

February 28, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Roger Wood, Grant Program Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item J: OWEB Grant Award Recommendations
Region 3, Willamette Basin
March 15-16, 2006 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Background

A total of 48 applications were received from the Willamette Basin, resulting in a total request of \$3,667,122. The breakout by type of grant is shown in an attachment to the Overview Report. The Willamette Basin Regional Review Team (RRT) met in Salem on January 12, 2006, to review the applications received in this grant cycle. All applications were reviewed for technical merit and a fund/no fund recommendation was made by the RRT. The RRT then prioritized the applications recommended for funding.

II. Regional Review Team Recommendations

Attachment A shows the *capital* projects and Attachment C the *non-capital* projects recommended and ranked for funding by the RRT. They also indicate which projects were recommended for funding with special conditions or at reduced amounts. The shading indicates the projects recommended by staff for funding by the Board.

Remarks pertinent to particular grant types and project applications are noted below.

III. Restoration Projects

Projects of special note include Clear Creek Fish Habitat Improvement (z206-310), Brush Creek Basin Fish Passage and Stream Restoration (z206-318), and Woods Creek Basin Fish Passage Restoration (z206-309). The last project includes an integral but unusually large *non-capital* outreach component. Douglass Fitting, Willamette Basin Regional Program Representative, will briefly highlight these projects at the Board meeting.

One road-related project, z206-313, the Raymond Creek Tributary Culvert Replacement project, has been selected to receive \$62,125 in Salmon License Plate funding.

IV. Acquisition Projects

A. Johnson Creek (z206-297)

Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) requests \$210,000 toward the purchase of 1.02 acres within the Johnson Creek 100-year floodplain. The property is located between two other publicly owned properties: Johnson Creek Park and the Springwater Corridor. Acquisition of the property would allow for restoration and access from the Springwater Corridor trail to Johnson Creek Park.

1. Ecological Benefits

The land acquisition project seeks to place the land into public domain and restore this severely degraded site to benefit fish and wildlife. The property is so disturbed through human activities that the priority ecological systems are remnant. Potential ecological systems found in the surrounding area include Freshwater aquatic beds, oak woodland, riparian forests and shrublands, western Oregon upland prairie and oak savanna. It is anticipated that these systems would be restored to the site once the property is purchased by the City of Portland.

Although not currently on the site, potential plant communities include bigleaf maple-red alder/swordfern-fringecup, black cottonwood-red alder/salmonberry, black cottonwood-creek dogwood /touch-me-not, California oatgrass-creeping lovegrass, Oregon ash/Dewey sedge-stinging nettle, Oregon ash/spreading rush, Pacific willow/stinging nettle and white oak/snowberry/sword fern. The applicant describes the site as a “clean canvas” for restoration.

Priority species found in Johnson Creek include Chinook, Pacific Lamprey, Coastal Cutthroat Trout, and Steelhead. Birds include Western Meadowlark and the White-breasted nuthatch. Amphibians and reptiles suspected to be in the area include Painted Turtle or Western Pond Turtle.

The application did not clearly explain which of the conservation principles would be addressed by the project. It is conceivable that purchase of the property for conservation would improve connectivity of habitat and complete or compliment an existing network of sites in the basin, but the application only describes these benefits in terms of recreation value rather than ecological value.

The Willamette Basin Regional Review Team reviewed the project and concluded that Johnson Creek contains a number of listed fish and this reach of the creek is important for habitat and fish use. However, this property contains only a very short segment of the stream. The RRT concluded that there is low ecological value to the property.

2. Capacity to Sustain the Ecological Benefits

PP&R will hold title to the property and the site will be managed by the Natural Resource Program of PP&R, now called City Nature. The property will be incorporated into the PP&R management plan for the Johnson Creek Park and Springwater Corridor areas and care of the land will be included in the annual maintenance budget. All of the City Nature properties are managed for the best environmental outcome with an adaptive management process called Ecosystem Management policy. This process entails an

analysis of current and desired condition and includes an action plan, monitoring and impact assessment.

The park staff includes program managers, a volunteer coordinator, an ecologist, utility staff, and seasonal labor. The PP&R team that is managing the natural resource portfolio in the south district has generated 40,000 hours of volunteer labor per year and managing about 2,000 acres. The PP&R, along with other City bureau partners, has a solid track record of site restoration. Funds to restore the site are being sought through an OWEB restoration grant (z206-307), which was not recommended for funding by the RRT.

