

September 15-16, 2009 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update #C-2: 2009 Legislative Session

Background

The Oregon State Legislative Assembly adjourned on Monday, June 29, 2009. Below is a summary of the OWEB policy impacts. Budget and staff position impacts are described in Agenda Item I, 2009-2011 Spending Plan.

Policy Bills

No bills approved by the 2009 Legislature amended the Watershed Management and Enhancement statutes contained in Chapter 541 of Oregon Laws. OWEB was specifically mentioned in only three bills:

- HB 3369 Authorizes the Water Resources Department to develop an integrated state water resources strategy that will identify OWEB's functions and roles in the strategy.

- SB 30 Update to the government ethics law; adds the OWEB Director to the list of public officials who are subject to reporting requirements.

- SB 513 Establishes a state ecosystem services policy and authorizes the Sustainability Board to convene an ecosystem services markets working group. OWEB is identified as providing staff support to the working group. More information is provided in Agenda Item H, Ecosystem Services.

OWEB, as a state agency, will be affected by a few bills, including those designed to improve services to veterans, require only executive summaries of written reports to the legislature, improve contracting outcomes, and coordinate land use decision-making between state agencies and local governments. The staffing needed to implement these measures should be minimal.

Interim Committees and 2010 Session

Between September of 2009 and January of 2010, the Legislature has identified "legislative days" when the entire Legislature will come to Salem for committee meetings. During the interim, staff will track the work of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Communities, House Environment and Water, and Senate Environment and Natural Resources committees. These committees will be drafting legislation and holding hearings in advance of the month-long session scheduled for February of 2010. At this time, staff do not anticipate much involvement in the development of legislation for the 2010 session.

Staff Contact

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