# Meeting Chair Notes, 100th OPDMC, 2026

## Overview:

**Opening Session: Wednesday Morning**

- Call to Order
- Old Business
- New Business
- Announcements and Reminders

**Officer Elections and Visioning: Thursday Afternoon**

- Officer elections
- Discussion of amendments to bylaws, and adoption of an ethics policy and a code of conduct
- Discussion of Venue of future meetings

**Committee Reports, Awards, and Resolutions: Friday Mid-day**

- Audit Committee Report
- Award Nominations
- Resolutions
- Next Meeting

## Opening Session (Wednesday 9AM)

- Call to Order
- Executive Director thanked the Board for all their efforts in making the meeting happen and thanked Dani Gray for volunteering website updates and other aspects
- Attendee Introductions
    - Silence phones
    - Slide of middle business meeting
    - Announce suggestion box for nominations (have slide of positions needed)

**Old Business**

- Treasurer's Report (Amanda Koppel)
    - Changed bank account from BoA to Wells Fargo due to lower minimum monthly balance.
    - Oregon Registered Agent established for non-profit, means that the Treasurer no longer needs to be from Oregon
    - Cost-saving measures taken on several fronts
    - Requested Audit committee to meet to go over the details of the budget and finances
    - Requested the student scholarship awardees meet to receive their checks
    - Report provided with details on income and expenses
    - ~~Ask for 2nd then vote, mention there will also be an audit committee report~~
- Secretary's Report (Will Walker) – gave update on monthly Board meetings and introduced update to By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation, and mention of Code of Conduct and Ethics Document, with print outs at the front table as well as documents available on the OPDMC website.

**New Business**

- Thank Sponsors of the Student Scholarship
    - Pacific Biocontrol ($500)
    - Valent ($250)
- Student Scholarship Recipients
    - Claire Donahoo
    - Eric Schank
    - Grace Douglas
- Remembrances (name the departed and then offer a moment of silence)
    - Phil VanBusKirk
    - Marshall Johnson
    - Ask if anyone knows of other members who have passed in the last year. None
- Updates from Exec. Director Teah Smith
    - 131 registrants
    - Room nights met as of now, unless cancelations
    - Thanks the sponsors for coffee sponsorship and student scholar sponsorships

# Opening Session (Wednesday 9AM) (continued)

**Announcements and Reminders**

- Keynote Speaker at 4PM, followed by cash bar (part of OPDMC funding)
    - Next year's Keynote Speaker—Bob Van Steenwyk (confirm!)
    - Please suggest future keynote speakers
- Awards
    - Golden Apple for best talk—last year's winner Joshua Reger
    - Rubber Chicken (meant to be fun, no nominations of students)- last year's winner – Chris Adams
- Call for volunteers
    - Nomination Committee (24 hour turn-around!) – up to four people – for Treasurer and Secretary, Board also selecting Executive Director : Houston Wilson, Abby Clarke, Dani Gray
    - Audit Committee (3-4 people) – Betsy Beers, Bob Van Steenwyk
    - Resolutions Committed (3-4 people) (for final business meeting) Chris Hedstrom, Andrew Rodstrom
    - Student Scholarships (3-4 people) – Jhalendra Rijal, Dani Gray,
- Acknowledgements
    - CEU Volunteers: Chris Strohm, Roman Garzelloni, Andrew Rodstrom
    - For putting together the program, and managing pesticide credits: Chris Strohm
- Pesticide Credit Reminders: Oregon has AM and PM sign-in sheets, all other states signing up for four days
- WA – 7 credits, Oregon – 10 credits, CA – 7 credits, ID - 5 credits
    - Chris discussed that we will be closely monitoring who claims pesticide credits to determine future needs. And we are open to addition states on demand.
    - Someone asked about Michigan, someone else requested CCA
- Motion for close to the opening business meeting

- Motion by Teah Smith, second by several people. Consented by the membership.