3. Educational Benefits

The proposed project is a priority for acquisition in the Johnson Creek Land Acquisition Partnership and Implementation Strategy (2001). It will provide an opportunity for the public to assist in restoration and to build trails connecting it to the Springwater Corridor and Johnson Creek Park. Better access will provide for increased educational opportunities.

Middle School students from Sellwood Middle Schools currently use Johnson Creek Park as an outdoor classroom, where they do restoration planning and non-native weed control as well as sampling for water quality. In its review of the application the RRT concluded that there is some potential for educational benefits.

4. Partners, Project Support, and Community Effects

The project is supported by the Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Metro-regional government, Friends of Trees, and East Multnomah SWCD. The project has been identified as a priority project for the Johnson Creek Watershed Council's action plan. Local residents, when contacted, have responded very favorably to the project.

The property is located between the Springwater Corridor, a regional asset (Metro), and Johnson Creek Park, a locally owned and managed neighborhood park (PP&R). The property's strategic location offers many recreational benefits. Once acquired, the property will no longer be part of the tax base with a loss in local revenue of \$3,407.42 (2004-2005 taxes).

5. Legal and Financial Terms

OWEB funds are requested for 74 percent of the seller's asking price (\$255,000) for the property, although an updated appraisal has not been completed for the property. Match funding in the amount of \$72,500 is available through the Parks System Development Charge for Southeast Portland habitat acquisition and other City of Portland funds. PP&R would place a conservation easement or other protection instrument on the property to insure habitat values of the site are preserved.

6. Conclusion

The Board Subcommittee had concerns about the ecological value of the proposed acquisition and asked the RRT to evaluate the ecological and educational value of the project before deciding whether or not to proceed with due diligence. Both the Board Subcommittee and the RRT concluded that the ecological value was low. Although there is potential to provide habitat value from restoring the site, the staff and Board

Subcommittee felt the ecological lift was small relative to the cost of the project and that this is more clearly a recreational and open space project. The Board Subcommittee did not recommend a due diligence review and the Board Subcommittee and staff recommend that the Board not fund the Johnson Creek project.

V. Education Projects

As is often the case, this Region produced the largest number of Education grant proposals. The RRT recommended funding for nine of the 14 Education applications. Many are recommended at significantly reduced funding levels to limit projects to one year, focus on the “Knowledge” elements, and spread the scarce *non-capital* funding as far as it might go. Staff are recommending only six of the nine RRT recommended projects. This is the only region where not all of the RRT recommended projects are recommended for funding by staff.

VI. Monitoring Projects

The RRT reviewed and recommended one project for funding. The project is a new proposal, therefore staff do not recommend funding for the project at this time.

VII. Staff Recommendations for Project Funding

Attachments A and C show the proposals, funding amounts, conditions (if any), and priority rankings recommended as “do fund” to OWEB staff by the RRT. The tables also indicate, by means of shaded entries, the OWEB staff “do fund” recommendations to the Board. For some “do fund” projects, the amount shown in the table may be the staff funding recommendation rather than the RRT recommendation. In Attachment A, the table shows that in some cases, the “Total Amount” for a restoration project is comprised of both *capital* and *non-capital* funds.

Attachments B and D show those applications not recommended for funding at this time by either the RRT or by OWEB staff.

Attachments

- A. Capital Projects Recommended for Funding
- B. Capital Projects Not Recommended for Funding
- C. Non-Capital Projects Recommended for Funding
- D. Non-Capital Projects Not Recommended for Funding

