



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development  
Water Resources Department



February 26, 2026

To: Land Conservation and Development Commission and the  
Water Resources Commission  
From: Brenda Ortigoza Bateman, Ph.D., Director  
Ivan Gall, Director, OWRD, Director  
Subject: **Agenda Item 1A, February 26, 2026, LCDC and OWRC Meeting**

## Welcome and Introductions

### I. Agenda Item Summary

Water Resources Department Director Ivan Gall will welcome members of the Land Conservation and Development Commission and the Water Resources Commission, kicking off a special meeting between the Commissions and the agencies.

Water Resources Commission Vice Chair Julie Smitherman and Land Conservation and Development Commission Chair Anyeley Hallová will lead introductions.

During this special meeting, the Land Conservation and Development Commission and the Water Resources Commission will hear updates from agency staff and the Governor's Office and will discuss several agenda items. Commissioners will spend time together during lunch, then return to their separate business meetings in the afternoon.

This is an informational report.

### II. Background

This joint meeting is timely and important, as land and water are connected in many ways. The way in which we manage the landscape—our forests, farmlands, rangelands, and urban spaces—can have positive or negative implications for water resources. While protections have been put into place to ensure that streams, rivers, and groundwater resources are managed for the long-term sustainability of Oregon's ecosystems, economy, and quality of life, continued thoughtful land management can play a critical role in the health and availability of water resources for future generations.

However, local government land use planners do not always have the information they need to make long-term decisions that affect water resources. Oregon can help remedy this issue by improving communication and coordination between state and local governments on land use and water resources matters. Considering the pressures of projected increases in population and climate change on water availability, Oregon's communities need to adequately plan and prepare for meeting a larger demand on a shared resource.

### **III. Commission Introductions**

#### **a. Land Conservation and Development Commission**

Oregon's Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) adopts state land-use goals and implementing rules, ensures local plan compliance with the goals, and coordinates state and local planning. The seven commissioners are volunteers appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. They are appointed to four-year terms and the statute establishing the commission, [ORS 197.030](#), requires the members be representative of certain regions of the state. The commissioners are listed below. Full profiles may be found [online](#).

##### **Chair Anyeley Hallová, representing Metro Area 2**

*Second term expires 2/28/2026*

Anyeley is the founder of Adre, an equity-centered development company formed with the purpose of developing projects that create social and economic benefits for groups that traditionally lack access to real estate ownership and investment. Adre is a certified woman-owned, minority-owned, and emerging small business in the State of Oregon.

Anyeley is an alumna of Cornell University, MIT, and Harvard University. The Urban Land Institute named her "40 under 40" as one of the best young land-use professionals from around the globe and Grist 50 identified her as an emerging leader in climate, equity, and sustainability. She currently serves as Chair of Oregon's Land Conservation and Development Commission and Chair of the US Green Building Council.

##### **Vice Chair Allan Lazo, representing Metro Area 1**

*First term expires 6/9/2026*

Allan retired as the executive director of the Fair Housing Council of Oregon (FHCO), a statewide civil rights organization founded in 1990 whose mission is to end housing discrimination and ensure equal opportunity to housing. FHCO provides access to education, enforcement, and public policy advocacy.

He has been a long-time community advocate for civil rights and social justice, serving on the City of Portland Housing Bureau's Affordable Housing Bond Oversight Committee and DLCD's Housing Rulemaking Advisory Committees. He served on the Portland Human Rights Commission from 2010 to 2016, chairing the commission in 2011 and chairing the commission's Housing Rights Task Force.

##### **Stuart Warren, representing the Willamette Valley**

*Second term expires 11/30/2027*

Stuart, who was born and raised in rural Southern Oregon, owned and operated a guided fly-fishing business on the Rogue River. He served on the City of Phoenix, OR city council, where he served as council vice-president, chair of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency board, and council liaison to the city's Parks and Recreation Committee.

The Alameda Fire in 2020 displaced many of Stuart's neighbors, including an inequitable number of Latino families, and destroyed a part of his hometown. During the fire recovery efforts, Stuart worked to help families meet their daily needs and decided to make public service a full-time career. After receiving his master's degree in community and regional planning from the University of Oregon, Stuart moved to a new region and now works as an Associate Planner in Eugene.

### **Barbara Boyer, representing the Willamette Valley**

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*First term expires 11/18/2025*

As the chair of Oregon's Soil and Water Conservation Commission and a member of the State Board of Agriculture, Barbara is a passionate supporter of farmland preservation through land use efforts. However, her interests and experiences go far beyond conservation issues. She is an organic producer who is involved in small business, community supported agriculture, nutrition issues, and is the co-founder of the McMinnville farmers' market.

She graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in plant science. She and her late husband Tom created two businesses from their farm, Gourmet Hay and a small community-supported agriculture operation. They planted 10,000 trees along the river as part of USDA's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

### **Mark Bennett, representing Eastern Oregon**

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*First term expires 6/30/2028*

Commissioner Mark Bennett comes from a family of multi-generation ranchers. He and his wife steward their family ranch and timber lands near Unity, Oregon. He has an extensive list of community service that includes captain with the Baker County Sheriff's Office, former land use planning and emergency management director for Baker County, retired Baker County commissioner, and former chair of the Oregon Wildfire Policy Council.