## Officer Elections and Visioning (Thursday Afternoon)

- Officer elections (from names from nominations committee)
    - Executive Director elect (final selection is by the Board).
        - No suggestions by the nominations committee or anyone else at this point
    - Meeting Chair Elect (will serve in 2028)

      Marco Pitino, USDA-ARS nominated. 37 Yea votes, 0 nay votes, 2 abstentions
    - Treasurer (will serve from January 2026 through OPDMC 2029)
        - Dalila Rendon, Oregon State University. 46 Yea votes, 0 nay, 0 abstentions
    - Secretary (will serve from January 2026 through OPDMC 2029)
        - Chris Hedstrom, Pacific Biocontrol nominated. 49 Yea votes, 0 nay, 1 abstention
- Adoption of Amended Bylaws, Ethics Policy, and Code of Conduct
    - Description of principal changes by Secretary Will Walker

During the past year the board has been working on revising the organizational by-laws, a process initiated by Peter McGhee prior to the Covid19 pandemic. As Betsy Beers mentioned on the previous night, the original By-laws were drafted when OPDMC was established as a non-profit organization in 2001. Based on societal changes since then, it was due time for an update, to include language, for example, about electronic communication. We also incorporated a framework for ethical conduct, which is very commonplace these days for Scientific Meetings. Work on these documents was completed and uploaded to the OPDMC website by the end of November of 2025. It is noted that the Ethics documents have been adapted from the Ethics documents of the Entomological Society of America to fit the needs of the OPDMC organization. ESA was informed of this usage case and approved of the adaptation.

According to the By-Laws, and Article of Incorporation, the Board has the sole authority to revise and approve changes to the By-laws, so long as

any class of membership is not adversely impacted by such changes. As such, we seek input from the membership.

As the revised and new documents have been made available to the membership prior to the meeting, A brief summary of work done is presented here, and then the floor will be opened up for discussion.

The By-laws have been updated to include details on how the meeting and organization actually operates versus what was written 25 years ago in the original version, including things such as electronic communication, and providing additional details and clarity throughout the document. Furthermore, a revision to the structure of the Board of the organization has been made to permit more effective operational guidance. We also updated the Articles of Incorporation on some minor details, and this aspect requires approval by the State of Oregon, and this will be taken up by the next iteration of the Board after this meeting.

The Ethics documents provide an organizational framework for assurances of ethical conduct at the meeting and a codified process for the organization to address any ethical transgressions that may arise among the membership. The document also includes a "diversity and inclusion" statement to make it clear that within the organization, the focus is on professionalism related to plant protection and plant health, and the doors are open to all, to be welcomed and treated with respect and dignity, free from discrimination and prejudice.

Moreover, a separate "Code of Conduct" document has been drafted, addressing specifically items of authorship on presentations as well as harassment and member safety. It is also stated in the Ethics document that included in the registration for this meeting as an acknowledgement of these policies and agreement to abide by them.

- Discussion by members (final adoption will be determined by the Board of Directors)

        - One question was asked about the laws and regulations mentioned in "item h" of the Ethics documents. There was some discussion of what this meant exactly.
        - Another question was raised about plagiarism. It was confirmed that the Code of Conduct specifically addresses authorship on abstracts and presentations and plagiarism falls under this item.
        - It was further clarified by the Executive Director that Comments may be provided through email to the Executive Director before the beginning of March before changes shall be filed with the State of Oregon.

- Future Meeting Venue – Please see the slides provided by Teah Smith for full details on this topic.
    - Difficulties with current arrangements (Teah Smith, Amanda Koppel)
        - Teah Smith announced that for OPDMC 2026, we had 131 members and broke down this number by where members are from. It was mostly CA, WA, OR.
        - Announced that the Hilton Portland Downtown is not available for next year's meeting and explained the room nights situation. We successfully met 80% of room nights revenue requirements and so did not owe the Hilton anything in excess of our contract (attrition fees). This in part was due to a concerted effort by the Board to ensure that membership was aware of and utilized the room nights in booking their hotels.
        - The company sponsors were thanked for sponsorship of coffee and refreshments costs to the amount of $6,200. The food and beverage costs were set at $6000 plus 25% administrative fees and gratuity, and included any revue from the no host mixer on the first night of the meeting.

