



Water Resources Commission Meeting Minutes

February 26 – 27, 2026

Hybrid Meeting in Salem, Oregon

Written material submitted at this meeting is part of the official record and is on file at the Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A, Salem, Oregon 97301-1271.

Agendas, minutes, PowerPoint presentations, staff reports, and audio/video files are available on the Department's [website](https://www.oregon.gov/owrd).

Commission Meeting Day 1 – Thursday, February 26, 2026

Attendees

<i>(V) = Virtual</i>				
OWRD Commissioners				
Julie Smitherman	Jan Lee	Joe Moll	Janet Neuman	Woody Wolfe
DLCD Commissioners				
Anyeley Hallová	Alan Lazo	Barbara Boyer	Stuart Warren	Ellen Porter (V)
Lianne Thompson			Mark Bennett	
OWRD Staff				
Ivan Gall	Annette Liebe	Jesse Ratcliffe (DOJ)	Doug Woodcock	Cassidy Fredlund
Racquel Rancier	Mindy Lane	Danielle Gonzalez	Jason Cox	Justin Iverson
Katie Ratcliffe	Kerri Cope	Laura Hartt (V)	Amanda Lowe (V)	Linda Ray (V)
Kim Fritz-Ogren	Maggie Sommer (V)	Michael Coiner (V)	Charlotte Regula-Whitefield (V)	Nick Reece (V)
Estelle Robichaux (V)	Crystal Grinnell (V)	Adam Frederick (V)	Bryn Hudson (V)	Michael Coiner (V)
Kris Byrd (V)	Kelly Meinz (V)	Jeana Eastman (V)	Lisa Jaramillo (V)	Colleen Murphy (V)
Kelsey Cherland (V)	Greg Wacker (V)	Matt Day (V)	Amy Landvoigt (V)	Justin Dillon (V)
DLCD Staff				
Brandi Elmer	Cindy Smith	Denise Johnson	Brenda Bateman	Sarah L Urch (DOJ)

Mark Bennett (V)	Ellen Porter (V)	Ethan Stuckmeyer	Tyler Potter (V)	Jesse Noone (V)
Emily Anderson (V)	Colin Lancaster (V)	Mandy McNab (V)	Elliott Eastman (V)	Matthew Hampton (V)
Steven Yee (V)	Lauren Dressen (V)	Hilary Foote (V)	Jan Guerrero (V)	Patrick Wingard (V)
Leigh McIlvaine (V)	Dawn Hert (V)	Jena Hughes (V)	Joshua Tanner (V)	Brandy Nichols (V)
Emily Anderson (V)	Angela Williamson (V)	Samuel Goldberg (V)		
Others				
April Snell	Geoff Huntington	Chandra Ferrari	Amy Schlusser	Roseann Johnson (V)
Gillian Ockner (V)	Palmer Mason	Kimberley Priestley	Brian Posewitz	Keri Handaly (V)
Jim (V)	Steve Parrett (V)	Ken Yates (V)	Jill Hrehniy (V)	Kyle Gorman (V)
Danette Faucera (V)	Thomas Christ (V)	MacKayla Fithian (V)	Marika Sitz (V)	Chris Hall (V)
Mike Bromund (V)	Matthew Bearden (V)	Peter Gutowsky (V)	Jeremy Austin (V)	Jim (V)
Steve Shipsey, DOJ (V)	Becky Powell (V)	Hayley Siltanen (V)	Jessi Talbott (V)	Inga (V)
Zac Garrard (V)	Roseann O'Laughlin (V)	Leah Cogan (V)	Philip Tracy (V)	Lisa Brown (V)
Betsy Earls (V)	Annie Merrill (V)	Marc (V)	Amanda Fox (V)	

[Vice Chair Smitherman convened the meeting.](#)

[1A. Welcome and Introductions](#)

Water Resources Department Director Ivan Gall welcomed 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 led introductions.

2B. Water and Land Use: State Agency Coordination

Brenda Bateman, Director, and Palmer Mason, Inter-Agency Coordinator with the Department of Land Conservation and Development, along with Ivan Gall, Director, Katie Ratcliffe, Water Right Services Division Administrator, and Alyssa Mucken, Senior Water Advisor, with the Water Resources Department, presented this item. Staff provided an overview of Oregon's State Agency Coordination Program for land use compliance and compatibility, along with pilot efforts to update programs for various agencies. Staff also provided an update on the 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy workplan development.

[The Commissions gave comments, asked questions, and engaged in discussion with the presenters.](#)

3C. Governor's Natural Resources Team Update

Geoff Huntington, Senior Natural Resources Advisor, Chandra Ferrari, Natural Resources Advisor, and Amy Schlusser, Climate and Energy Advisor, provided an overview of recent executive orders.

[The Commissions gave comments, asked questions, and engaged in discussion with the presenters.](#)

[The presenters continued the presentation.](#)

[The Commissions gave more comments and engaged in discussion.](#)

4D. Housing Goals & Water Availability

Ethan Stuckmeyer, Housing Division Manager, Department of Land Conservation and Development, joined by Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager, and Kerri Cope, Water Management and Conservation Analyst/Reuse Coordinator with the Water Resources Department, presented this agenda item. Staff provided an overview of housing production goals and recent rulemaking efforts. This agenda item will also discuss water availability and allocation, both surface water and groundwater, water management planning, and various options or alternatives for meeting water supply needs.

