



OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COUNCIL

January 22, 2026 Meeting Minutes

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL AT THE MARCH 18, 2026 MEETING

January 22, 2026 Virtual Council Meeting

Zoom Webinar and live streamed on [YouTube](#)

All meeting materials can be found on oregonerf.org under the specific meeting date.

ATTENDEES

OERC MEMBERS

Debbie Colbert
 Michael Dembrow
 Leah Feldon
 Rep. Ken Helm
 Cheyenne Holliday
 Molly Kile
 André Ourso
 Alai Reyes-Santos
 Chuck Sams
 Sen. David Brock Smith
 Leslie Wu
Absent: Geoff Huntington

OWEB STAFF

Nicole Bettinardi
 Clare Lanusse
 Nicole Maness
 Sara O'Brien
 Rachel Thompson

OTHERS
 Troy Abercrombie
 Matthew Bearden
 Chris Benemann
 Logan Bodiford
 Hayley Brazier
 Jennifer Butler

OTHERS

Brett Golden
 Andrea Hanson
 Kelly Hendrix
 Marc Hudson
 Kristin Kovalik
 Christer Labrecque
 Mary Logalbo
 Dani Marshall
 Anca Matica
 Hoang-Van Nguyen
 Adam Nielsen
 Angela Parada
 Terri Preeg Riggsby

OTHERS

Holly Purpura
 Estelle Robichaux
 Jonathan Sandau
 Kris Schaedel
 Lindsay Schuelke
 Neil Schulman
 Youjun P Suh
 Sunny Summers
 Julie Ulibarri
 Rebecca Wells-Albers
 Ben Wiley
 Greg Wobbe

AGENDA

Timestamp	The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Vice Chair Cheyenne Holliday: Recording
00:00:38	Roll Call and Opening Remarks, Meeting Overview, and Objectives Vice Chair Cheyenne Holliday opened the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda. Council members each answered an icebreaker question: "If you had one free day in Oregon, where would you go and what would you do?"
00:11:59	Item 1 – Consent Items Motion #1. Leslie Wu moved to accept the December 18, 2025 Council meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Co-Chair Chuck Sams. Debbie Colbert, Michael Dembrow, Leah Feldon, Cheyenne Holliday, Molly Kile, André Ourso, Alai Reyes-Santos, Chuck Sams, and Leslie Wu voted in favor. Geoff Huntington was absent. Motion passed.
00:13:12	Item 2 – Program Manager Report Oregon Environmental Restoration Program (OERP) Manager Nicole Maness provided a program and financial update to the Council. She reported on Governor Kotek's January 1, 2026 approval of the nomination of Jenn Bildersee, City of Portland Brownfields Manager, to the Council filling the last public member position and fulfilling the requirement of two public members with scientific expertise on environmental or human health impacts of PCB or other similar substances in the environment. The financial report provided information on the balance of the Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund (OERF) ending December 31, 2025, as well as notice that Council Co-Chairs will be sending a letter



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	<p>in January 2026 directing OWEB to transfer the first distribution of \$30 million from the OERF to the three legislatively directed subfunds.</p> <p><i>Additional information on program status and timelines shared during the Manager's Report can be found on the meeting slides on the OERF website.</i></p>
00:50:17	<p>Item 3 – Public Comment</p> <p>Vice Chair Cheyenne Holliday thanked the two individuals who submitted written comment and noted those submissions can be found on the OERF website under meeting materials for January 22, 2026. There were no verbal public comments for this meeting.</p>
00:50:57	<p>Item 4 – Strategic Priorities</p> <p>Rachel Thompson, OERP Coordinator, presented a recap of the December 18, 2025 Council meeting discussion and shared next steps for beginning the statewide engagement process to gather input on identification of the first set of strategic priorities for the OERF. Council members discussed the importance of integrating existing statewide strategies and plans into the OERF strategic priorities and requested additional information on existing plans that may help to identify funding gaps. Staff also heard Council feedback to emphasize accessibility and to ensure diverse and underrepresented communities can participate in and benefit from the engagement work to identify priorities and access the Fund.</p> <p><i>Additional information on strategic priority status and timelines shared during the Strategic Priority agenda item can be found on the meeting slides on the OERF website.</i></p>
01:20:58	<p>Item 5 – Tribal Nation Natural Resource Program Fund</p> <p>Nicole Maness, OERP Manager, reported that draft rules for the Tribal Nation Natural Resource Program Fund are currently under review for legal sufficiency by Oregon's Department of Justice. Once available, the rules will be sent concurrently to the Oregon Environmental Restoration Council and to each of the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon for review and comment in advance of rule making. OERP staff will be working with OWEB and with Tribes to establish the reporting requirements for the Tribal Nation Natural Resource Program Fund.</p>
01:23:55	<p>Item 6 – Agency Program Fund</p> <p>Rachel Thompson, OERP Coordinator, presented an overview of the Agency Program Fund and the legislative context in SB 1561. She provided Council with anticipated program milestones and the sequencing of program development and rulemaking relative to the identification of the strategic priorities. Council members engaged in a visioning exercise for the Agency Program Fund and discussed how to balance the broad strategic priorities with the mechanical details of the Agency Program Fund. There was also discussion of creating a transparent and equitable process for program design while recognizing the need for urgency in delivering funding for restoration and remediation work. The Oregon Department of Justice is conducting a review of SB 1561 and the Monsanto Settlement Agreement, and this information is expected to be shared with Council and fund beneficiaries once available.</p> <p><i>Additional information on Agency Program Fund status and timelines shared during the Agency Program Fund agenda item can be found on the meeting slides on the OERF website.</i></p>
01:54:19	<p>Item 7 – Community Impact Fund</p> <p>Nicole Maness, OERP Manager, provided an update on the Community Impact Fund.</p>



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[01:55:40](#)

Next Steps, Reminders & Wrap Up

Vice Chair Cheyenne Holliday announced that the next Council meeting would be Thursday, March 18, 2026 at 9:00 am in the Land Board Room at the State Lands Building in Salem, with a hybrid option, and closed out the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am by Vice Chair Cheyenne Holliday.