. It's the racial and ethnic names that are associated with negative messages that we need to avoid. Every individual can move unilaterally to stop using certain names.
- Christine: If we are changing the names in documents, we need to make sure that everyone is behind it. As a Council, we need to be representing a process that is coming from the Council.
- Sam: We will need to tap these multiple avenues. We don't have to use a common name, there are others that we could use instead.
- (Chat) Catherine de Rivera to Everyone: I'm also using 'imported' or 'problematic intentionally or unintentionally imported' when I remember to do so.
- Jake: ODA continues to use "gypsy moth" because it's a national effort, but we've seen requests to stop using that name. Definitions are also important when using terms like "invasive".
- (Chat) Shaun Seaman Chelan PUD to Everyone: Thank you for including Andrea and myself from WISC. Good to hear how the OISC is working through the DEI issues. This has helped me think more about the varied and numerous issues.

- (Chat) Troy Abercrombie to Everyone: Thank you Shaun and Andrea for participating. Hopefully there are ways that we can partner across the region to further this process and conversation.
- (Chat) Sam Chan to Everyone: Thank you Shaun and Andrea for joining us. Effective and sustainable change using names for invasive species without reference to race will benefit from collaboration with the WISC. We have been including Justin in our discussions and will continue to.
- Troy: Would be prudent to create an official working group of the OISC that explores these topics.

**Troy moved to assign a Working Group under the Education & Outreach Committee to continue to explore the topic of the OISC's role in the use of invasive species common names and promoting inclusive language.**

**Rick: 2nd.**

- Sam: This is also about Communications, I recommend the Communications Committee is also a part of this.
- (Chat) Troy Abercrombie to Everyone: As they've been meeting jointly, I assumed an organic partnership there.
- Cat: I like the idea a lot. Encourage people to put ideas in the link that Jalene shared.
  - (Chat) Jalene Littlejohn to Everyone: <https://padlet.com/jlittlejohn5/oisc>