### **Lianne Thompson, representing the Coast**

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*First term expires 5/31/2026*

Lianne serves on the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, to which she was first elected in 2014. Her county district includes Cannon Beach, Arch Cape, Elsie, Hamlet and Jewell and portions of Seaside. She has served on the Clatsop County Planning Commission and is active in several community organizations, including the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program and Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), where she is the treasurer. She serves as Chair for the Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District, member of the Northwest Oregon Economic Alliance, Vice-Chair to the State Emergency Response Commission. Thompson received a bachelor's degree in humanities from Michigan State University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan.

**Ellen Porter, representing Southern Oregon**

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*First term expires 9/30/2028*

Ellen has worked in the environmental field for more than 25 years. She is currently an independent contractor/consultant who assists various companies with environmental compliance and permitting. Prior to becoming a consultant, Ellen was the Director of Environment for Roseburg Forest Products for nearly 20 years and was an Environmental Manager for Louisiana Pacific prior to that.

Ellen received several degrees from the University of Montana including a bachelor's in liberal arts and a law degree where she specialized in environmental, real property and water rights. Ellen serves on the Roseburg City Council, is the Conservation Chair for the local Audubon chapter, and is the President for Riverbend Live!, a summer concert series and Youth Theater program based in Winston, Oregon.

**b. Oregon Water Resources Commission**

The Water Resources Commission (WRC) is a seven-member citizen board that oversees the establishment of policies governing operations of the Water Resources Department. Commission members are appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate. The Commission represents five regional areas and also includes one member representing the east side and another member that represents the west side at large. Commissioners are appointed to four-year terms. The Water Resources Commission currently has one vacant position in the North Central Region.

**Vice Chair Julie Smitherman, representing the Southwest Region**

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*Term expires 2025*

Julie currently serves as the Water Resources Coordinator for the Medford Water Commission and formerly worked for the City of Ashland as a Water Conservation Specialist. Julie has worked in the municipal drinking water industry for over 12 years and is actively involved in water resource planning and water efficiency. Julie has served as chair of the PNWS-AWWA Conservation Committee, the PNWS Southern Oregon Subsection, and the Southern Oregon Landscape Association. Julie also served on the Governor's Drought Task Force, the League of Oregon Cities Water and Wastewater Policy Committee and was the Oregon/Idaho Trustee for the PNWS-AWWA. Julie is a certified landscape irrigation auditor and received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies with a geology concentration from Southern Oregon University.

**Janet Neuman, representing West Side At Large**

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*Term expires 2028*

Jan retired in 2023 from private practice as an attorney in water law and natural resources. Jan was on the faculty at Lewis and Clark Law School from 1992-2011, teaching water law and other subjects and co-directed the Natural Resources Law Institute. Jan previously served on the Oregon Board of Forestry and the Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission,

appointed by President Clinton. Jan worked for the Oregon Department of State Lands in 1987-1992 as the Assistant Director of Resource Management and later as the agency's Director. Jan is currently working on a second edition of her Oregon Water Law treatise, originally published in 2011. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Environmental Studies from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, and a law degree from Stanford Law School.

### **Kathy Kihara, representing the East Side at Large**

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*Term expires 2025*

Kathy retired in 2017 as a Civil Engineer with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. She started her career with the Bureau in 1985, serving the last 19 years in the Bend Field Office. She has worked on several Reclamation projects throughout Oregon. Kathy earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Montana State University.

### **Joe Moll, representing West Central Region**

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*Term expires 2025*

Joe serves as the Executive Director of the McKenzie River Trust. Joe was the former president for the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts and served as the associate director of development for The Nature Conservancy of Montana. Joe also served as a researcher for the Rocky Mountain Front Grizzly Bear Management Program and as a preserve assistant for The Nature Conservancy's Pine Butte Swamp in Montana. Joe was a research fellow in Japan, working as an English translator, editor, and consulting guide for wildlife and film professionals during his time there. Joe received a master's degree in natural resource conservation from the University of Montana-Missoula School of Forestry, a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Transylvania University, and a certificate in Japanese language and culture from Nanzan University in Japan.

### **Jan Lee, representing Northwest Region**

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*Term expires 2025*

Jan retired 2.5 years ago as the Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts. She is in her 17<sup>th</sup> year serving on the board of the Clackamas Soil & Water conservation district. Jan was the former Executive Director for the NW Hydro Association and Oregon Water Resources Congress and managed the Tumalo and Swalley Irrigation Districts in Bend. Jan was an OWEB Board Member and former House Member for the Oregon Legislature, serving on the Land and Water Committee. She is a member of the City of Sandy's Planning Commission and formerly served as a City Councilor for the city. Jan is a former board member of the National Water Resources Association and holds a master's degree in public administration from Lewis and Clark College, while minoring in natural resources policy.

### **Woody Wolfe, representing Eastern Region**

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*Term expires 2025*

Woody is a 6th generation farmer-rancher and owner-operator of Wolfe Farm, Inc. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business Management from Oregon State University, with a

minor in agricultural resource economics. Woody has held leadership roles in multiple conservation projects dealing with water rights, point of diversion and point of use transfers, as well as large water efficiency project grants utilizing the allocation of conserved water statute. Woody is the recipient of the 2016 Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Award of Merit, 2016 Oregon Hunters Association Citizen Landowner of the Year, and the 2018 Tyler Hansell Award for Efficiency in Agriculture. His commercial experience with water began more than 37 years ago, at the age of 7, at the working end of a shovel where he has been intrigued ever since.

**North Central Region – *currently vacant position***

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#### **IV. Conclusion**

No action is required for this agenda item.