[The Commissions gave comments, asked questions, and engaged in discussion with the presenters.](#)

[The joint meeting was concluded.](#)

[The afternoon session was reconvened.](#)

[Commissioner Neuman recused herself from discussion.](#)

E. [*In the Matter of Water Right Application R-87871 in the Name of East Valley Water District: Further Proceedings and Oral Arguments on Commission's Proposed Order](#)

Eliot Crafton, Water Rights Section Manager, and Jesse Ratcliffe, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Oregon Department of Justice, provided an update on Commission's Proposed Final Order that was provided to the parties after the December Commission meeting and on the Commission's actions related to the Oregon Supreme Court's remand of this matter to the Commission.

The Commission heard oral arguments from the two parties on any exceptions filed on the Commission's proposed order.

[WaterWatch oral argument](#)

[East Valley Water District oral argument](#)

[The commission met in executive session to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body regarding consideration of written legal advice. The executive session is being conducted pursuant to ORS192.660\(2\)\(f\) and was closed to the public.](#)

[The meeting was reopened in public session.](#)

[The Commissioners discussed the issue.](#)

[Commissioner Moll moved the Commission direct the department to issue a final order consistent with the Commission's proposed order on remand, and providing the Commission has considered and denied the exceptions filed by East Valley Water District and WaterWatch.](#) Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Votes in favor: Commissioners Wolfe, Moll, and Vice-Chair Smitherman. Votes in opposition: Commissioner Lee. Commissioner Neuman did not participate in the vote. Motion passed.

F. [Director's Report](#)

Ivan Gall, Director, provided an update on Department business and late-breaking issues.

G. [Budget and Legislative Update](#)

Bryn Hudson, Legislative Coordinator, and Lisa Snyder, Administrative Services Division Administrator, provided an overview of 2026 legislative session activities and preparation for the 2027 legislative session.

The Commissioners gave comments, asked questions, and engaged in discussion with the presenters.

The presentation continued.

The Commissioners gave comments, asked questions, and engaged in discussion with the presenters.

Day 1 was adjourned.

Commission Meeting Day 2 – Friday, February 27, 2026

Attendees

<i>(V) = Virtual</i>				
OWRD Commissioners				
Julie Smitherman	Jan Lee	Joe Moll	Janet Neuman	Woody Wolfe
OWRD Staff				
Ivan Gall	Annette Liebe	Jesse Ratcliffe (DOJ)	Doug Woodcock	Cassidy Fredlund
Racquel Rancier	Mindy Lane	Danielle Gonzalez	Jason Cox	Justin Iverson
Katie Ratcliffe	Kerri Cope	Laura Hartt (V)	Linda Ray (V)	Greg Wacker (V)
Kim Fritz-Ogren	Robin Ramsey (V)	Michael Coiner (V)	Amy Landvoigt (V)	Adam Frederick (V)
Tim Seymour (V)	Bryn Hudson (V)	Estelle Robichaux (V)	Kelly Mainz (V)	Crystal Grinnell (V)
Others				
Ken Yates (V)	Rick Parsons (V)	Kyle Gorman (V)	Roseann Johnson (V)	Gillian Ockner (V)
Matthew Bearden (V)	Kimberley Priestley (V)	Danette Faucera (V)	Chris Hall (V)	

[Vice Chair Smitherman re-convened the meeting.](#)

H. ***Rulemaking Update: Water Right Transactions, Contested Case, and Forfeiture Rules**

Katie Ratcliffe, Water Right Services Division Administrator, Lisa Jaramillo, Transfer and Conservation Section Manager, Laura Hartt, Rule Coordinator, and Racquel Rancier, Deputy Director, provided an overview of the effort to update rule divisions related to water right transactions, contested cases, and forfeiture.

[Division 2](#)

[Commissioner Moll question](#)

[Commissioner Neuman question](#)

[Division 305](#)

[Division 14](#)

[Division 300](#)

[Division 310](#)

[Commissioner Moll question](#)

[Commissioner Lee question](#)
[Commissioner Wolfe question](#)
[Commissioner Moll question](#)
[Vice Chair Smitherman question](#)
[Division 315](#)
[Division 340](#)
[Division 77](#)
[Commissioner Moll question](#)
[Division 325](#)
[Commissioner Moll question](#)
[Commissioner Neuman question](#)
[Commissioner Lee question](#)
[Division 18](#)
[Commissioner Moll question](#)
[Commissioner Neuman comment](#)
[Director Gall comment](#)
[Commissioner Moll comment](#)
[Commissioner Wolfe question](#)
[Commissioner Lee question](#)
[Division 380](#)
[Commissioner Neuman question](#)
[Division 382](#)
[Division 17](#)
[Commissioner Neuman question](#)
[Commissioner Moll question](#)
[Vice Chair Smitherman question](#)
[Commissioner Moll question](#)
[Vice Chair Smitherman question](#)
[Commissioner Neuman question](#)
[Commissioner Lee question](#)
[Commissioner Neuman question](#)
[Commissioner Neuman question](#)
[Commissioner Moll comment](#)

I. [Meeting Minutes](#)

The minutes of the December 2025 Commission meetings were presented for Commission approval.

[Commissioner Neuman moved to approve the December 11th and 12th meeting minutes.](#) Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. Votes in favor: Moll, Wolfe, Neuman, Lee, and Vice-Chair Smitherman. Motion passed unanimously.

J. [Commissioner Comments](#)

Commissioners reported on their recent activities, shared information, and commented on a variety of water resource topics.

K. [Public Comments and Other Issues](#)

[Public Comment, April Snell](#)

[Public Comment, Kimberley Priestley](#)

[Director Gall Comment](#)

[The Water Resources Commission meeting was adjourned.](#)

Submitted by Mindy Lane, Executive Support, Director's Office.