        - The AV package, or $8350.82, and this did not include any projectors or computers.
        - We are required to pay the Hilton a month before the meeting, and any attrition would be due before the meeting.
        - This all is really complicated and inconvenient to link meeting dues to room nights, since the usage of room nights is a wild-card determined by the members and it is thus difficult to account for in budget projections.
    - <u>Alternatives in Portland and Alternatives to Portland</u>
    - The Embassy Suites by Hilton (Downtown Portland)
        - Similar package to the Downtown Hilton, but with suites, an allotment of room nights, and food and beverage package included at similar costs
    - The Oregon State University – Porland meeting center
        - Classes take priority, and we won't know until the summer if/what rooms will be available.
        - The main event room – 100 to 115 people max, but its actually smaller than this unless room dividers are removed. Also a fire marshall is required to be onsite.
        - The event would be free if led by an OSU employee, or reduced OSU fees if OSU employees are present, but led by someone else.
    - The Avenue – Downtown Portland
        - Cost is $7,000 per day for a total of $21,000. This includes an AV package but not food and drinks
    - Oregon Convention Center
        - Cost would be substantially less due to our non-profit status

- Alternative Suggestions

- The McMenamins Crystal Ballroom – mentioned by a member as a possible option – is also in downtown Portland. Teah Smith will look into this.
- Portland State University Campus

- Member comments (Determination will be by the Board)
  - It was suggested by someone that we could consider to change the meeting dates so as not to conflict with the big GS Long meeting that occurs the same week.
    - Teah Smith, Executive Director, remarked that the meeting date is currently written into the By-laws, but she would discuss with GS Long if it may be possible for them to change their dates so they may participate in OPDMC.
  - A comment about room nights for Embassy Suites – the requirement is for much less room nights and we made it easily this year, so maybe that wont be an issue
  - A comment was made about the importance of getting the agenda out as early as possible, so that crop consultants and other industry people can commit to the meeting as early as possible. This has implications for pesticide credits and also early registrations and hotel bookings
  - Related, the question was raised about how to make the meeting valuable for consultants? They need content to make it worthwhile.
    - It seemed that at the M/T IPM meeting there was an inverse correlation between student participation and number of industry reps present, suggesting more students is not good for attracting consultants. However, it was noted that may not be the best conclusion to draw, because no pesticide credits were offered.

- Comment about the flexibility in not having any need for room nights, and how this may be more appreciated by people interested in the meeting, not being pressured to use room nights, and could result in increased attendance.
- Comment that the efforts in presenting all the information about possibilities was appreciated, and it would be fine if a decision was made for one year, that is not permanent and can be a placeholder just for one year. This comment was seconded and the Embassy Suites was endorsed for a one-year option.
- Based on all the comments Teah Smith indicated she will continue discussing and negotiating with the Embassy Hilton.
- Comment about having a specific "student competition" with an award for the student to put on the CV may work to involve higher student attendance. The Golden Apple generally functions as a student award, though it is not explicitly stated as such. Greater efforts could be made to advertise the student award when advertising the meeting.
- It was suggested that student participation could be targeted through having a Student Representative on the board. It was clarified by the Secretary that part of the reorganization of the Board included two new at-large members and that this could easily be amended to ensure that one of the at-large members was a Student Representative.
- It was noted that for the registration fees, the difference between early bird and normal registration, $160 vs $190 is inconsequential, and if it meant better financial standing for the organization, the early bird fee could be axed, so long as there is a lower rate for students.

- It was also noted that the dates for this conference do not mesh well for WSU students because it is also the first week of the semester for them.
- It was suggested to explore whether it would be possible to link early bird registration to confirmation of booking the room under the room block allotment.
- It was asked whether we would be signing any multi-year contracts. Teah Smith answered assuredly, no.
- There was a discussion on how could we acknowledge the sponsors better, for example, such as with a trade show or exhibit setup combined with a happy hour.
- Related, it was commented that if we work more with chemical companies, we could easily raise more in sponsorship money than we need to support the entire meeting, if we work on it early and intensively. This idea was seconded with great emphasis that if this helped to keep the meeting downtown it would be great, and worth it.
- There was a comment about a desire to get the pathology section back on track, that more attendance from pathology groups is needed, and more related abstracts/presentations could also result in boosted participation from more consultants.
- Related, it was emphasized that researchers meeting with consultants is a plus, and the academic research interface for consultants is also a plus, so we should try and keep the balance in appeal for both sides.

