



Oregon

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Lauri Aunan, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item Q: Grant Solicitation for April 2009
January 21-22, 2009 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This report proposes the Board revise the 2007-2009 grant cycle schedule to allow staff to solicit grant applications for Technical Assistance for the upcoming April 20, 2009, deadline. The Board will consider grant awards for this solicitation at its September 2009 meeting. Staff will propose a grant cycle schedule for the full 2009-2011 biennium at the June 2009 Board meeting.

II. Background

In OAR Chapter 695, Division 5, OWEB's rules direct the Board to announce the timing and type of grant applications to be considered. In May of 2007, the Board adopted a grant cycle schedule for the 2007-2009 biennium. For the April 20, 2009, grant deadline, the schedule currently includes a solicitation of Restoration and Acquisition grant applications only.

III. Current Status of Grant Offerings

At present, we do not know with certainty how much funding will be available for the OWEB grant program during the 2009-2011 biennium. As discussed in Agenda Item E, Legislative and Budget Overview, Lottery revenues are diminishing, the Governor's Recommended Budget for OWEB includes reductions in capital and non-capital funding, and there is uncertainty about the availability of Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds.

Even if capital grant funds are reduced in the final 2009-2011 budget adopted by the Legislature, we expect there will still be significant capital funds available for restoration and acquisition grants. There is less certainty regarding the level of non-capital funding that will be available for the grant program. Non-capital funds support a variety of grant types that directly and indirectly support capital-funded projects – such as monitoring, assessments, technical assistance, and education and outreach. Over the years, the relatively modest levels of non-capital funds have forced the Board to very carefully consider how to direct those funds.

In the 2005-2007 biennium, the Board directed limited non-capital funding to technical assistance. Beginning in October of 2005, technical assistance grant applications have been accepted at each grant cycle. With the prospect of significant capital funds next biennium, staff continue to believe one of the best uses of non-capital funds is to support technical assistance as guidance to capital project development.

IV. April 20, 2009 Grant Cycle

Even though OWEB's 2009-2011 budget is not yet known, staff recommend soliciting Technical Assistance grant applications on the April 20, 2009, deadline for Board consideration at the September 2009 meeting. Staff are not suggesting a Board reserve of the 2009-2011 non-capital funding at this time. Staff will propose a non-capital spending plan, and Technical Assistance funding recommendations that follow the proposed plan, at the September 2009 meeting.

Staff do not recommend soliciting grant applications for the other non-capital grant types (education, monitoring, and assessment) at this time. Future offerings for these grant types will be discussed in greater detail at the upcoming June and September Board meetings.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board revise the 2007-2009 grant cycle schedule to add the solicitation of Technical Assistance applications to the April 20, 2009, grant application deadline.