**All voting members approved.**

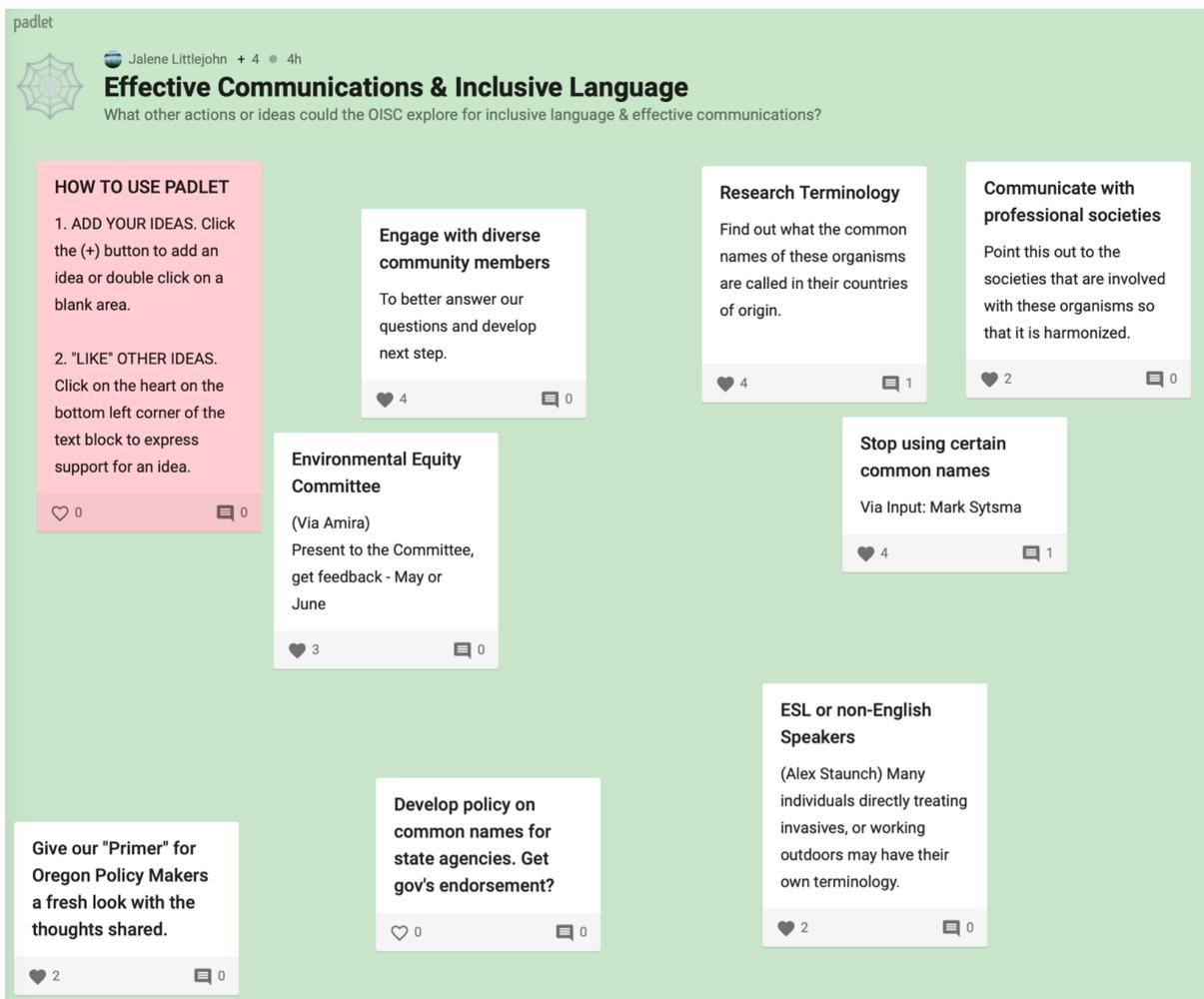


Photo Above: Screenshot of ideas generated during the conversation answering the question “What other actions or ideas could the OISC explore for inclusive language & effective communications?”

## Committees & Working Group Open Items

\*Multiple committee reports have been posted to the Council member webpage and are available for review. They are also available in the [meeting packet](#), starting on page 27.

### Communications Committee

#### Annual Report (Karen Ripley)

We recently completed the [2019 OISC Annual Report](#). The inside 2-pages include accomplishments within a calendar year. I intend to get input from you all for the 2020 annual report. Any invasive species accomplishments during 2020 is fair game and we’d love to hear it. In the next week or so, look for solicitation from me via email seeking 2020 accomplishments. Goal is to have something ready for review at the June 2021 Meeting.

Jalene/Samara Group can send out a link for uploading individual annual reports for strategic reporting, but it would be best for folks to call out 1 or 2 accomplishments that they would want included.

### **Primer Launch Webinar (Troy Abercrombie)**

We are currently working on the Primer Launch webinar. We will need support from each region to support those regional webinars. Thinking that maybe the best way to launch the primer is with a more general launch webinar from a higher state level that would set the stage for those regional webinars. Planning to host that webinar during the second Invasive Species Awareness Week (May 17th). Webinar outline is in the [meeting packet](#) (page 32).

- Christine: Great move - go for it!
- Karen: If this timeline is still viable, we will need a lot of organization and publicity.
- Troy: I think it makes the most sense. If we do it early enough in the week, we can catch people before they are fatigued. We will need to identify a few key speakers to tell some stories.
- (Chat) Catherine de Rivera to Everyone: Agreed - good idea and the outline looks good.
- Karen: I am supportive and willing to help.
- Jalene: We have a task list that we need to work through, including needing a webinar system that can record and we need speakers.
- Christine: OSU Extension / Sea Grant's webinar system is great.

*Q (Troy): Sam, would that be an option?*

*A (Sam): Could probably do it with enough lead time. I can share the information and let you know. Let's give it a try.*

- (Chat) Christine Moffitt to Everyone: American Fisheries Society has a cvent platform I believe but let's see what OSU has first
- Troy: We will continue to forge ahead. Another piece is to introduce a new award, named in honor of Jim Seeley ("Outstanding Collaborative Local Leadership Award"). At the launch webinar, our hope is to introduce that award and during the following regional webinars, our hope is to give out awards.
- (Chat) Christine Moffitt to Everyone: I will be glad to help with editing the naming of the award to a few names. I like the emphasis of collaboration, cultural, and local emphasis.
- (Chat) JAS ADAMS to Everyone: I can help
- (Chat) Catherine de Rivera to Everyone: Sounds good to me. Thanks for advancing this.
- Karen: As I am soliciting the 2020 accomplishments, maybe I can put something in there about people who should be recognized for their contributions.

