

September 19-20, 2006 OWEB Board Meeting **Executive Director Update #C1: 2006 Biennial Conference**

Background

The OWEB Biennial Conference is Oregon's largest gathering of practitioners of watershed restoration and enhancement. The 9th Biennial Conference will be held October 25-27, 2006, at the Seaside Convention Center in Seaside, Oregon. The conference theme is:

Communities Working for Healthy Watersheds
Celebrating Oregon Plan Accomplishments & Looking Ahead

Conference Planning Update

The following activities have occurred since the May 2006 Board meeting:

- A "Save the Date" postcard providing information on the conference date, time and location was mailed to over 3,000 individuals.
- The Conference Planning Team developed a conference agenda and conference session descriptions. Speakers for the conference sessions are currently being contacted.
- Michael Bogert, Counselor to Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, U.S. Department of the Interior, has agreed to be the keynote speaker for the conference opening general session.
- Michael Shellenberger, a co-author of the essay "The Death of Environmentalism," has agreed to be the conference banquet speaker.
- A registration brochure with a conference schedule and conference session descriptions was mailed to over 3,000 individuals in late August-early September.

Fundraising

OWEB contacted potential conference sponsors in late June to secure financial support for the conference. Contributions from sponsors help reduce conference registration fees and keep conference costs reasonable for our local partners. To date, over \$35,000 has been raised in support of the conference. We appreciate the assistance Board members provided in identifying and helping to solicit sponsors.

Staff Request

Each Board member will receive a conference registration brochure in late August or early September. Please coordinate with Bonnie Ashford (bonnie.ashford@state.or.us or 503-986-0181) if you are interested in attending the conference.

If you have questions or need additional information about the 2006 Biennial Conference, please contact Gail McEwen, 2006 Biennial Conference Coordinator, at gail.mcewen@state.or.us or 503-986-0026.