**Region 3 – Willamette Basin
Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 24, 2005 Grant Cycle**

Staff Funding Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray

Project #	Project Name	Non-Capital Funds	Capital Funds	Total Amount	Priority
z206-310	Clear Cr Fish Habitat Improvement	0	94,724	94,724	1
z206-313	Raymond Cr Tributary Culvert Replacement □	600	62,125	62,725	2
z206-298	Elijah Bristow Riparian Restoration & Reforestation Phase 2	0	152,238	152,238	3
z206-308	Lower Columbia Slough Off-channel & Floodplain Habitat Restoration**	0	150,758	150,758	4
z206-302	Clear Cr Large Wood & Riparian Enhancement**	0	92,128	92,128	5
z206-318	Brush Cr Basin Fish Passage & Stream Restoration Priority	0	159,595	159,595	6
z206-320	South Santiam Japanese Knotweed Control	0	37,052	37,052	7
z206-315	Peregrine Ranch Restoration**	0	111,113	111,113	8
z206-309	Woods Cr Basin Fish Passage Restoration	10,075	99,315	109,390	9
z206-312	Dragonfly Bend Habitat Enhancement –Final Phase Implementation	0	29,500	29,500	10
z206-300	Yodis/Potter Cr Fish Passage Improvement**	0	95,760	95,760	11
z206-317	South Fork Ash Cr Restoration	750	19,875	20,625	12
z206-316	Molalla R Side Channel Enhancement	250	60,825	61,075	13
z206-301	Saling/Potter Cr Fish Passage Improvement**	0	64,763	64,763	14
z206-314	Bradshaw Fish Habitat Improvement	137	65,034	65,171	15
z206-321	Owens Farm Restoration	2,050	42,544	44,594	16
z206-305	Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge Wetland Creation & Enhancement*	500	34,575	35,075	17
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by the RRT		\$14,362	\$1,371,924	\$1,386,286	
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to the Board		\$14,362	\$1,371,924	\$1,386,286	

*Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ** Fund with Conditions □ Capital Funding from Salmon Plate Money

**Region 3 – Willamette Basin
Restoration Projects Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT and OWEB Staff
October 24, 2005 Grant Cycle**

Project #	Project Name	Amount Requested
z206-299	Lower Willamette R Riparian & Wetland Enhancement	155,049
z206-303	Crystal Springs Urban Riparian Enhancement-Eastmoreland Golf Course	98,648
z206-304	Sandland Floodplain Riparian Restoration	104,120
z206-306	Johnson & Errol Cr Confluence Fish Habitat Restoration	252,807
z206-307	Johnson Cr Park Restoration & Enhancement	68,826
z206-311	Goose Cr Side Channel Fish Habitat #	0
z206-319	Lookout Point Ranch Oak Habitats Restoration & Water Quality	177,988

Withdrawn by Applicant

**Acquisition Project Receiving a Mixed Rating for Ecological Merit by the RRT
and Not Recommended for Funding by OWEB Staff**

Project #	Project Name	Amount
z206-297	Johnson Cr/Crystal Springs Land Acquisition	\$210,000

**Region 3 – Willamette Basin
Education Projects Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 24, 2005 Grant Cycle**

Staff Funding Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
z206-208	Slough School-Columbia Slough WSC K-12 Ed Program*	75,000	1
z206-205	Middle Fork Ed: I Stream Simulators, II '06 & '07 Fish 'N' Fun*	25,000	2
z206-213	Calapooia & Santiam Joint Education	19,800	3
z206-217	Making Ripples: Community Building for Water Quality*	38,786	4
z206-204	Verde Native Plant Nursery	35,000	5
z206-207	Marys River Watershed Education & Outreach*	60,000	6
z206-214	Student WS Research Project (SWRP)*	32,047	7
z206-216	Polk Watershed Education	8,250	8
z206-212	Writing Your Watershed	4,884	9
Total Education Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by the RRT		\$298,767	
Total Education Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to the Board		\$253,586	

**Region 3 – Willamette Basin
Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by the RRT/OPMT
October 24, 2005 Grant Cycle**

Staff Funding Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority	OPMT Rating
z206-249	“Best Practices Guidelines” for Wetland Restoration Projects**	15,400	1	M/M
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by the RRT		\$15,400		
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to the Board		\$0		

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ** Fund with Conditions
Benefit to the Oregon Plan/Certainty of Success—H=High, M=Moderate, L=Low

Region 3 – Willamette Basin
Education Projects Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT and OWEB Staff
October 24, 2005 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount
z206-206	Spawning Watershed Education III	18,454
z206-209	Magness Memorial Tree Farm Forestry/WS Ed Programs	38,100
z206-210	Clean Rivers Teacher Workshops~	19,932
z206-211	Building Cultural Diversity for Future WS Workforce	34,400
z206-215	Tri-Council Japanese Knotweed Outreach & Education	45,680