- Discussion about the Oregon State Convention Center Specifically

- Comment that it is a nice venue and they have good connectivity to the airport and city through public transportation, and several good hotels nearby.
- It was suggested that OPDMC could negotiate transmit passes for all members to use throughout the conference, similar to what ESA does.
- But it is a problem that there are not a lot of restaurants nearby. For ESA meeting this resulted in people being late back to the conference after lunch. It was suggested by Teah Smith that the OPDMC could provide lunch on site for Wednesday and Thursday. Around 30-35 voted yes on this idea
- It is noted that the dates should be available because the convention center has a lot meeting rooms available throughout the entire building
- It was also commented that despite that the convention center is very nice, that having it on the other side of the river involves added transportation times, which would be a negative.
- Comment made about the uncomfortability with the Convention Center, and that a downtown location with the meeting in a hotel meeting space is more attractive.

- Another comment made about how nice and important the atmosphere and intimacy are for the OPDMC meeting, and we should try to keep that.

## Committee Reports, Awards, and Resolutions: Friday Mid-day

- Motion to open the closing session
- Thank volunteers
    - CEU Volunteers: Chris Strohm, Roman Garzelloni, Andrew Rodstrom
    - For putting together the program: Chris Strohm
    - Nominations Committee - Houston Wilson, Abby Clarke, Dani Gray
    - Audit Committee – Betsy Beers, Bob Van Steenwyk
        - It was noted that the budget was approved.
    - Resolutions Committee - Chris Hedstrom, Andrew Rodstrom
    - Student Scholarships Committee - Jhalendra Rijal, Dani Gray
- Award Nominations and Elections
    - Golden Apple – winner is Grace Douglas
        - Roman Garzelloni – 11 votes
        - John Bennett – 3 votes
        - Claire Donahoo – 7 votes
        - Don Thompson – 5 votes
        - **Grace Douglas – 14 votes**
    - Rubber Chicken – winner is Chuck Burks
        - Don Thompson – for butchering a famous Beach Boys song and failure to provide a backup band – 2 votes
        - **Chuck Burks – for being the very last person to submit an abstract, despite serving as the meeting chair, and all the reminders that were given by the program chair, at the board meetings, in emails, etc. – 18 votes**
        - Betsy Beers – for providing an advertisement in her keynote for Mary's Topless Bar – she noted that Keynote speaker is immune from this award, so no vote taken

        - Nic Wiman – for putting a slide in his presentation for which he stated that this would win him the rubber chicken, even though it is acknowledged that you cannot lobby for the rubber chicken – 8 votes
        - Victoria from Syngenta – for introducing a product for potato even though the product label doesn't permit for use in potato crops and further that this meeting is about orchard pest and disease management, not potato crops – 2 votes
        - Pat Weddle – for plagerizing his own paper for the presentation and using Chat GPT to construct the presentation, and for effectively giving an un-invited keynote presentation – 8 votes

- Member suggestions invited for
    - Future keynote speakers
        - Suggestions
            - Rachel Elkins
    - General remarks
- Resolutions (Resolutions Committee)
    - The Resolutions were presented by the Resolutions Committee and this is included as a separate document.
    - The motion to accept – first by Teah Smith, second by Chris Adams, approved by the membership.
- Date and Place of 2027 OPDMC (!?)
    - The meeting will be from January 13-15, 2027, Place to be announced at a later date by the Executive Director
- Motion to Close the Meeting
    - First by Betsy Beers, Second by Chris Strohm. Approved by the membership
    - (Due to paternal leave absence by next year's Meeting Chair, Adrian Marshall, the gavel could not be passed by the current

Meeting Chair, Chuck Burks, so he closed out the meeting for Marshall in absentia).