**Christine moved to create an award with an emphasis on cultural and collaborative focus that will be announced at the first webinar, inspired by Jim Seeley.**

**Rick: 2nd**

**All voting members approved.**

### MOU Working Group (Cat de Rivera)

(Chat) Catherine de Rivera to Everyone: We don't have a report from the MOU Working Group as we are waiting to get a template from the DOJ.

### Worst List Working Group (Nikki Brooks)

We have done a lot of good work since the last meeting. We want to suggest an official renaming from "worst list" to "species of concern". We believe that it is better terminology that fits with the conversation we had earlier.

- (Chat) Peter Kenagy to Everyone: Downside to using “species of concern “ is that it is also used in the endangered species realm.
- (Chat) Jake Bodart to Everyone: Agreed with confusion on endangered species. Maybe we could do Invasive Pests of Concern? Or Pests of concern.
- (Chat) Catherine de Rivera to Everyone: Great point about ‘species of concern’. This list can also include plants... so ‘pests’ might not work as well (but otherwise I like that).
- (Chat) Roy Marler to Everyone: Organisms of Concern?

Also, we are going to do a phased approach to publishing species on the AirTable database. Want to start with “recent alert species”. We need to get information out about them right now, like the mussels in the moss balls. If you get a chance, there are 7 species listed in the working group report (see [meeting packet](#), page 43) that we want to start with. After all species are published, we want to include local species of concern. I am requesting Council feedback on that list of 7 species, email is OK.

- (Chat) Troy Abercrombie to Everyone: To streamline that listing/"delisting" process, can we delegate that authority to the Executive Committee, with recommendations from the Education & Outreach Committee via the working group?

**Nikki moved to no longer call the invasive species list ‘the worst invaders list’.**

**Rick: 2nd**

**All voting members approved.**

## Public Comment

No public comment.

## Action Items, Next Meeting & Close

See summary list of actions/outcomes at the top of minutes. Next Meeting is June 16. Next Executive Committee Meeting is May 12.

## Executive Session: Coordinator Contract

The group went into executive session regarding the OISC Coordinator contract.

## Meeting Participants

### Council Members

Troy Abercrombie, Western Invasives Network

Jas. Adams, Public Member

Noel Bacheller, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department

Rick Boatner, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

Nikki Brooks, US Customs and Border Protection

Sam Chan, Oregon State University & Oregon Sea Grant (joined at 1:20pm)

Glenn Dolphin, Oregon State Marine Board

Josh Emerson, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

E. Chuck Fisk, F5 Wildlife Control

Peter Kenagy, Kenagy Family Farm Inc, Oregon Farm Bureau, Willamette Mainstem Cooperative,  
Specialty Seed Growers of Western Oregon  
Roy Marler, US Customs and Border Protection - Alternate OISC Member  
Erin McConnell, Bureau of Land Management  
Heidi McMaster, US Bureau of Reclamation  
Sean McMillen, USDA APHIS PPQ  
Christine Moffitt, Friends of South Slough Reserve  
Tim Newton, Malheur County SWCD  
Jennifer Poirier, US Fish & Wildlife Service - Alternate OISC Member  
Dave Pranger, Morrow County  
Karen Ripley, USDA Forest Service  
Catherine de Rivera, Portland State University  
Cheryl Shippentower, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Alex Staunch, Mosaic Ecology  
Amira Streeter, Office of Governor Kate Brown  
Eugene Wier, The Freshwater Trust

*Council Members Excused: Kathy Pendergrass (USDA NRCS), Helmuth Rogg (Oregon Department of Agriculture), Rep. David Brock Smith (Oregon House of Representatives - District 1), Brendan White (US Fish & Wildlife Service), Wyatt Williams (Oregon Department of Forestry)*

**Other Meeting Participants**

Jake Bodart, Oregon Department of Agriculture, OISC Committee Member  
Marie Hepner, Samara Group  
Jalene Littlejohn, Samara Group  
Elaine Rybak, OISC Committee Member  
Shaun Seaman, Chelan Public Utility District and the Industry Advisory Panel  
Mark Sytsma, Portland State University, former OISC Member  
Andrea Thorpe, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission