



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Virtual Meeting
December 16 & 17, 2020



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

December 16-17, 2020

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the December 16 and 17 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:**
 - **December 16:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 846 6998 5835 and password: 448174
 - **December 17:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 889 9786 0238 and password: 130140
- For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Written and verbal public comment

OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments

Written comments should be sent to Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov. Written comments received by Friday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Item B) at approximately 8:50 am. on December 16 and (Agenda Item L) at approximately 8:05 a.m. on December 17. In order to provide verbal comment, you must contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov, by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

A. Board Member Comments (8:05 a.m.)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies will provide an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. This is also an opportunity for public and tribal board members to report on their recent activities and share information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item.*

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (8:45 a.m.)

The minutes of the September 9 and October 30, 2020 virtual meeting will be presented for board approval. *Action item.*

C. Public Comment (8:50 a.m.)

This time is reserved for the board to hear public comment and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting.

D. Committee Updates (9:05 a.m.)

Representatives from board subcommittees will provide updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

E. Director's Updates (9:50 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and OWEB staff will update the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item.*

F. Budget and Legislative Updates (10:25 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the board on the Governor's Recommended Budget and provide an update on the revenue forecast. *Information item.*

G. Spending Plan Discussion (10:55 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the board on the timeline for approval of the 2021-2023 spending plan, and request the board provide general direction in terms of major spending plan category percentages. *Information item.*

H. 21-23 Council Capacity/Application Process (12:25 p.m.)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will provide an overview of the 2021-2023 biennium council capacity grant guidance and seek board approval of changes to the guidance. *Action item.*

I. Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) Funding (1:10 p.m.)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will provide an overview of the current status of the 2020 SIAs and request funding for one SIA, which is ready for implementation. *Action item.*

J. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHC) Appointments (1:40 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will provide a recommendation to the board to reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the commission *Action item.*

K. Land Trust Project Selection and Management & Easement Stewardship (1:50 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams responds to board requests to better understand how land trusts determine which properties to invest in, and once legal interest is obtained, how conservation properties are stewarded. *Information item.*

Thursday, December 17, 2020**Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the December 16 and 17 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
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- For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

L. Public Comment (8:05 a.m.)

This time is reserved for the board to hear public comment and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting.

M. FIP Cohort 2-Board Presentations (8:20 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will provide an update on Cohort 2 Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) initiatives that were awarded funding starting in the 2019-2021 biennium. *Information item.*

N. NRCS Funding to Support Local Delivery of Farm Bill Programs (12:20 p.m.)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will request the board retroactively approve receipt of up to \$500,000 in federal funds from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs. *Action item.*

O. DEI Activity – Results of OWEB’s DEI Survey of Grantees & Board Next Steps (12:30 p.m.)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will provide an overview of the quantitative results of a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) survey of OWEB grantees and qualitative analysis of subsequent grantee interviews and discuss next steps for the board. *Action item.*

P. 2020 Fire Update (1:30 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis will provide an update about OWEB’s recent Wildfire Response grant offering and the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force, which OWEB is co-convening at the request of the Governor’s Office. *Information item.*

Q. Additional Funding for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance Grants (1:50 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis will request the board approve receipt of funding from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in support of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) technical assistance (TA) grants. *Action item.*

Meeting Rules and Procedures

Meeting Procedures

Generally, agenda items will be taken in the order shown. However, in certain circumstances, the board may elect to take an item out of order. To accommodate the scheduling needs of

interested parties and the public, the board may also designate a specific time at which an item will be heard. Any such times are indicated on the agenda.

Please be aware that topics not listed on the agenda may be introduced during the Board Comment period, the Executive Director's Update, the Public Comment period, under Other Business, or at other times during the meeting.

Oregon's Public Meetings Law requires disclosure that board members may meet for meals when OWEB meetings convene.

Voting Rules

The OWEB Board has 18 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and 7 are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into 2 categories – general business and action on grant awards.

General Business

A general business quorum is **6 voting members**. General business requires a majority of **all** voting members to pass a resolution (not just those present), so general business resolutions require affirmative votes of **at least 6 voting members**. Typical resolutions include adopting, amending, or appealing a rule, providing staff direction, etc. These resolutions cannot include a funding decision.

Action on Grant Awards

Per ORS 541.360(4), special requirements apply when OWEB considers action on grant awards. This includes a special **quorum of at least 8 voting members** present to act on grant awards, and affirmative votes of at least six voting members. In addition, regardless of the number of members present, **if 3 or more voting members** object to an award of funds, the proposal will be rejected.

Executive Session

The board may also convene in a confidential executive session where, by law, only press members and OWEB staff may attend. Others will be asked to leave the room during these discussions, which usually deal with current or potential litigation. Before convening such a session, the presiding board member will make a public announcement and explain necessary procedures.

More Information

If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call April Mack, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181 or send an e-mail to april.mack@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise April Mack as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Barbara Boyer, *Board of Agriculture*
Molly Kile, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Mark Labhart, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*
Brenda McComb, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Board Co-Chair, Public (Tribal)*

Gary Marshall, *Public*
Jamie McLeod-Skinner, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Public*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *Board Co-Chair, Public*

Non-voting Members

Eric Murray, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Debbie Hollen, *U.S. Forest Service*
Anthony Selle, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Ron Alvarado, *U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Alan Henning, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Contact Information

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Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
Tel: 503-986-0178
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www.oregon.gov/OWEB

OWEB Executive Director – Meta Loftsgaarden
meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – April Mack
april.mack@oregon.gov
503-986-0181

2020 Board Meeting Schedule

January 22-23, in Jacksonville
April 21, Virtual
June 10-11, Virtual
September 9, Virtual
October 30, Virtual
December 16, Virtual

2021 Board Meeting Schedule

March 10, Virtual
June 9, Virtual

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications, visit our web site:
www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

The Approach We Take

We believe that every endeavor is guided by a set of commitments not just about the “why” and the “what,” but also the “how.” These are the ways we are committed to engaging in our work. This is our approach. These principles modify everything we do.

Our work is characterized by...

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

- Involving the community members at all levels
- Promoting community ownership of watershed health
- Collaborating and authentically communicating
- Bringing together diverse interests
- Building and mobilizing partnerships

Using best available science supported by local knowledge

- Basing approaches on the best available science
- Advancing efficient, science driven operations
- Addressing root sources and causes
- Incorporating local knowledge, experience, and culture
- Catalyzing local energy and investment

Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

- Aligning investments with current and potential funding partners
- Maintaining progress into the future
- Stewarding for the long term
- Taking the long view on projects and interventions

Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation

- Providing evidence of watershed change
- Measuring and communicating community impact
- Increasing appropriate accountability
- Incorporating flexibility, adaptive management – when we see something that’s not working, we do something about it

Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

- Seeking to include the voice and perspectives that are not typically at the table
- Specific, targeted engagement
- Ensuring information is available and accessible to diverse audiences



OWEB Staff Culture Statement

We are dedicated to OWEB’s mission and take great pride that our programs support watershed health and empower local communities. Our work is deeply rewarding and we are passionate about what we do. Our team is nimble, adaptable, and forward-thinking, while remaining grounded in the grassroots history of watershed work in Oregon. With a strong understanding of our past, we are strategic about our future. We believe in working hard while keeping our work environment innovative, productive, and fun. We are collaborative, both with each other and with outside partners and organizations, and place great value in continually improving what we do and how we do it.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql8Wju7Txm8>)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Kile, Molly
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Davis, Renee
Fetcho, Ken
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Menton, Coby
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT

Beamer, Kelley
Green, Vanessa
Lee, Jan
Macdonald, Cathy
Streeter, Amira
Weybright, Jared

ABSENT

Alvarado, Ron

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql8Wju7Txm8>)

The September 9, 2020 meeting was called to order at 8:02 by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:03:05)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. Public and tribal board members also reported on their recent activities and shared information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item.*

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:53:30)

The minutes of the June 10-11, 2020 virtual meeting were presented for board approval. *Action item.*

Molly Kile moved the board approve the minutes from the June 10, 11, 2020 virtual meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 0:54:13)

The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils provided written comment on the social, economic and logistical effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as they pertain to watershed councils, and the ways councils have responded and adapted. *Information item.*

D. Committee Updates (Audio = 0:55:13)

Representatives from board subcommittees provided updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

E. Director's Updates (Audio = 1:33:06)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and OWEB staff updated the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item.*

F. Oregon Conservation Partnership – Updates During COVID-19 (Audio = 2:51:02)

Jan Lee from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, and Vanessa Green from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils provided an update on how the Oregon Conservation Partnership is working with and supporting its stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Information item.*

G. Governor’s Office Update on Equity and Environmental Justice Initiatives (Audio = 3:45:59)

Governor Brown’s Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Amira Streeter, provided an update on several initiatives she is leading in relation to diversity, equity, and inclusion. She highlighted the equity and environmental justice work related to the Governor’s Climate Executive Order 20-04, as well as the environmental work taking place as a part of Governor Brown’s Racial Justice Council. *Information item.*

H. Telling the Restoration Story – Deer Creek (Audio = 4:16:16)

Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho and local partner Jared Weybright from the McKenzie Watershed Council highlighted the outcomes associated with the floodplain restoration efforts on Deer Creek located in the McKenzie River Watershed. *Information item.*

I. Organizational Collaboration Grants (Audio = 4:59:19)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff presented a plan for a grant offering specifically focused on organizations that may need funding to consolidate or merge with other organizations during and/or as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Information item.*

J. 2021-2023 Spending Plan Initial Discussion (Audio = 5:22:20)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden discussed the process for building and approving the 2021-23 OWEB Spending Plan and initiated a conversation with the board about the ties among the spending plan, the long-term investment strategy, and OWEB’s 2018 strategic plan. *Information item.*

K. Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) Grants (Audio = 5:52:34)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff presented a plan, developed in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, for moving forward with technical assistance and monitoring funding for the remaining SIAs slated for initiation this biennium. *Information item.*

L. Global Warming Commission and Governor’s Climate Executive Order (Audio = 6:14:01)

Cathy Macdonald, Chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission (Commission), highlighted the Governor’s Climate Executive Order 20-04 and the Commission’s work related to the Executive Order. *Information item.*

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

October 30, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRLAibu4_jo)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Selle, Tony

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Davis, Renee
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

ABSENT

Alvarado Ron

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

A. Public Comment (Audio = 0:00:36)

Three written comments were provided in lieu of oral comments addressing the importance of weed treatments as part of the fire response grants and expressed a concern that this funding would impact future Weed Grant offerings:

- Oregon Invasive Species Council
- Western Invasive Species Network
- Public At large – Justin Cooley

B. Wildfire Grants (Audio = 0:2:17)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams presented OWEB's proposal for board consideration in response to Oregon's unprecedented fire season. OWEB staff proposed to provide emergency fire response funding for tribal and private, non-industrial land in areas impacted by 14 large fires that occurred in Oregon during late summer of 2020.

Board member Debbie Hollen noted that the Thielsen fire may have impacted 100% federal lands. Pending confirmation of 100% federal ownership of land within the Thielsen fire, funding would be awarded for 13 fires.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved to approve up to \$1 million in funding for the short-term Wildfire Grant offering. Bruce Buckmaster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Focused Investment Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Tony Selle (Chair), Bruce Buckmaster, Debbie Hollen, Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart, Gary Marshall

Background

The Focused Investment Committee met on October 21, 2020 to discuss Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) reporting, the FIP portion of the 2021-2023 spending plan, and the proposed virtual FIP gathering.

FIP Reporting

In-person reporting to the board by FIPs would typically occur in January of odd numbered years and would inform staff recommendations for spending plan amounts in April. The intent of reporting is to describe the progress of implementation FIPs heading into the next biennium. Due to the change in schedule necessitated by the June 2020 spending plan reductions, we will have only Cohort 2 FIPs reporting in December. Since Cohort 1 FIPs do not yet have access to their entire biennium 3 awards, board reporting is anticipated for late in 2021.

FIP Portion of the 2021-2023 Spending Plan

To begin framing spending plan conversations, and specifically the proportion of funds allocated to FIP, the committee reviewed nine scenarios generated by overall revenues of 80%, 85%, and 90% of the current biennium spending plan, and FIP spending plan proportions of 25%, 27%, and 30%. The scenarios generate available funds for a new implementation FIP solicitation in 2021-23 ranging from \$2.4 million to \$9.7 million. While the low end of the range would not provide enough funds to justify a 21-23 FIP solicitation, the lower middle of the range offers that possibility. Given that a solicitation is unlikely to result in awarding funds until mid-way through the biennium, the committee discussed the ramifications of awarding the first year of a six-year FIP in 2021-23, and requested staff to continue refining funding scenarios and accompanying graphics to aid in spending plan deliberations.

The committee also discussed a potential solicitation calendar, which is described in the director's update staff report, E-2.

Virtual FIP Gathering

Initially planned as an in-person meeting, the event is being converted to a virtual gathering that will be conducted over 2 3-hour sessions on separate days with a mix of topics relevant to FIPs, including some new topics such as adaptations due to COVID-19 and changes in fundraising strategies. Staff will include board members in save the date notices when available.

To Be Presented at the December 2020 Board Meeting by:

Tony Selle, Committee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Acquisitions Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Meg Reeves (Chair), Barbara Boyer, Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart

Background

The Acquisitions Committee was reconstituted by the board in April 2020 to include both review of annual land and water acquisition applications as well as regular policy meetings covering both programs. The first meeting of the committee was held October 5, 2020, addressing the following topics: timing of restoration on land acquisition properties, mitigation policy, and the next solicitation schedule.

Timing of Restoration on Land Acquisition Properties

The committee reviewed constitutional and statutory language, as well as program guidance with respect to restoration on acquisition properties. There is a difference between property that has conservation values in place vs. properties that require restoration to attain those values. The committee discussed risk associated with acquisition of properties requiring restoration. The committee recommended that staff include questions in the land acquisition application that solicit levels of expected outcomes, ranging from what is likely to what is probable or possible with respect to restoration. While the board does not have an expectation of a timeline for restoration, it does expect articulation of a clear path to restoration. The committee requested staff to make this clearer in application guidance, and to have further conversations on this topic with COLT and OACD.

Initial Conversation on Mitigation

Current mitigation policy precludes use of OWEB funds for required mitigation actions. Since development of the policy in 2008, mitigation actions have expanded and increased in scope and complexity. The Committee acknowledged that Water Core Team recently initiated an interagency discussion on this topic, one of the goals of which is to build a strategic framework for targeted, partnered and coordinated aquatic resource conservation, enhancement and mitigation investments, and will keep abreast of that effort and potential implications for OWEB acquisition programs

Next Solicitation

This item was deferred to the December board meeting.

To Be Presented at the December 2020 Board Meeting by:

Meg Reeves, Committee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Monitoring Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Alan Henning (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Molly Kile, Brenda McComb

Background

The Monitoring Committee met on October 8. The committee based their discussion around the charge from the board: Oversees work associated with several areas of OWEB's investments in monitoring, including quantifying conservation outputs and outcomes, Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) monitoring, and the monitoring of OWEB's capacity investments.

Summary of Discussion

The committee's scope includes tracking implementation of ongoing projects, which were reviewed during the October meeting. The group also helps OWEB staff consider emerging opportunities and priorities related to monitoring work, given reduced capacity at present, while optimizing the agency's impact with its monitoring resources.

Status Updates about Ongoing Projects

The committee reviewed status updates about ongoing projects. Monitoring projects that are continuing as planned, despite staffing reductions, include Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program performance tracking, Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed, effectiveness monitoring of tide gate restoration via the Ni-les'tun project, FIP monitoring plan template, and Stage 0 restoration monitoring and shared learning. Efforts that are continuing, but at reduced capacity, include existing *Telling the Restoration Story* grants, Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, and wrap-up of FIP cohort 1 supplemental monitoring grants. At the October meeting, the committee debriefed from the Deer Creek restoration story presentation that occurred at the September board meeting. This discussion transitioned into an update about the board's investment in Stage 0 on-the-ground monitoring and the Stage 0 monitoring workshop scheduled for early November. Projects that are 'on pause' due to staffing and/or resource reductions include solicitation of new *Telling the Restoration Story* grants, FIP cohort 2 supplemental monitoring grants, development of outreach products stemming from the tide gate report recommendations, and the retrospective evaluation of capacity investments.

Staff updated the committee about discussions that resulted in refinement of the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) grant scope of work associated with the FIP program to include FIP progress tracking reporting in BEF's work. The first progress tracking reports for cohort #2 FIPs will be presented to the board in March 2021, while the second progress tracking reports for cohort #1 FIPs will follow later in 2021.

Emerging Opportunities

The committee revisited the July discussion about several emerging areas for OWEB's monitoring work, including:

- Data management needs for grantees – Staff will track this need as it is articulated and/or identified through grant solicitations under the revised administrative rules for monitoring grants.

- Use of drones in monitoring – Staff will continue internal work on guidance development for grantees applying drone technology, and collaborations with regional shared learning process through efforts such as the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership.
- Social science techniques in FIPs – This work is on hold until more staff capacity exists to explore lessons learned from applications of social science in the Ashland and Harney wetlands FIPs. The committee also discussed how the retrospective capacity evaluation, which currently is on hold, may offer insights into applying social-science methods in the context of OWEB’s investments.

The committee had a robust discussion about connections between their work and that of the climate committee. Areas of potential focus include clear definitions of ‘monitoring’ (e.g., estimation of climate benefits vs. on-the-ground monitoring of sequestration); climate impacts and benefits over different time horizons in projects funded by OWEB; consideration of climate-change projections when evaluating potential project performance/effectiveness in the future; and the potential use of OWEB investments to verify climate models.

Early Discussion about 2021-23 OWEB Spending Plan

The committee provided early input to staff about areas of monitoring investment in next biennium’s spending plan. The committee signaled that it would like to retain Open Solicitation monitoring grants at an amount proportionally similar to that in the initial 2019-21 spending plan (acknowledging the potential for lower revenues next biennium) and retaining line items for both Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes (QCOO) and FIP programmatic monitoring (above and beyond monitoring conducted by individual FIPs). In QCOO, the committee noted that Telling the Restoration Story grants have been an incredibly valuable investment. If restoration stories are funded next biennium, the committee encouraged staff to explore opportunities for stories associated with effects of the 2020 fires. For FIP programmatic monitoring, post-FIP reporting will be important to track the longer term ecological effects of the board’s investments in FIPs. The committee will discuss the spending plan again during its January 2021 meeting.

Next Steps

The committee will continue to track progress for ongoing projects and provide guidance to staff as they explore the emerging opportunities described above. During the committee update at the December board meeting, the committee chair will provide a brief update to the full board about the Stage 0 monitoring workshop.

To Be Presented at the December 2020 Board Meeting by:

Alan Henning, Chair

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Climate Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Alan Henning, Paul Henson, Brenda McComb, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Eric Murray

Background

The Climate Committee met on October 14. The committee based their discussion around the charge from the board in April 2020: To identify ways to incorporate climate change into OWEB's grant programs.

Summary of Discussion

Areas of Focus

The committee reviewed the action items for the coming 6-12 months that were discussed at its first meeting:

- Discuss climate co-benefits from restoration/conservation investments;
- Review OWEB's existing 17 grant offerings through a climate lens;
- Increase understanding of sequestration and adaptation 'return on investment' for different climate actions;
- Learn about estimation and monitoring tools for carbon sequestration and/or adaptation that could be applied to OWEB projects, in coordination with monitoring committee; and
- Hear from Oregon Global Warming Commission and Governor's Climate Policy Office.

Climate Co-Benefits and OWEB's Programs

By way of background, staff reviewed with the committee several definitions related to climate actions: mitigation, sequestration, and adaptation. From the group's perspective, mitigation/sequestration and adaptation hold equal value and importance, and often are inter-related (e.g., actions such as riparian plantings that can sequester carbon also have climate adaptation benefits). They discussed the importance of grantees considering how climate change may affect projects through time, in terms of the project's ability to provide the anticipated ecological effects—especially for climate-vulnerable habitats and species. The group also noted the importance of considering actions through an equity lens of human populations that may be disproportionately impacted by climate change.

The committee reviewed and discussed a matrix of climate actions and the climate benefit provided by each, with a crosswalk to OWEB grant programs that support these actions. The group agreed that the list of climate actions was comprehensive. Members did, however, flag important nuances—in the form of questions—such as: Are issues such as plant species' sequestration capacity and/or ability to persist in changing climate conditions being considered during project design? Are grantees considering if/how projects are contributing to more fire-resilient ecosystems? What is the climate 'cost/benefit' for projects (e.g., carbon footprint during implementation vs. long-term climate benefits)? The committee noted that agency partners may be able to provide information and research findings that OWEB could provide to grantees to help them consider such questions.

Next Steps

The group discussed several follow-up items and next steps for their work:

- Learn more about how climate-change considerations are both captured within Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) ecological priorities and addressed in FIP application questions;
- Discuss available resources and information about climate ‘return on investment’ for various, specific on-the-ground actions; and
- Work with staff to develop an announcement to grantees and local partners about the work of the committee and the board’s interest in more meaningfully addressing climate change in its grantmaking (e.g., through the possible addition of climate related evaluation criteria), with the intent of proactively communicating with stakeholders about the committee’s work.

To Be Presented at the December 2020 Board Meeting by:

Bruce Buckmaster, Chair

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Water Ad Hoc Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Jamie McLeod-Skinner (Chair), Ron Alvarado, Barbara Boyer, Molly Kile, Gary Marshall, Eric Murray, Meg Reeves

Background

The Water Committee held their meeting on October 29. The committee debriefed on the presentation from the Governor's office at the September Board meeting related to Governor Brown's equity work. They then received an overview of the 100-Year Water Vision and discussed ways to continue to move the vision forward through the work of the Water Committee and OWEB's investment programs. As the committee continues to meet, they are refining what the role of the committee will be related to broader board discussions, and the role of OWEB related to the 100-Year Water Vision.

Summary of Discussion

The committee recommends using the 100-Year Water Vision work that has been completed to date to guide OWEB's work related to water, even though the water vision work has not been finalized.

Feedback to the Governor's Office Regarding September Presentation

The committee provided suggestions for feedback to the Governor's office regarding Amira Streeter's September presentation. Those suggestions were provided for review at the DEI committee and are further discussed in the notes for that meeting.

Water Vision and Next Steps for Committee

The committee reviewed the 100-Year Water Vision (attached). The committee discussed thinking through what the committee focus on relative to content within the water vision, and how OWEB can be an example for other agencies about how to advance components of the vision. Options discussed included: a deep dive into the environmental goal, cross-agency funding opportunities, and thinking about how to stand up an effective cross-agency decision-making structure to model an effective and inclusive strategy. Core to the conversation – what can OWEB do to move the needle?

The committee asked for a report on the 'water funding' subcommittee of the state's Water Core Team, and identification of any funding gaps if that is part of their discussions

The committee also discussed if there are ways to leverage other resources beyond just funding. They discussed leveraging design ideas and innovative approaches, and thinking about the best 'bang-for-the-buck' given limited resources across state government. Are there investments that could be made that would help reduce stressors in communities, or in the environment?

The committee also focused on the discussion within the water vision related to governance. Questions included: how do we meaningfully expand who is at the table and who is engaged in decision-making processes? Is there information the committee could gather to identify who is at the table currently and gaps?

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Chair

Staff Contact

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

Meta.Loftsgaarden@Oregon.gov or 503-986-0180



Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision: A Call to Action

Preparing a Secure, Safe, and Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians

Vision Statement

To address changes in climate and population dynamics, Oregonians will take care of our water to ensure we have enough clean water for our people, our economy, and our environment, now and for future generations. Oregonians will invest strategically in infrastructure and ecosystems across all regions to support resilient communities, vibrant local economies, and a healthy environment for all who live here.

Premise

Many areas of Oregon are known for clean and reliable water. As identified in Oregon's [Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#), some of the forces that combine to place significant stress on Oregon's water and water systems include:

- 1) Climate change and associated increases in temperature, wildfire, drought, damaging floods, and harmful algal blooms;
- 2) A half century of underinvestment in built and natural water infrastructure;
- 3) Our changing population and associated development – growing in some areas, shrinking in others; and
- 4) Too much demand for too little water for in-stream and out-of-stream uses.



These factors impact the quality and quantity of water for our communities, including water in our rivers, lakes, oceans, reservoirs, and aquifers. Simply put, if we are not willing to roll up our sleeves and work together to invest in the ecosystems that sustain us along with built and natural water infrastructure, we place the safety of our communities, the health of our people and environment, and Oregon's economic future at risk.

Goals

Each goal below is important. No single goal can be fully realized independent of the others. Recognizing that tension, we need to invest in a range of innovative solutions that work in balance for our shared water future.

- ◆ **Health: Clean water for all who live in Oregon**
Water should be fishable, swimmable, and drinkable. Investments in ecosystem health, and built and natural infrastructure will provide reliable access to clean water.
- ◆ **Economy: Sustainable and clean water to support local economic vitality**
Diverse and resilient agricultural, timber, fishing, hi-tech, energy, and recreation economies require a reliable and clean water supply. Investments in built and natural water infrastructure will support high quality jobs across all Oregon communities.
- ◆ **Environment: Adequate cool, clean water to sustain Oregon's ecosystems for healthy fish and wildlife**
Cool, clean water and healthy forests, wetlands, riparian areas, streams, and estuaries provide essential natural processes that maintain and enhance water quality for fish and wildlife. Investments in ecosystems also provide recreational opportunities for those who live in and visit Oregon.
- ◆ **Safety: Resilient water supplies and flood protection systems for Oregon's communities**
Natural and built water systems designed to protect communities, and increase their resiliency to disasters like earthquakes, wildfires, floods, drought, and sea level rise, are important for all Oregon communities. Investments in those systems will help create safer communities and healthier ecosystems.

Call to Action

Oregon's limited water supplies are already being shaped by climate and population changes. We must both act now and plan for the long term. How we choose to care for our water will determine if we pass a legacy of clean and sustainable water to future generations.

Principles

Note: The following principles were raised during the 2019 Vision outreach conversations. Some of them mirror [principles](#) in the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). Where the concepts are similar, the IWRS principles are referenced. Information gathered through the fall will also be used as part of the next update to the IWRS.

While the Vision goals reflect *the needs we have* for water, our principles guide how *people can work together* to achieve a secure, safe, and resilient water future for all who live here.

Balancing Interests: Water is an essential but limited resource. We recognize there is not enough water to meet every 'want.' We will seek to balance interests across all of our water goals, and recognize the best solutions should address multiple uses. (*IWRS Principles - Balance, Sustainability, Interconnection/Integration*)

State Framework with Regional and Local Flexibility: Water challenges and opportunities vary greatly from region to region across the state. Successful strategic solutions and investments will build on flexible approaches that respect regional differences. These approaches should be both supported and bounded by a state framework, grounded in current water law, with clear policies to define the direction. (*IWRS Principles - Science-Based, Flexible Approaches, Implementation, Facilitation by the state*)

Tribal Sovereignty: Oregon's water future is best implemented when we work in partnership with the sovereign tribes in Oregon, respecting both treaty rights and tribal cultural connections to water.

Equity & Transparency: The benefits of clean and reliable water are shared by all who live here, along with our native fish and wildlife. We will build a more equitable water future by ensuring our water decisions and investments are inclusive and transparent, with opportunities for all communities to participate. (*IWRS Principles - Public Process*)

Affordability: Improvements to our infrastructure and ecosystems come with costs. We will ensure that those costs are not disproportionately borne by those who can least afford it. (*IWRS Principles - Reasonable Cost*)

Infrastructure & Ecosystems: Oregon's water goals can be met in many ways. We recognize that built systems like dams, pipes, levees are only one part of the solution. Natural systems like wetlands, estuaries, and rivers themselves must also be part of Oregon's water future - both as natural infrastructure that provides clean water for human use, and as the components of a healthy ecosystem for fish and wildlife.

Coordination & Collaboration: We support formation of regional, coordinated, and collaborative partnerships that include representatives of local, state, federal, and tribal government, private and non-profit sectors, stakeholders, and the public to plan and invest strategically. (*IWRS Principles - Collaboration, Incentives*)

Engaged Oregonians: Engaged community members and water leaders are key to helping all of us who live in Oregon understand the value water as part of our culture, our communities, and our ecosystems. We will cultivate leaders in communities across Oregon that understand the importance of conserving and keeping our water clean, and recognize the need for coordinated water investments.

Innovation: Working with creative individuals and businesses across the state, we will invest in innovative solutions that balance the advantages of built, and natural infrastructure, while also protecting ecosystem values.

Best Use of Available Science Combined with Local Knowledge: The best solutions come when we recognize that both science and local knowledge have value. We will build investment approaches that allow for learning, adaptation, and innovative ideas. (*IWRS Principles - Science-Based, Flexible Approaches*)

Water as a public resource: Public investments in our water future should result in public benefits.

Oregon's Water Challenges

Acknowledgements: Water is not like other kinds of infrastructure or natural resources. It is a public resource, but is managed by both public and private entities. It has cultural significance, and is essential to sustain life. There is a finite amount of water and it moves across the landscape while also varying in availability from year to year. Each of us has our own unique background that influences our perspectives on water and water infrastructure. This history forms the foundation for the different ways we each envision our water future. When we each bring that background to a common table, there can be disagreements. Respecting our different perspectives, the lessons we have learned, and the unique water challenges we've faced in our history will be important to develop a shared water future. Below are a list of common challenges and opportunities that will benefit from the focused attention of Oregonians with diverse perspectives.

Water System Challenges

Water Availability

System challenge: Many of Oregon's water delivery systems are outdated and inefficient, increasing the chance that water will not be available for communities when it is most needed.

System opportunity: We can incentivize water conservation and reuse, and invest in modern water delivery systems statewide. Efficiency gains and updated systems will help improve water reliability for cities and counties, tribes, ecosystems, and the many aspects of a thriving economy that depend on water.

Clean Water

System Challenge: Not all parts of Oregon have reliable access to clean water, resulting in increased health risks for those who live here.

System Opportunity: We can invest in resilient built and natural water infrastructure, and reduce pollutants to provide clean water for all Oregon communities.

Ecosystems

System Challenge: Not all watersheds provide cool, clean water and habitat for fish and wildlife, threatening the sustainability of those species in Oregon.

System opportunity: We can increase investments in watersheds to store, filter, and deliver water for fish and wildlife.

Community Security

System challenge: Too much of Oregon's built infrastructure is neglected and not keeping communities safe, while we have not fully realized the benefits of natural infrastructure and ecosystems to protect communities from harmful floods and provide resilience to drought.

System opportunity: We can modernize our flood protection infrastructure where appropriate, while fully incorporating the benefits of natural infrastructure and ecosystems. Combined, these will help mitigate impacts of increased flooding and drought, while reducing the impacts of sea level rise to coastal communities.

Management Challenges

Data & Information Services

Management Challenge: Communities across Oregon lack basic data and information to make strategic, long-term decisions about water investments and water management.

Management Opportunity: Good data is the foundation of wise and coordinated decisions. We can work across agencies at all levels, with tribes, and with the private sector to improve access to accurate, relevant, trusted, and current water data and infrastructure condition. We can also use science and information to anticipate future trends. Access to quality information will help communities strategically plan for and invest in their water future.

Community Capacity

Management Challenge: Communities with fewer resources are challenged to strategically plan for and invest in their water future and need access to a skilled workforce to implement, manage, and monitor water projects.

Management Opportunity: We can begin investing now in strong community capacity and a skilled water workforce in every region across Oregon.

Investments in Water

Management Challenge: We have underinvested in our built and natural water infrastructure, and our ecosystems. Investments in water planning and projects are not fully coordinated at the community, regional or state levels, and there has not been a concerted conversation about how Oregon will fund its future water needs.

Management Opportunity: We can coordinate our current investments and seek new sustainable, dedicated public and private funding for restoration of ecosystems, and built and natural infrastructure. Coordinated and new investments will ensure communities – including Oregon’s federally recognized tribes and those people living in disproportionately impacted and rural communities - can afford and access adequate clean water, and return it to our rivers for downstream users, fish, and wildlife.

Water Investment Decision-Making

Management challenge: Oregon lacks a cohesive governance system to strategically prioritize water investments at the local and regional levels, leaving those decisions to a wide array of individuals, governments, and other interests with overlapping priorities and investment needs.

Management Opportunity: Learning from other successful models, Oregon can implement best approaches to ensure water planning and investment decisions are strategic and coordinated across jurisdictions, and with public and private partners. This system can successfully combine a state-level framework with local and regional planning and flexibility.

Education & Culture

Management Challenge: Community leaders across Oregon have limited awareness of Oregon’s water challenges, the urgency to act now, and potential water solutions.

Management Opportunity: We can work with communities to build a culture and leadership that prioritizes water at the local, regional, and statewide levels.

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Jason Robison, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Tony Selle

Background

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee met November 30. The committee received updates on an analysis being completed by a graduate student at PSU on OWEB's granting practices and their impact on tribes. The committee then discussed options for an upcoming board DEI survey, and received a report-out on a survey and interviews completed with grantees about their DEI work. Finally, the committee reviewed recommendations (below) from the water committee for feedback to the Governor's office following up on the presentation to the OWEB board in September.

Summary of Discussion

Tribal Grant Analysis

Ken Fetcho updated the committee on the work OWEB is undertaking with a PSU grad student focusing on OWEB's granting with tribes to identify if there are inherent challenges with OWEB's application, review, or funding processes that may inadvertently result in fewer projects awarded to tribes. A report will be provided to the board when complete.

Grantee DEI Survey and Interviews

Courtney Shaff and Ken Fetcho summarized the survey and interview results from the grantee survey and received feedback on how best to present this information to the board.

Board DEI Survey and next steps

Courtney Shaff initiated a conversation about what a board DEI survey and subsequent steps could look like. The committee discussed components of a survey, including:

- Awareness – What knowledge and skills do board members need related to diversity, equity, and inclusion?
- Strategic Plan – What connections need to be made between increased awareness and how the board implements strategic plan priorities?
- Engagement – What are some early thoughts board members have about how to engage with others on DEI, including partnerships with other funders, grantees, and new partnerships beyond funding?
- Measuring Success – What are some early thoughts board members have for what success could look like in this area?

Beyond the survey, committee members also identified the need to dig more deeply into learning what we don't yet know about diversity, equity, and inclusion. This could possibly be accomplished through another project with a grad student.

Finally, the committee recommends continuing the ad hoc committee until the survey is completed and analyzed, with strategic actions to be determined as a result of that work.

Feedback to Governor's Office on September Presentation

Meta Loftsgaarden shared recommended feedback that the water ad hoc committee suggested being shared with the Governor's office regarding Amira Streeter's board presentation in September. Feedback includes:

- Appreciation for the presentation. The work outlined is an excellent first step. It's important to go further and engage even more broadly with disproportionately impacted communities on this work
- Ask if there are specific areas that OWEB (both board and staff) can engage more deeply in this work. Suggestions from staff and DEI committee:
 - Have OWEB staff join the Environmental Justice Task Force
 - Explore how OWEB can partner with other funders to leverage existing funding opportunities.
 - Share results and next steps from surveys/interviews with the Governor's office. Grantee survey/interviews have been completed, and board survey is being initiated
 - Get Governor's office assistance in identifying individuals or organizations OWEB should connect with that the agency may not be working with currently
- Suggest that the Governor's office consider reaching out to organizations to see if the information is 'penetrating' beyond just organizational leadership into the impacted communities. Ask if there are ways that members from various boards/commissions could assist with that.

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Tony Selle, committee member

Staff Contact

Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager

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December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Committee (now Coordinating Committee) Update

Committee Members

Jason Robison, Liza Jane McAlister, Bruce Buckmaster, Tony Selle, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Alan Henning, Meg Reeves

Background

The Executive Committee held their second committee meeting October 15. The committee focused on two major topics – first, the committee name; and second, the upcoming recommendation from staff for a fire response grant program and special board meeting.

Summary of Discussion

Information about the fire response grant program is encapsulated in the October Board meeting Staff report regarding the program and under Agenda Item P – 2020 Fire Update.

Committee Name & Process Recommendations

Following the August meeting, staff provided recommendations for a name change for the committee. Given that the committee does not have decision-making or staff oversight authority, executive committee does not reflect the work of the committee. Staff provided the results of research and recommended that ‘Coordinating Committee’ was more reflective of the work of this group given that its role is to receive information from the various board committees and provide guidance for board discussions.

The newly named coordinating committee reaffirmed the role of the committee and then discussed how issues would be brought to the group and determined there were a few paths. First, committee chairs/staff can bring issues to the coordinating committee for further discussion. The coordinating committee may also raise topics that could go back to one or multiple committees for further discussion.

Committee members asked that the various committees share their agendas with the coordinating committee so others could see topics being raised. This allows for increased coordination and reduced redundancy across the committees.

Finally, the committee discussed the role of monitoring across all funding types.

Future Meetings

The committee has decided to meet after each board meeting to discuss issues that may have arisen at the meeting and how they might be addressed by committees or otherwise.

To Be Presented at the December 2020 Board Meeting by:

Liza Jane McAlister

Staff Contact

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

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October 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-1: Bureau of Land Management Grant Funds Update

This report provides the board an update on the distribution of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grant funds.

Background

In June, the board approved OWEB receiving up to \$2,999,997 in federal funds from the BLM for aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects over three years. In August OWEB entered into three cooperative agreements covering BLM's three regions, Northwest, Southwest, and Eastern Oregon and began receiving grant applications from local partners.

Program Update

As of November 2020, OWEB received \$986,825 from BLM for ten aquatic restoration projects around the state (Table 1). Applications for funding are submitted through OWEB's online application system. Prior to submission, the projects are reviewed and selected by local BLM staff based on BLM priorities. OWEB staff are then able to use the information provided by BLM and the applicant to quickly move from application to grant agreement. The individual grant agreements are managed by OWEB's Project Managers in coordination with BLM staff.

Table 1. List of BLM Funded Projects

Project Name	Grantee	Award Amount	Status
Willow Creek Restoration	Malhuer WC	\$ 165,000	Awarded
Sheep Creek Restoration	Trout Unlimited	\$ 22,000	Awarded
NF John Day Boundary Fence Maintenance	North Fork John Day WC	\$ 130,000	Awarded
SF John Day Fencing and Water Development	South Fork John Day WC	\$ 100,000	Awarded
Honey Ck Fish Passage and Screening	Lakeview SWCD	\$ 54,000	Awarded
Salmon River - Boulder Ck Restoration	The Freshwater Trust	\$ 30,000	Awarded
Glenbrook Tributary Culvert	Greater Yamhill WC	\$ 25,680	Awarded
Walker Ck Culvert	Partnership for Umpqua Rivers	\$ 150,000	Application in progress
Woodward Ck Culverts	Coquille WA	\$ 233,000	Awarded
WF Cow Ck Instream	Partnership for Umpqua Rivers	\$ 77,145	Application in progress

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov.

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E -2 FIP 2021-2023 Solicitation Cycle

This report provides the board an update on the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) 2021-2023 Solicitation Cycle.

Background

The board awarded the initial cohort of FIP awards in the 2015-2017 biennium. Since awards were made more than 6 months into the biennium, the board decided not to solicit implementation FIPs in 2017-2019. The second cohort FIP awards were made in 2019-2021 with an expectation of a solicitation in each succeeding biennium. When the board rebalanced the 2019-2021 spending plan in response to reduce lottery revenue, it decided to postpone the 2019-2021 solicitation for at least one year. This director's update provides a possible timeline for a 2021-2023 FIP solicitation, pending availability of funds in the spending plan.

Focused Investment Committee Recommendation

Staff presented a potential timeline for a 2021-2023 FIP solicitation considering current and potential staff capacity and available funding, as follows:

July 2021 – Announce solicitation

September 2021 – Consultations

January 2022 – Applications Due

April 2022 – Expert Review Teams

May 2022 – Staff Recommendations

June 2022 – Public Hearing/Focused Investment Committee Interviews

July 2022 – Board Award

This timeline would provide funds to successful partnership in the second year of the biennium, which could result in the sixth year of funds being awarded in the fourth biennium.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, at eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047.

This report provides the board an update on the next open solicitation cycle.

Background

In April 2020, the board paused new grant awards due to reductions in lottery revenue caused by the shutdown of video lottery during the initial stage of the pandemic. Operating on a cash-available basis, the board made open solicitation awards for restoration, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement projects in June, and resumed authorization for small grant awards with a reduced spending plan allocation. Annual grants, including land and water acquisitions, monitoring grants, and weed grants were limited to the awards already made, eliminating the planned second year awards. This report presents potential scenarios for future open solicitation grant awards.

Open Solicitation (Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring)

Lottery revenues received post-shutdown have been greater than expected, with November revenues coming in at 80% of normal, when 65% was projected. With current cash on hand and anticipated revenues for February 2021, staff anticipate having sufficient funds available for the board to make awards in March 2021 for grant applications received in July 2020 for restoration, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement projects. In order to provide certainty and continuity to grantees, staff are planning to solicit the next round of open solicitation grant applications in January 2021 with a deadline in April and awards in October. Pending adequate revenues, this would put the agency on track to revert to the typical April/October application deadline and award dates through the 2021-23 biennium.

Land Acquisition/Water Acquisition/Monitoring/Weed Grants

For annual solicitations that were canceled in the second year of the current biennium, the board expressed a desire to move up the first solicitation in the next biennium to even the gaps between offerings.

For land acquisition grants, staff are tentatively planning for a solicitation in the spring of 2021 with applications due in June, rather than the traditional October deadline. This would allow for board award approximately 3-4 months earlier than is typical.

Staff are currently developing a revised water acquisition grant review and evaluation process to align with recently adopted revisions to the water acquisition administrative rules. Staff intend to continue OWEB's partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), including NFWF providing evaluation of transaction soundness, valuation, and organizational capacity. A tentative schedule for the next solicitation includes an application deadline of July 2020 with board award in January 2021. This timing aligns with stakeholder desire to better synchronize awards with the irrigation season.

Monitoring grant applications would be included in the April 2021 and April 2022 open solicitation cycles. While this adjusts the monitoring awards to October from April, it provides for the most even spacing between awards caused by cancellation of the October 2020 solicitation.

Weed grant solicitation, evaluation, and administration are managed by Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) staff, who have expressed a similar desire to the board to move up the typical solicitation schedule to reduce the time delay to the next award. ODA staff tentatively plan to solicit weed grant applications in April 2021, with awards in July.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, at eric.williams@oregon.gov address or 503-986-0047.

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-4: Strategic Plan Update

This report provides an update about implementation of the 2018 strategic plan.

Background

At this and upcoming meetings, the board will be provided with both general updates on plan progress, and more detailed updates as needed on specific priority areas.

Strategic Plan Update

In June 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. Beginning with the October 2018 board meeting, staff developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities.

Attached is the latest update of actions related to the strategic plan between September and November 2020. Other information on the strategic plan is also contained in the subcommittee updates.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at Meta.Loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 503-986-0180.

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, September-November 2020

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – September-November 2020

- Black text describes progress on actions and measures for the current quarter, along with the associated strategies, outputs and outcomes.
- Blue text describes all other content extracted from the strategic plan for the purpose of providing framing information, but for which no actions or progress occurred this quarter.

Priority 1 - Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds					
Strategies	Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration, and community successes of watershed investments	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented new Deer Creek ‘Telling the Restoration Story’ products to OWEB board and the interested public in September 2020. 	<u>So That: (outputs)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress. - Local partners are trained and have access to media and tools. - Local conservation organizations have meaningful connection to local media. - Each region has access to public engagement strategies that reach non-traditional audiences. 	<u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools. - More Oregonians: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed; o understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community; o understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy. - Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches. 	<u>Near-term measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with cumulative reach of 2,347 YouTube views , 30-second feature on watershed restoration has 2,003 YouTube views (accessed 12/10/2019) - 54 articles featured partners and OWEB in the news (January - November 2019). <u>Potential impact measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in public conversation about watersheds and people’s role in keeping them healthy. - Increase recognition of landowner connection to healthy watersheds. - Broader representation/greater variation of populations represented in the Oregon watershed stories.
	Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches				
Priority 2 - Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians					
Strategies	Listen, learn and gather information about diverse populations	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff developed qualitative findings as a result of the DEI interviews with grantees. - Most staff and many board members participated in the 2020 State Diversity Conference. - Staff send an email to all-staff recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day and providing resources for further exploration. - The ad hoc DEI committee held its second meeting and continued to discuss how to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion into conversations with board, staff, and OWEB’s operations. - Initiated project to review all OWEB grants to identify whether biases occur in granting process that may impact the success of tribes in applying to OWEB’s grant programs 	<u>So That: (outputs)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). - OWEB has DEI capacity. - OWEB staff and board develop awareness of how social, economic, and cultural differences impact individuals, organizations and business practices. - OWEB staff and board share a common understanding of OWEB’s unique relationship with tribes. - OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources. - DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate. - Board and staff regularly engage 	<u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New and varied populations are engaged in watershed restoration. - Grantees and partners actively use DEI tools and resources to recruit a greater diversity of staff, board members and volunteers. - Increased engagement of under-represented communities in OWEB grant programs and programs of our stakeholders. - OWEB, state agencies, and other funders consider opportunities to fund natural resource projects with a DEI lens. 	<u>Near-term measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff has participated in 365 hours of training (July 2018-August 2020). <u>Potential impact measure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased awareness by grantees of gaps in community representation. - Increased representation of Grantees and partners from diverse communities on boards, staff, and as volunteers. - Increased funding provided to culturally diverse stakeholders and populations.
	Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table				
	Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)				

with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work.

Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategies	Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u> - While the consultant has been selected to complete the retrospective evaluation of OWEB's capacity investments in watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts, staff have been unable to move forward with the agreement because of cuts to contracting dollars within OWEB. The intent is to reinitiate this in the new biennium.	<u>So That: (outputs)</u> - Data exists to better understand the impacts of OWEB's capacity investments - Help exists for local groups to define their restoration 'community' for purposes of partnership/community capacity investments. - Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions. - A suite of alternative options exists to invest in capacity to support conservation outcomes. - New mechanisms are available for watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts to report on outcomes of capacity funding. - A set of streamlined cross-agency processes exist to more effectively implement restoration projects.	<u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u> - Partners access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches. - OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds. - Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions. - Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity. - Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively. - State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships.	<u>Near-term measure:</u> - Under development <u>Potential impact measure:</u> - Increase in indicators of capacity for entities. - Increased restoration project effectiveness from cross-agency efforts. - Increase in funding for capacity by funders other than OWEB.
	Champion best approaches to build organizational, community, and partnership capacity	- Staff hosted a webinar, in collaboration with the Oregon Conservation Partnership, to highlight different approaches to collaboration and how those approaches support restoration outcomes.			
	Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships	In coordination with Oregon Departments of Forestry and Environmental Quality, OWEB staff are co-convening the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force to assist with coordination of wildfire recovery in the coming months and years. The goal is to take an 'all-lands' approach to fire recovery related to natural and cultural resources.			

Priority 4 - Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

Strategies	Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u> - Partnered with NRCS to establish a tide gate coordinator position to be housed at OWEB beginning in the fall. This position will support local landowners, technical service providers and agencies to move forward tide gate repair and replacement projects in an efficient manner. - Received BLM funding to distribute as grants for projects that provide habitat benefit in local communities - In process of finalizing agreement with NRCS to support distribution of their funding to grantees in support of critical administrative work to move local conservation efforts forward. - Initiated conversations with state agencies (WRD, DEQ, OHA, BizOR and OWEB) to identify ways to increase collaboration and streamline access to water-related grant and loan funding sources		<u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u> - Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration. - Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments. - Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts. - Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration. - Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health work that is also environmentally sustainable.
	Align common investment areas with private foundations	- Initiating discussions with private foundations regarding ways to engage on post-fire recovery investments		
	Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector			

	<p>Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OWEB requested funding in the 2021-23 agency budget for a water/climate coordination position to assist with OWEB and interagency initiatives—such as the 100-Year Water Vision and Climate executive order. - The water committee held its second meeting to discuss the connections between OWEB’s work and the 100-year water vision. The committee will continue to meet to develop refined proposals for board consideration. - The climate committee met to discuss how existing OWEB investments are providing climate benefits. - Supported Business Oregon to develop a proposal to distribute grants and loans for tide gate infrastructure projects. Funding was approved in the 2020 Special Session and Business Oregon is in the process of hiring staff to initiate the program. 	<p><u>So That: (outputs)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OWEB has a clear understanding of its role in coordinating funding. - OWEB and other state and federal agencies have developed a system for formal communication and coordination around grants and other investments. - OWEB and partners have a coordinated outreach strategy for increasing watershed investments by state agencies, foundations, and corporations. - Foundations and corporations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects. - Foundations and corporations know OWEB, how the agency’s investments work, and how they can partner. - Foundations and corporations understand the importance of investing in healthy watersheds - Foundations and corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios. - Oregon companies that depend on healthy watersheds are aware of the opportunity to invest in watershed health. 		<p><u>Near-term measure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in the use of new and diverse funding sources by grantees. <p><u>Potential impact measure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in grantees cash match amount and diversity of cash match in projects. - Increase in new and diverse funding sources. - Increase in creative funding mechanisms and strategies. - Increased high-quality conservation and restoration projects are funded without OWEB investment. - Increased funding for bold and innovative, non-traditional investments.
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Priority 5 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

<p>Strategies</p>	<p>Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)</p>	<p><u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Board of Agriculture re-nominated two commissioners whose terms are expiring in January 2021. The OWEB board will act on the nominations in December. 	<p><u>So That: (outputs)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local organizations have the technical assistance to address gaps in implementing working land conservation projects. - Examples of successful working lands conservation projects are available for local organizations to use. 	<p><u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability. 	<p><u>Near-term measure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of landowners identified within Strategic Implementation Areas that receive technical assistance. <p><u>Potential impact measure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased conservation awareness amongst owners and managers of
	<p>Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue implementation of the Food Security and Farmworker Safety grant program, which provides CARES act funding to producers to meet housing, sanitation, and PPE needs. Final information will be available for the board at their March meeting. 			

Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brought onboard a new Sea Grant Fellow that is jointly managed by OWEB and the Oregon Department of Energy, to develop outreach strategies and provide technical support to the Governor’s Executive Order on Climate Change and to work with the Oregon Global Warming Commission’s Natural and Working Lands process. - Integrated an OWEB Conservation Easement with an NRCS Agricultural Land Easement on a Wheeler County Ranch. The easement was approved as a “template” by NRCS for use in other working lands easements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New partners are engaged with owners and operators of working lands to increase conservation. - Strategies and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands. - Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future. - Sustained vitality of Oregon’s natural resources industries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - working lands. - A better understanding of conservation participation, barriers and incentives for working lands owners. - Expanded relationships with agriculture and forestry associations. - Increased engagement of owners and managers of working lands conservation projects. - Increased working lands conservation projects on farm, ranch, and forest lands. - Expanded working lands partnerships improve habitat and water quality. - Expanded funding opportunities exist for working lands conservation.
Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With the addition of a project in the Powder River Basin, OWEB funds are now supporting technical assistance to develop and monitor candidate conservation agreement with assurances plans outside of the Tri-County and Baker County FIP geographies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landowner engagement strategies and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations - The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission has administrative rules and stable funding for the OAHP to protect working lands. - Local capacity exists to implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. 		
Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations				

Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u>	<u>So That: (outputs)</u>	<u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u>	<u>Near-term measure:</u>
Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalized new Conservation Effectiveness Partnership fact sheets focused on Whychus Creek and Willow Creek. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partners are using results-based restoration ‘stories’ to share conservation successes and lessons learned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14 outreach products were developed through staff, grants or partnerships (January-December 2019).
Invest in monitoring over the long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported the presentation of early findings from OWEB funded monitoring of Stage 0 restoration approaches at the November 2020 Stage 0 monitoring workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs. 	<p><u>Potential impact measure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased public awareness about the outcomes and effects of watershed restoration and why it matters to Oregonians - Increased utilization of effective and strategic monitoring practices by grantees and partners - Improved restoration and monitoring actions on the ground to meet local and state needs. - Increase in local organizations that integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. - Increased engagement and support of restoration and conservation activities. - Increased decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results. - Increased ability to evaluate social change that leads to ecological
Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued work on a document to assist practitioners developing tide gate replacement or removal projects in Oregon. - Eight SIA teams have monitoring plans approved by the Statewide Monitoring Advisory Group (MAG). - Developed guidance for drone-based photo point monitoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. 	
Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successfully hosted Stage 0 Stream Restoration and Monitoring Workshop in November 2020, at which nearly 100 practitioners, researchers, regulators and other stakeholders discussed current topics and data gaps related to implementing and monitoring restoration projects intended to achieve a Stage 0 condition. - Participated in online presentation about the use of drones to monitor stream restoration projects as part of an Emerging Technology Webinar Series in October 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding. - Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring. 	
Define monitoring priorities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priorities are proactively established and clearly articulated to plan for adequate monitoring resources that describe restoration investment outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly. 	
Develop and promote a monitoring framework		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring practitioners focus efforts on priority monitoring needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impacts on ecological, economic and social factors are considered as a part of successful monitoring efforts. - Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared. - Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed 	

				<p>and regional scales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results. 	<p>outcomes.</p>
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Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds

Strategies	Invest in landscape restoration over the long term	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u>	<u>So That: (outputs)</u>	<u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u>	<u>Near-term measure:</u>
	Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OWEB developed an informal agency work group to explore options for investment approaches for water infrastructure, particularly strategies that recognize and support the value of natural infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community. - OWEB’s landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state. - OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway. - Conservation communities value an experimental approach to learning and innovation. - Conservation communities become comfortable with properties and projects that show potential, even if the work is not demonstrated based on demonstrated past performance. - OWEB encourages a culture of innovation. - OWEB’s investment approaches recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers and benefits of watershed actions, where appropriate. - Diverse, non-traditional projects and activities that contribute to watershed health are now funded that weren’t previously. - OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16.98% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business Plan. <p><u>Potential impact measure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased strategic watershed restoration footprint statewide. - Increased money for innovative watershed work from diverse funding sources. - Increased learning from bold and innovative actions so future decisions result in healthy watersheds in Oregon - New players or sectors—such as healthcare providers—engaged to invest in watershed restoration, enhancement and protection.
	Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB’s mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offered wildfire response grants to local partners around the state to address immediate fire response needs following the devastating 2020 fire season. 			



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Agenda Item F supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Budget and Legislative Update
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Background

At its June meeting, the board rebalanced the 2019-2021 spending plan to address budget shortfalls due to reductions in lottery revenues. The board also heard an update from the Executive Director about staffing reductions that were necessary, also due to budget shortfalls. Since this time, the agency received two Lottery distributions. In addition, the November revenue forecast continues its optimistic picture for funding for the remainder of the biennium at approximately 85% of what was expected 'pre-COVID'.

II. Current Biennium Grant Funds Update

OWEB received two distributions since the board adjusted the spending plan in June. The August distribution came in at 41% of what would have been expected pre-pandemic, totaling \$3.46 million. The November distribution came in at just over 80% of pre-pandemic expectations, totaling \$7.91 million. In October, the board committed \$1 million for a Fire Response Grant Offering. These additions and expenditures, combined with \$4.7 million held by the board for an upcoming open solicitation grant offering, give the board a total current balance of \$15.07 million. With these funds available, the Open Solicitation Cycle Director's Update outlined a schedule to invest in grants in March 2021, keeping remaining funds, including the February 2021 and May 2021 distributions, to use in the 2021-23 biennium across all grant types.

III. Current Biennium Staffing Update

Given projected revenue shortfalls on the agency's operating budget, by early July of this year, the number of staff working on OWEB's grant programs was reduced by 33%, with 11 of 34 staff being reassigned to work outside of OWEB's core mission, moving to job rotations or positions with other agencies, or selecting another professional option of their choice.

With revenues rebounding at a higher rate than expected, and with federal funds received from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to support a tide gate coordinator

position, OWEB will be able to bring back the three staff who have been most recently focused on the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program to the agency beginning January 1, 2021. Coby Menton will again take on the work of Region 5 as the Regional Program Representative. Audrey Hatch will return to her Conservation Outcomes Coordinator position, focusing on both monitoring outcomes and the agency's work around climate change. Jillian McCarthy will be taking on a new role as OWEB's Tide Gate Coordinator, with funding from NRCS. A number of other staff continue in job rotations at other agencies. Some of those staff are in permanent positions with OWEB and, based on the Governor's Recommended Budget, are expected to return to the agency at the beginning of the new biennium.

The revenue forecast is holding stable for the remainder of the biennium at around 85% of expected revenues. That said, the agency is financially prepared to weather a worst-case shutdown scenario, given that anytime bars and restaurants are closed, the majority of Lottery revenues go away. The agency has enough in reserve to maintain current staffing levels through the remainder of the biennium.

IV. 2021-23 Governor's Recommended Budget

The Governor's Budget was released on December 1, 2020, using very conservative estimates for available funding in the 21-23 biennium. While the agency received some of our requested positions, including a limited duration position to focus on climate and water policy issues, an administrative services position, and a tide gate coordinator position, two other limited duration positions requested were not included in the budget. In addition, the agency sustained other cuts, totaling approximately \$650,000. Some are statewide reductions, including increases in required vacancy savings and no allowance for inflation, while others are specific to the agency. As a result, based on the Governor's Budget, the agency will need to continue to take reductions in travel for board and staff, including reduced travel, and reduced in-person board meetings. Office expenses will need to be reduced by at least one-third and contracted services are reduced by nearly three-quarters. The budget is subject to change and isn't final until the Legislatively Approved budget is passed by the legislature at the end of the 2021 session. In addition, once the budget is final, the agency has some flexibility to manage budget reductions in ways that help ensure OWEB is able to effectively carry out statutory responsibilities.



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Agenda Item G supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Spending Plan
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report updates the board on the timeline for approval of the 2021-2023 spending plan, and requests the board provide general direction in terms of major spending plan category percentages. Staff also request feedback to determine if there are questions about current spending plan line items, or other recommendations for additional spending plan line items to be addressed in March. This is an informational item only.

II. Spending Plan Process

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's next biennial budget during odd-year legislative sessions, the board considers and approves a spending plan for the distribution of grant funding. The OWEB Spending Plan guides the agency's grant investments for the biennium. Available funding for the board to distribute includes Measure 76 Lottery, federal, salmon license plate revenues, and other miscellaneous funds as these are available. The bulk of funding for OWEB's spending plan is from Measure 76 and the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). The Oregon Legislature routinely allocates PCSRF funding based on estimated federal grant awards over two years.

At its July 2019 meeting, the board adopted a 2019-2021 Spending Plan totaling \$99.12 million. In June 2020, the board revised the spending plan to include additional PCSRF funding that would have increased the total to \$103.999 million; however, at that time, the board also reduced the spending plan by \$30 million to account for lottery revenue reductions due to the spring lottery shutdown (Attachment A).

III. 2021-23 Spending Plan Timeline

The 2021-23 Spending Plan will be approved by the board in June 2021. In preparation for that approval, the following steps will occur:

- In December 2020, the board will provide an indication of the percentages it would like to include for the overall spending plan budget categories and identify any questions

they have related to specific spending plan line items that warrant further conversation in March, 2021.

- Between the December and March meetings, staff, in consultation with subcommittees as needed, will discuss funding options for specific grant types within each category.
- In March 2021, staff will present to the board information about each of the line items within each category of the spending plan and propose an investment amount for each line item based on the overall percentages indicated by the board in December. The board will provide feedback on the funding amounts for each grant type.
- In June 2021, staff will present 2021-23 spending plan recommendations for board approval, using final revenue numbers for the 2021-23 biennium.
- In July 2022, the board will consider additional funds for the spending plan from PCSRF and recaptured grant funding, similar to the approval at the June 2020 board meeting.

IV. Spending Plan Percentages

Attachment B to the staff report provides an initial recommendation of percentages for board consideration to allocate funds among the Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, Operating Capacity, and Other categories.

As referenced in the Item F, Budget and Legislative Updates staff report, the revenue forecast for General and Lottery funds was updated in November. Based on the forecast, it is estimated that the 2021-23 spending plan will be \$104.076 million in the first year, with an additional \$6.9 million available in year two based on successful receipt of PCSRF funding. Percentages are provided based on those second-year numbers, which will be updated again in May with both the latest revenues and any recaptured funds from current grants, prior to the board's final spending plan decision in June.

The initial recommendation of percentages for board consideration are similar to the percentages in the current spending plan, with FIP and other decreasing by 1% and open solicitation increasing by 2%. At the recommended percentage, the FIP allocation would allow for solicitation of a new cohort of implementation FIPs with \$10 million available, which is the amount recommended by the board for the previous FIP solicitation.

V. Spending Plan Categories

Attachment A is the current spending plan for the board to review in considering whether new line items are warranted or to highlight questions for staff response at the April board meeting. Attachment C provides a brief description of each spending plate category.

VI. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

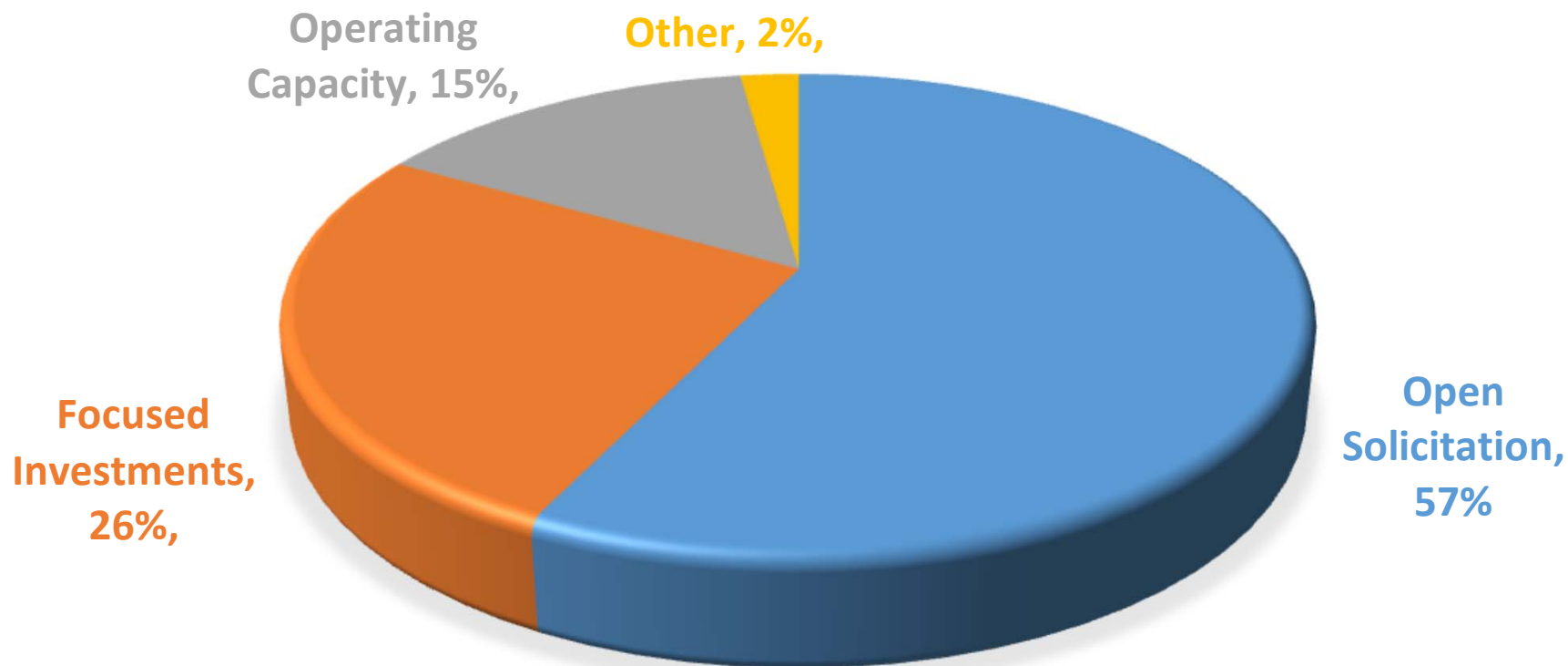
Attachment A. Current 2019-21 Spending Plan

Attachment B. Proposed Percentages for 2021-2023 Spending Plan

Attachment C. Spending Plan Category Summaries

	2019-21 SPENDING PLAN for M76 & PCSRF Funds	Oct 2020 additions	Spending Plan as of Oct 2020	Oct 2020 Awards	TOTAL Awards To- Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To- Date
1	Open Solicitation:					
2	Restoration		19.202		15.945	3.257
3	Technical Assistance					
4	Restoration TA		2.491		1.966	0.525
5	CREP TA		1.163		1.163	0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement		1.248		1.000	0.248
7	Monitoring grants		1.753		1.753	0.000
8	Land and Water Acquisition					
9	Acquisition		4.905		4.905	0.000
10	Acquisition TA		0.000		0.000	0.000
11	Weed Grants		3.000		3.000	0.000
12	Small Grants		1.500		1.500	0.000
13	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes		0.760		0.760	0.000
14	TOTAL	0.000	36.022	0.000	31.992	4.030
15	% of assumed Total Budget		46.78%			
16	Focused Investments:					
17	Deschutes		2.085		2.085	0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat		0.780		0.780	0.000
19	Harney Basin Wetlands		2.400		2.400	0.000
20	Sage Grouse		0.474		0.474	0.000
21	Ashland Forest All-Lands		2.000		2.000	0.000
22	Upper Grande Ronde		2.311		2.311	0.000
23	John Day Partnership		4.000		4.000	0.000
24	Baker Sage Grouse		1.343		1.343	0.000
25	Warner Aquatic Habitat		1.713		1.713	0.000
26	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp		1.500		1.500	0.000
27	Clackamas Partnership		3.354		3.354	0.000
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.150		0.150	0.000
29	TOTAL	0.000	22.110	0.000	22.110	0.000
30	% of assumed Total Budget		28.71%			
31	Operating Capacity:					
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)		14.330		14.330	0.000
33	Statewide org partnership support		0.425		0.425	0.000
34	Organizational Collaborative		0.100		0.100	0.000
35	Partnership Technical Assistance		0.779		0.779	0.000
36	TOTAL	0.000	15.634	0.000	15.634	0.000
37	% of assumed Total Budget		20.30%			
38	Other:					
39	CREP		0.750		0.750	0.000
40	Governor's Priorities		0.793		0.793	0.000
41	Strategic Implementation Areas		0.700		0.700	0.000
42	Natural Resource Emergency	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.000
43	TOTAL	1.000	3.243	1.000	3.243	0.000
44	% of assumed Total Budget		4.21%			
45	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	1.000	77.009	1.000	72.979	4.030
46	OTHER DIRECTED					
47	ODFW - PCSRF		11.690		11.690	0.000
48	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.321		0.321	0.000
49	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.000		0.000	0.000
50	TOTAL	0.000	12.011	0.000	12.011	0.000
51	TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds	1.000	89.020	1.000	84.990	4.030

Staff-Proposed 2021-23 Spending Plan Percentages



Spending Plan Category Summaries

Open Solicitation - Restoration

Restoration grants are OWEB's primary method of delivering support for watershed projects that restore watershed functions. Restoration grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program. Restoration grants aid landowners to restore watershed health locally and have been part of OWEB's history since its beginning in 1987 as the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board.

Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance

Technical assistance grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program. Technical assistance grants through the open solicitation process are capped at \$75,000 per grant. These grants play a key role in developing future restoration grant proposals and increase the capacity of OWEB's local partners to engage in project development, planning, design, coordination and permitting.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Cost-Share Payments and Technical Assistance

The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and Farm Services Agency, with technical support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and local partners including soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and resource conservation and development councils. The purpose of this long-standing program is to restore, maintain, and enhance streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners enrolled in CREP receive annual rental payments and state and federal cost-share incentives to install approved conservation measures such as planting trees and shrubs and installing fencing and livestock watering facilities. OWEB also provides competitive, statewide CREP Technical Assistance (TA) grants every two years. These grants support costs associated with local CREP implementation including staffing, travel, training, outreach, and planning.

Open Solicitation – Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement funds are invested through local grantees to communicate and engage with landowners, organizations, and the community about the need for, feasibility, and benefits of a specific eligible restoration or acquisition project or program that leads to development of eligible projects within an identified geography. Eligible projects are focused on a specific project site or sites, or that support resource assessment and planning that results in identification of a specific project site or sites; and will lead to eligible restoration or acquisition projects within a specific timeframe. Projects whose primary purpose is education are not eligible.

Open Solicitation - Monitoring

Open Solicitation Monitoring Grants are awarded once per year in the fall grant cycle. Grants can be used to assist local partnerships with: assessing watershed conditions to determine the quality of the existing environment; identifying causes for changes in trajectory (either up or down) in habitat, fish and wildlife populations and water quality; and developing plans to guide future monitoring efforts.

OWEB's monitoring grants assist the agency in meeting its responsibility to: 1) provide support for cooperative monitoring activities, 2) describe the results of restoration investments, and 3) report on progress of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

Land and Water Acquisitions

OWEB funds projects involving the acquisition of interests in land and water from willing sellers for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat for native fish or wildlife. OWEB-funded interests in land and water may be held by a variety of entities including, but not limited to, local, state and federal agencies, tribes, and not-for-profit conservation organizations and land trust trusts. OWEB funds several types of land and water acquisitions: the purchase of property in fee simple, conservation easements, permanent water rights, and water leases. The land acquisition TA line item was discontinued in the 2019-2021 spending plan after a pilot in the preceding biennium.

Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) noxious weed control grants are awarded annually through the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB). Grant projects protect watershed health, native fish, and wildlife habitat from the negative impacts of State Listed noxious weeds. The OSWB works to fund as many high-priority projects as possible with the available funds. Grants are restricted to projects that restore, enhance or protect fish and wildlife habitat, watershed functions, native salmonid populations, or water quality. Grants are for on-the-ground noxious weed control work. They must address State Listed noxious weeds and can include assessment, survey, outreach, and project design activities that are necessary to enable the weed control portion of the project. ODA and OWEB partner to support implementation of high-priority noxious weed control statewide. Noxious weed control is a first step in restoring watershed health and key to protecting the investment in Oregon's restoration work.

Small Grant Program

OWEB Small Grant Program funds are awarded biennially to cooperative partnerships of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. Twenty-eight teams form to prioritize and implement smaller-scale watershed restoration projects. Teams must select from an OWEB rule-defined list when identifying priority watershed concerns for their Small Grant Area. Priority concerns include fish passage; urban impact reduction; water quality and quantity/irrigation efficiency; road impact reduction; and instream, riparian, wetland, and upland process and function.

Small grants cannot exceed \$15,000 and are often the first grant a landowner may implement, leading to future restoration investments through the open solicitation grant program.

Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes

Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes is the new title for the previous Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in OWEB's spending plan. This item includes OWEB-led initiatives that evaluate specific types of restoration actions at a larger geographic and temporal scale, rather than at the project scale. This program-level monitoring and evaluation that is supported through targeted investments is different from open solicitation monitoring grants, which are conceptualized by local partners and considered through OWEB's responsive grant program.

Focused Investment Partnership – Implementation

Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) – Implementation investments address a board-identified priority of significance to the state; achieve clear and measurable ecological outcomes; use integrated, results-orientated approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and are implemented by high-performing partnerships. The board selected the following priority areas for focused investments at its April 2015 meeting:

- 1) Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat
- 2) Oregon Closed Lake Basin Wetland Habitat
- 3) Dry-type Forest Habitat
- 4) Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
- 5) Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
- 6) Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
- 7) Coastal Estuaries

Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring

The approach employed by Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) provides an opportunity to learn about the progress and outcomes possible under six-year investments. Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) evaluates the dedicated FIP funding to help board, staff, and stakeholders to adaptively manage partnership investments in the future.

Council Capacity

Council Capacity grants are awarded biennially and help support the operations of effective watershed councils that engage people in their communities to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration of watersheds. OWEB has provided operating grants to watershed councils for more than 15 years. Watershed councils are locally based, voluntary, and under ORS 541.890(15), "designated by a local government group convened by a county governing body, to address the goal of sustaining natural resource and watershed protection, restoration and enhancement within a watershed."

OWEB does not create or oversee watershed councils. OWEB has discretion to provide capacity grants to councils that represent a balance of interests in their watersheds and demonstrate the potential to protect and enhance the quality of their watersheds. Councils also are expected to assure a high level of citizen involvement in the development and implementation of watershed action programs (ORS 541.910).

Soil and Water Conservation District Capacity

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Capacity grants provide funding for 45 SWCDs to work with landowners to conserve natural resources and lend support to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program. The funding is divided into two funds for each SWCD:

- 8) *Scope of Work* funds support working with landowners and partners to protect and conserve natural resources; specifically, providing technical assistance and community engagement for the restoration and protection of native fish and wildlife, watersheds, and water quality through implementation of Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans.
- 9) *District Operations Fund* supports the capacity of the SWCDs to comply with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) requirements, conduct business, and help landowners and partners.

SWCDs are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. SWCDs are considered municipal corporations. They are governed by specific enabling legislation under ORS 568. The members of SWCD Boards of Directors are elected officials, to serve on either a five- or seven-member board.

Statewide Organizational Partnership Support

The Conservation Partnership includes The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC), Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), and Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network (OCEAN). These separate groups collaborate and coordinate to deliver technical support, member services, program development, training, and outreach to their stakeholders. Since 2007, the board has approved grants and supported the efforts of these organizations, recognizing that they provide a vital link between OWEB's programs and successful on-the-groundwork. OWEB's funding has supported various deliverables in past biennia, including conferences, trainings, one-on-one work with local organizations, and youth activities.

Organizational Collaboration

Organizational Collaboration grants support new or expanded strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local partners that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities. Activities may include 1) changing the operational structure of the organization(s) which may result in sharing of staff and services with other councils, districts or organizations, or 2) merger/consolidations of councils, districts, or councils and districts. The applicants must demonstrate that the organizational restructuring options being considered will strengthen organizational impact and build resiliency and sustainability of the organization(s).

Partnership Technical Assistance

Oregon is a leader in collaborative approaches to restoration. After offering two biennia of grants to support partnership development and development of a strategic action plan, there is now a diversity of partnerships operating in Oregon working collaboratively on ecological outcomes. Some of those partnerships are a direct result of receiving a Capacity Building or Development FIP and are now high-performing partnerships with strategic action plans. Some are just forming and might be future applicants to the program.

Governor's Priorities

The Governor's Priorities spending plan line item supports work within the sideboards of Ballot Measure 76 that furthers priority programs and initiatives related to restoration in Oregon. Typically, these investments address landscape-scale or emerging issues related to restoration needs of importance as identified by the Governor's Office. Grant investments are targeted and catalyze broad-scale, multi-organizational work.

Under Ballot Measure 76, OWEB's funding has flexibility to address a range of needs that ultimately lead to on-the-ground restoration work. This, combined with Oregon's approach to addressing broad-scale initiatives through multi-organizational partnerships, has resulted in the use of OWEB funding as a catalyst to support emerging or particularly complex natural resource challenges and opportunities.

Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) program

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program is leading the "Strategic Implementation Area" (SIA) program, where select areas around the state will receive focused stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, and monitoring to address priority non-point source water quality concerns in agriculturally influenced areas. Water quality goals are achieved by voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address management concerns, and by ODA enforcing water quality regulations.

Strategic Plan Implementation

In the 2018 strategic plan, several areas are ripe for partnership, either to gather more information, to develop and complete monitoring, or to begin to implement key plan elements. Oregon has many highly equipped organizations that are poised to assist in this effort. Funding is to work in partnership with other organizations to implement key measures within the strategic plan.



Kate Brown, Governor



Agenda Item H supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – 2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant Guidance Updates
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2021-2023 biennium council capacity grant guidance and seeks board approval of changes to the guidance.

II. Background

In July 2014, the board adopted administrative rules and guidance for watershed council (council) capacity grants, which help support the operating capacity of effective councils. Biennial grants have now been awarded three times under the revised program. The 2021-2023 biennium grant offering will be announced in December 2020, with applications due in March 2021 and board action on the grants in June 2021.

Operating guidelines for the council capacity grant program are provided in both rule (OAR 695-040) and the board adopted guidance document. This approach allows staff the flexibility to adjust the program, when necessary, to improve program delivery and be responsive to the needs of councils.

III. 2021-2023 Operating Capacity Grant Offering

The 2019-2021 biennium has been a challenging biennium for many of the 57 councils currently funded with operating capacity grants. COVID-19 has significantly impacted how councils hold meetings, engage with the public, and implement on-the-ground restoration projects. In addition, a record setting fire season all but stopped and redirected the work of a number of councils and their local partners. With these challenges in mind, OWEB staff propose changes to the 2021-2023 council capacity grant offering and associated guidance document to streamline the process and support effective councils around the state. The proposed changes are summarized in Attachment A.

For the 57 councils with current operating capacity grants, the attached guidance document (Attachment B) proposes a streamlined review process. OWEB has an existing funding relationship with these councils, and staff will use the information in the grant

applications, along with knowledge of and documented experience from this existing relationship, to complete a streamlined review of the applications.

There are three councils that OWEB currently is not funding due to previous Do Not Fund decisions by the OWEB Board. OWEB staff believe it is important to provide an opportunity for these councils to apply for 2021-2023 operating capacity funding. However, because of the previous Do Not Fund decisions, it also is important that OWEB utilize the full application review process, including pre-application consultations, outlined in the attached guidance (Attachment C) to evaluate these councils.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the changes to the 2021-2023 council capacity grant program and guidance documents.

Attachments

Attachment A. Summary of council capacity grant guidance changes

Attachment B. Draft 2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant Guidance for councils funded in 2019-2021

Attachment C. Draft 2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant Guidance for councils not funded in 2019-2021

Summary of Proposed Changes to Council Capacity Grant Guidance Document for 2021-2023

General

1. Split the Guidance into two documents:
 - a. 2021-2023 Guidance for Outcome-Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants: Watershed Councils funded in the 2019-2021 Biennium
 - b. 2021-2023 Guidance for Outcome-Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants: Watershed Councils NOT funded in the 2019-2021 Biennium

Background and Definitions

1. Combined these two sections. Attachment B, page 2, Attachment C, page 2
2. Added a definition of Progress. Attachment B, page 3, Attachment C, page 3

How to Apply

1. Consultations will be required for councils wishing to apply that do not currently have an Operating Capacity grant. Attachment C, page 3

Eligibility Criteria and Review

1. OWEB staff will use the results of the 2019-2021 eligibility review to determine applicant eligibility for 2021-2023 cycle. Attachment B, page 3

Merit Criteria and Evaluation

1. Councils with an existing council capacity grant will be reviewed using a streamlined process. Instead of a two-step review process, involving first OWEB staff and then when questions or concerns are raised an external review team, only OWEB staff will review the applications. Attachment B, page 5

Board Action

1. All councils with an existing council capacity grant will be recommended for funding at the same, full funding level, instead of two funding levels, full and reduced funding. Attachment B, page 5

2021-2023 Guidance for Outcome-Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants: Watershed Councils funded in the 2019-2021 Biennium

How to use this Guidance

On July 29, 2014, the OWEB Board adopted 1) Oregon Administrative Rules 695-040-0010 through 0150 for Outcome-Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants (Council Capacity Grants), and 2) this Guidance document. OWEB staff will use this Guidance in administering the Council Capacity Grant program.

A watershed council that wants to apply for a Council Capacity Grant should read this Guidance to determine:

- Whether the council is eligible to apply,
- How to apply,
- How the application and the council will be evaluated, and
- How funding decisions are made.

Guidance Updates

This Guidance will be periodically updated by the OWEB Board as needed. The Board delegates to OWEB staff the authority to make non-policy updates, such as deadlines for eligibility and application materials; staff contact information; website links; and correction of typos and errors.

Contact Information

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Chapter 1: Background and Definitions

Background

Operating Capacity Investments are a core element of OWEB's 2018 Strategic Plan and 2013 Long-Term Investment Strategy. Council Capacity Grants:

- Help support operating costs of effective watershed councils;
- Are performance and outcome-based; and
- Contain high standards for eligibility, reporting and accountability.

OWEB envisions a statewide watershed restoration system that is resilient, sustainable and achieves ecological outcomes. Experience gained from supporting watershed work since 1997, and studies of successful watershed groups, demonstrate this vision can be achieved with watershed councils that:

- Are strong organizations with access to diverse skillsets.
- Have broad and deep support from local and regional communities.
- Engage a balance of interested and affected people, businesses, and communities in their watershed to participate in voluntary, cooperative conservation.
- Secure diversified funding and/or build strategic collaborations with other councils and/or natural resource groups to increase collective local capacity.

Definitions

These terms are used throughout this Guidance. Additional definitions are provided in Council Capacity Grant rules OAR 695-040-0020.

1. **Coordinating council:** A council that provides support to, and coordinates the work of, multiple councils. The coordinating council's governing body includes at least one member from each council participating in the coordinating council.
2. **Membership organization:** An organization with a defined group of individuals who play a role in the governance of the organization (i.e., by voting for a board of directors or other governing body that is responsible for the governance of the council).
3. **Local government:** Defined in ORS 174.116(1)(a) as all cities, counties and local service districts located in this state, and all administrative subdivisions of those cities, counties and local service districts.
4. **Council's governing body:** Means the group of people who have the responsibility to a) ensure that the council meets legal requirements, b) support successful achievement of the council's goals, and c) create a structure, policies, and procedures that support good governance.
5. **On-the-ground watershed restoration:** Means projects intended to 1) protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats and 2) projects to protect or restore natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows.
6. **Organizational development and management:** Activities with the objective of improving the council's organizational effectiveness and health.

7. **Progress (as used in merit criteria 2-4):** Means actions that demonstrate forward movement toward an overarching goal or objective. Progress is not measured by the number of actions, but by demonstrated forward movement on the identified actions.
8. **Stakeholder engagement:** Activities with the purpose to communicate and build ongoing, permanent relationships with landowners, organizations, and the community in the watershed for the purposes of carrying our eligible restoration and acquisition projects, or programs that lead to development of eligible projects.

Chapter 2: How to Apply

APPLICATION WINDOW

December 21, 2020 – March 11, 2021, 5:00pm.

Applications are only accepted through OWEB's Online Application System.

Online Application: <https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/oweb/oa/>

Guidance to help you fill out the application is always available in the top navigation bar of the online application. An application template is also available after you log in and choose "Create a New Application."

Chapter 3: Eligibility Criteria and Review

Purpose of Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria define how OWEB will determine whether a watershed council is eligible to apply for a Council Capacity Grant. The eligibility criteria do not limit or control the existence or creation of watershed councils. Watershed councils may form according to ORS 541.910 and 541.890(15); however, OWEB shall not review an application for a Council Capacity Grant unless OWEB determines the council or group of councils meets the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility criteria seek to ensure that OWEB's council capacity investment:

- Is an effective and accountable use of public funds;
- Supports councils that meet the intent of Oregon statutes defining watershed councils; and
- Encourages strategic collaboration to build collective local capacity for watershed restoration.

OWEB Eligibility Review

For the 2021-2023 Council Capacity application cycle, councils will not be required to submit materials for the eligibility review. OWEB staff will use the results of the 2019-2021 eligibility review to determine applicant eligibility.

Chapter 4: Merit Criteria and Evaluation

Goals of OWEB's Merit Evaluation

- Ensure strategic and accountable investment of public funds;
- Encourage continuous improvement in watershed councils' organizational management, operating structure, and functions, and the planning and implementation of on-the-ground watershed protection, restoration, enhancement, and stakeholder engagement activities; and
- Ensure watershed councils are working toward strengthening their role in their watersheds through activities focusing on council resilience, leadership, collaboration, and representing a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed as required by ORS 541.910(2).

Information Considered in Merit Review

The four merit criteria below guide OWEB's evaluation of a council's progress and performance. OWEB will consider:

- The Council Capacity Grant application.
- OWEB staff's knowledge of council performance, including information gained through the council's OWEB project grants and OWEB staff's firsthand knowledge of council activities.
- Any supplemental information provided by the council in response to OWEB's request.
- If requested by OWEB, interviews with council officers and staff.

Merit Criteria

Merit Criterion #1: Effective Governance and Management

The council has effective bylaws or charter and policies and procedures, and follows them. The council includes a balance of interested and affected persons from the watershed on its governing body. The council regularly, but at least every three years, evaluates and takes action to improve its organization including bylaws, operations and policies and procedures.

The governing body takes action to ensure the council meets legal obligations and requirements; support successful achievement of the council's goals; and create organizational structure, policies, and procedures to support good governance. The council's governing body provides effective oversight of staff and contractors.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning

In planning its priority work, the council makes progress in engaging a balance of interested and affected persons in the watershed. The council uses its planning documents, such as the action plan, strategic plan, and other relevant documents, to identify and implement on-the-ground watershed restoration and stakeholder engagement projects. The council regularly evaluates its action plan and work plans and makes adjustments to respond to changes and challenges.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

The council's actions result in progress in completing priority, on-the-ground watershed restoration work.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

The council's actions result in progress in achieving specific stakeholder engagement objectives.

Merit Evaluation

Review

Application materials will be reviewed using a streamlined process that will only include OWEB staff.

OWEB staff will meet to evaluate merit by considering:

- The Council Capacity Grant application;
- OWEB staff's knowledge of the council, including but not limited to the council's history of performance on project and Council Capacity Grants.

Chapter 5: Board Action

Funding recommendations and Board awards

Staff funding recommendations will be based

- The merit evaluation,
- Available funding, and
- Merger Funding Policy (see attachment A).

Staff funding recommendations and Board awards

1. All councils that received council capacity grant funding in the 2019-2021 biennium will be recommended for the same, full funding level.
2. Merger Funding for 2 or more councils that have merged.

If two or more councils successfully complete a merger, they may receive merger funding in addition to the base capacity grant award. The details of this policy and implementation process can be found in attachment A.

Chapter 6: Use of Funds

Council Capacity Grants help fund staff, contractors and other costs of watershed councils. All eligible costs described within OWEB's Budget Categories Definitions and Policy document are eligible under Council Capacity Grants. If a council chooses to use council capacity grants funds for any aspect of a restoration project, it is the grantees responsibility to ensure they secure and provide to OWEB the appropriate landowner agreements, land use forms and/or permits in advance of implementing on-the-ground work.

Outreach Activities

Measure 76 and ORS 541.956 authorize OWEB to make grants available for outreach activities that are necessary for carrying out eligible restoration and acquisition projects that protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitat or that protect or restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions in order to improve water quality or stream flows. To qualify as necessary for restoration or acquisition, the project must be tied to a specific geography, address clearly articulated habitat or watershed or ecosystem function goals for that geography, and identify a clear path toward achieving the restoration or acquisition measurable outcomes within a reasonable and specific timeframe. PROJECTS WHOSE PRIMARY PURPOSE ARE EDUCATION ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

Chapter 7: Grant Agreement Conditions

Grant agreement conditions for all Council Capacity Grants

Send all watershed council meeting announcements to the OWEB Project Manager.

Upload the Summary Chart generated at completion of the assessment with the Council Capacity grant project completion report.

Submit a progress report to OWEB by June 30, 2022. The progress report must include:

- Documentation that the council submitted an annual report to all local government entities that designated the council. Documentation can include a meeting agenda if the report was presented in person or a copy of a sent email if the report was submitted electronically.
- The annual report that was submitted.

All councils that are placed in the reduced funding merit category will be required to submit a progress report every six months.

Other Conditions

Grant agreements may include additional conditions to support increased communication between OWEB Project Managers and the grantees when appropriate. Possible conditions include:

- Regular progress reports linked to requests for funds.
- Annual meetings between OWEB staff and the council staff and board officers to discuss progress.

Oregon Watershed Councils

North Coast Watershed Association

- *a. Ecola Creek WC
- *b. Nicolai-Wickiup WC
- *c. Skipanon WC
- *d. Youngs Bay WC

- e. Columbia Slough WC
- f. Greater Oregon City WC
- g. Johnson Creek WC
- *h. Lake Oswego WC
- *i. N. Clackamas Urban WC
- *j. Tryon Creek WC

Salem Keizer Area Watershed Councils

- *k. Claggett Creek WC
- † The North Santiam Watershed Council is also locally recognized in the Mill Creek and Pringle watersheds.

- *l. Spring Valley WC
- *m. Rickreall WC
- *n. Glenn-Gibson WC

**The MidCoast Watersheds Council is also locally recognized in the Alsea Basin and Salmon Drift.

Wasco County Watershed Councils

- *Bakeoven WC
- *Fifteenmile WC
- *Mosier WC
- *The Dalles WC
- *White River WC

* Indicates locally recognized watershed councils that have never received their own individual Council Support Grant and are not eligible for a Council Capacity Grant.

For Purposes of OAR 695-040-0030(2)(a) Geographic Eligibility Criteria: Boundaries of Councils which received a Watershed Council Support Grant Before July 1, 2013.



Area with no watershed council

South Coast Watershed Council

- *Floras Cr./New River WC
- *Elk/Sixes River WC
- *Port Orford WC
- *Euchre Creek WC
- *Hunter Cr./Pistol River WC
- *Chetco River WC
- *Winchuck River WC



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St. NE Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
www.oregon.gov/OWEB

Updated by Paula Willis August 2017 using ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1 Oregon Lambert Projection, NAD 83 SRID 2992

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, NRCAN, METI, iPC, TomTom

Guidance for Merger Funding

Background

In 2013 the Board awarded its first Organizational Collaboration grants, one of which supported the merger of four watershed councils in the Rogue Basin. At the same time, the Board recognized the real costs associated with post-merger life and created the merger implementation grant offering. These grant funds can be used for strategic planning, board and staff development, and other real costs of merging multiple organizations. The goal of both the Organizational Collaboration and the Merger Implementation grant programs is to build capacity and support strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local organizations that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities.

Mergers in general are not common, and OWEB is in a unique situation as an agency which funds both mergers and ongoing operating costs of organizations. In addition, the agency believes that more organizations may consider merging in the future, and OWEB wants to support organizations in that process.

Merger Funding Approach

Pre-merger funding

Continue to provide Organizational Collaboration grants. Applicants requesting merger funding must include direct and clear measures of success for the merger process. The final project completion report must report on direct measures of success and methods for evaluating the new organization's post-merger progress toward integration.

Post-Merger Funding

Individual councils apply for a council capacity grant each biennium. If a group of councils is interested in merging they can apply for an organizational collaboration grant to help cover the costs of the merger process. The descriptions of funding options below are what two or more merged councils can apply for after the merger process is complete. The funding amount available is different when two, three, or four or more councils merge. The funding available reduces between the first biennium after the merger and the second biennium, reducing again in the third biennium. The explanation and proposed amounts are below. All council capacity grant award amounts are from the 2017-2019 biennium and are examples. Actual award amounts would be calculated on actual council capacity award amounts.

Four or more watershed councils

When developing the numbers below, staff took into consideration what four or more watershed councils would be eligible to receive if they had not merged. For example, in 2017-2019, that would be at least \$473,300 for a biennium.

In biennium 1 and 2 after the merger, in addition to their council capacity grant, the council could apply for merger implementation funding. Merger implementation funding in biennium 1 would be \$236,850, which is the council capacity grant award, \$118,425 x 2. In biennium 2 merger implementation funding would be \$207,243, which is the council capacity grant award, \$118,425 x 1.75. Beginning in biennium 3, and in all future biennia, the merged council would be eligible to receive additional merger funding of \$177,637, \$118,425x1.5.

Table 1 shows the distribution of funding across three biennia for a new organization where four or more watershed councils merged.

Table 1

	Council Capacity	Merger Funding	Total
Biennium 0 (pre-merger, four councils)	\$473,300	\$0	\$473,300
Biennium 1	\$118,425	\$236,850 (\$118,425x2)	\$355,275
Biennium 2	\$118,425	\$207,243 (\$118,425x1.75)	\$306,425
Biennium 3 and in all future biennia	\$118,425	\$177,637 (\$118,425x1.5)	\$296,062

Three watershed councils merge

When developing the numbers below, staff took into consideration what three watershed councils would be eligible to receive if they had not merged, in 2017-2019, that would be \$355,275 for the biennium.

In biennium 1 and 2 post merger, in addition to their council capacity grant, the council could apply for merger implementation funding. Merger implementation funding in biennium 1 would be \$207,243, which is the council capacity grant award, \$118,425x1.75. In biennium 2 merger implementation funding would be \$177,637, which is the council capacity grant award, \$118,425x1.5. Beginning in biennium 3, and in all future biennia, the merged council would be eligible to receive additional merger funding of \$148,031, \$118,425x1.25.

Table 2 shows the distribution of funding across three biennia for a new organization where three watershed councils merged.

Table 2

	Council Capacity	Merger Funding	Total
Biennium 0 (pre-merger)	\$355,275	\$0	\$355,275
Biennium 1	\$118,425	\$207,243 (\$118,425x1.75)	\$325,668
Biennium 2	\$118,425	\$177,637 (\$118,425x1.5)	\$296,062
Biennium 3 and in all future biennia	\$118,425	\$148,031 (\$118,425x1.25)	\$266,456

Two watershed councils merge

When developing the numbers below, staff took into consideration what two watershed councils would be eligible to receive if they had not merged, in 2017-2019 that would be \$236,850 for the biennium.

In biennium 1 and 2 post merger, the council could apply for merger implementation funding in addition to their council capacity grant. Merger implementation funding in biennium 1 would be \$88,818, which is the council capacity grant award, 118,425 x .75. In biennium 2 merger implementation funding would be \$59,212, which is the council capacity grant award, \$118,425 x .5. Beginning in biennium 3, and in all future biennia, the merged council would be eligible to receive additional merger funding of .25x the base award (\$118,425x.25=\$29,606).

Table 3 shows the distribution of funding across three biennia for a new organization where two watershed councils merged.

Table 3

	Council Capacity	Merger Funding	Total
Biennium 0 (per-merger)	\$236,850	\$0	236,850
Biennium 1	\$118,425	\$88,818 (118,425x .75)	\$207,243
Biennium 2	\$118,425	\$59,212 (\$118,425x .5)	\$177,637
Biennium 3 and in all future biennia	\$118,425	\$29,606 (\$118,425x .25)	\$148,031

2021-2023 Guidance for Outcome-Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants: Watershed Councils NOT funded in the 2019-2021 Biennium

How to use this Guidance

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Guidance Updates

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Contact Information

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Chapter 1: Background and Definitions

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5. **On-the-ground watershed restoration:** Means projects intended to 1) protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats and 2) projects to protect or restore natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows.
6. **Organizational development and management:** Activities with the objective of improving the council's organizational effectiveness and health.

7. **Progress (as used in merit criteria 2-4):** Means actions that demonstrate forward movement toward an overarching goal or objective. Progress is not measured by the number of actions, but by demonstrated forward movement on the identified actions.
8. **Stakeholder engagement:** Activities with the purpose to communicate and build ongoing, permanent relationships with landowners, organizations, and the community in the watershed for the purposes of carrying out eligible restoration and acquisition projects, or programs that lead to development of eligible projects.

Chapter 2: How to Apply

REQUIRED CONSULTATIONS: Councils interested in applying must first complete a consultation with OWEB staff. Consultations can be scheduled by emailing Courtney.Shaff@oregon.gov. Consultations will be from December 21, 2021 – January 29, 2021. No consultations will be scheduled after January 29, 2021. Councils are required to provide the following documents to OWEB 1 week before the scheduled consultation:

- Current list of council governing board members, including officers
- Bylaws
- Policies and Procedures
- Documentation of Local Recognition
- Council Adopted Action Plan

APPLICATION WINDOW: December 21, 2021- March 11, 2021.

Applications are only accepted through OWEB's Online Application System.

Applicants must complete all sections of the online application.

An OGMS login is required to access the online grant application. If no login exists for an organization, please [email Leilani Sullivan](mailto:Leilani.Sullivan@oregon.gov) at Leilani.Sullivan@oregon.gov to request one.

Online Application: <https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/oweb/oa/>

Guidance to help you fill out the application is always available in the top navigation bar of the online application. An application template is also available after you log in and choose "Create a New Application."

Chapter 3: Eligibility Criteria and Review

Purpose of Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria define how OWEB will determine whether a watershed council is eligible to apply for a Council Capacity Grant. The eligibility criteria do not limit or control the existence or creation of watershed councils. Watershed councils may form according to ORS 541.910 and 541.890(15); however, OWEB shall not review an application for a Council Capacity Grant unless OWEB determines the council or group of councils meets the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility criteria seek to ensure that OWEB's council capacity investment:

- Is an effective and accountable use of public funds;
- Supports councils that meet the intent of Oregon statutes defining watershed councils; and

- Encourages strategic collaboration to build collective local capacity for watershed restoration.

Eligibility Criteria

Local government designation as a watershed council

1. OWEB will determine local government designation by reviewing the local government ordinance or minutes of a local government action and reviewing the map of the geographic area designated by the county.
2. For watershed councils previously awarded a Watershed Council Support Grant, the council shall be designated as a watershed council by a local government.
3. For new or reorganized watershed councils, the council shall be designated as a watershed council by a county commission, county board, or county court. The documentation submitted to OWEB shall include a map of the geographic area designated by the county commission, board, or court.

Geographic Area and Population

1. A geographic area served by a council or group of councils can change. However, to be eligible, OWEB shall determine that a council or group of councils serves an area:
 - a. In which a council or group of councils previously received a Watershed Council Support Grant or Council Capacity Grant; and
 - b. That is the same or larger than the geographic area served by a council or group of councils as of July 1, 2013. To make the determination of “the same or larger,” OWEB shall use the OWEB Watershed Council Map, which was updated in June 2014 to correct council boundaries based on information supplied by councils; and
 - c. That includes a minimum population of 500 individuals within its designated boundary or boundaries.
 - i. If there is a question on population OWEB will use the most current U.S. Census Bureau’s census block shapefile for the state of Oregon and if necessary, absentee landowner information from county records.
2. No more than one applicant shall be eligible in the same geographic area.

Council Action Plan Adopted by Governing Body

OWEB shall determine whether the council has a Council Action Plan by reviewing the plan(s) and evidence of governing body adoption on file in OWEB’s records, and determining whether the plan(s) meet the minimum criteria described below.

A Council Action Plan is NOT a watershed assessment and is not the 2 year council capacity work plan. Action plans are living documents that will change over time as projects are implemented and new priorities arise. At a minimum, the plan or set of plans need to identify and prioritize ecological problems the council seeks to address, and voluntary on-the-ground watershed restoration activities the council will conduct to address those problems. The plan(s) can either be for the entire watershed or for sub watersheds, depending on the focus areas of the council. Council Action Plans may also contain other goals and objectives such as stakeholder engagement efforts, monitoring, and funding strategies for priority restoration work.

Organizational Structure and Business Operations

OWEB shall review the bylaws or charter and policies and procedures (“governing documents”) to determine whether they contain the required topics. [OAR 695-040-0030(5)]

OWEB shall also determine whether the governing documents were adopted by the council’s governing body. Acceptable evidence of governing body adoption is (a) Meeting minutes that describe the governing body’s adoption of the governing documents; or (b) A signature page contained within the governing documents and signed by the Board Chair or Secretary, dated, and indicating the action taken by the governing body.

OWEB will also determine when the council last reviewed its bylaws and policies and procedures. **Beginning in the 2023-2025 biennium OWEB will require council’s governing body to formally review these documents once every three years.**

OWEB Determination

Council governing documents shall cover all topics in OAR 695-040-0030(5) in order for OWEB to determine the council is eligible to apply.

Topics Covered in Current Bylaws or Charter

1. Council Mission

A council may have multiple purposes in its mission. However, at a minimum, the bylaws or charter shall indicate that “a primary purpose of the council is to work collaboratively with communities and landowners to develop and carry out voluntary watershed protection, restoration, enhancement, and stakeholder engagement activities.”

2. Governing Body and Officers

The bylaws or charter shall contain the following topics:

- a. How the governing body is selected;
- b. Titles of officers, e.g., Chair, President, Secretary, Treasurer;
- c. How officers are selected;
- d. Who is eligible for the governing body;
- e. Who is eligible to be an officer;
- f. Length of service on governing body;
- g. Length of service for officers;
- h. Powers of governing body;
- i. Powers of officers;
- j. Minimum number or frequency of governing body meetings;
- k. Decision making process of governing body; and
- l. A statement that the council intends its governing body to include a diverse range of geographic areas and community interests in the watershed in order to engage a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed as required by ORS 541.910(2).

3. Process for Amending Bylaws or Charter

The bylaws or charter shall describe a process for amending the bylaws or charter.

4. Membership Organization Provisions

If the council is a membership organization, the bylaws or charter shall also include the following topics:

- a. Who is eligible for watershed council membership;
- b. Minimum frequency of council membership meetings;
- c. The decision making role of the membership; and
- d. Mechanisms to remove members from the watershed council or terminate the voting rights of members. The bylaws or charter may provide for either removal or voting right termination, or provide for both.

Topics Covered in Current Policies and Procedures

1. **A list of the geographic areas and community interests** the council intends to include on its governing body in order to engage a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed pursuant to ORS 541.910(2).
2. **A policy that the council operates as an open and inclusive organization.** The policy shall include at a minimum the following elements:

Inviting the public to council meetings, and

The council, upon request, provides the public with meeting agendas and records of decisions. This does not include personnel discussions and actions.

3. **A policy that the council, or its fiscal sponsor, uses Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).**
4. **A policy that the council does not rely on litigation** to compel regulatory enforcement as a means to implement the council's mission.

Reason: Council Capacity Grants help support councils that engage people and communities to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration and protection of native fish or wildlife habitat and natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows. The role of watershed councils is to bring people together to solve problems.

Councils that use litigation to pursue protection, enhancement or restoration of watershed health (for example, litigation to enforce environmental regulations) are not eligible for Council Capacity Grants.

Litigation necessary to enforce contracts is not considered litigation to compel regulatory enforcement as a means to implement the council's mission.

Chapter 4: OWEB Eligibility Review

Eligibility Review

OWEB staff shall complete the eligibility review of Council Capacity grant applications and notify all councils of the results within one week of the application deadline. Councils determined to be ineligible may appeal to OWEB's Executive Director through the process described below.

Appeal Process

If a council disputes the determination it is not eligible to apply and wishes to appeal, it may appeal to the OWEB Director (OAR 695-040-0090(2)). The appeal shall follow all of the requirements below.

- Appeal by the Deadline: April 1, 2021.

- Appeal Materials: The council’s appeal letter and any attachments shall be sent to OWEB by delivery service that provides documentation of receipt (e.g., email that includes receipt of delivery confirmation, or registered or certified letter). To be considered, the letter shall be received by OWEB by the appeal deadline. Letters of support will not be reviewed and should not be submitted.
- Appeal Review and Decision: OWEB’s Executive Director will review the council’s letter and any attached information. A council’s appeal shall be granted only where the Executive Director determines the council provided clear and convincing evidence that the council meets all the eligibility criteria described in OAR 695-040-0030.

Future Eligibility Review Requests Allowed

Councils determined to be ineligible for a particular Council Capacity Grant offering may request eligibility review during future Council Capacity Grant offerings.

Chapter 5: Merit Criteria and Evaluation

Goals of OWEB’s Merit Evaluation

- Ensure strategic and accountable investment of public funds;
- Encourage continuous improvement in watershed councils’ organizational management, operating structure, and functions, and the planning and implementation of on-the-ground watershed protection, restoration, enhancement, and stakeholder engagement activities; and
- Ensure watershed councils are working toward strengthening their role in their watersheds through activities focusing on council resilience, leadership, collaboration, and representing a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed as required by ORS 541.910(2).

Information Considered in Merit Review

The four merit criteria below guide OWEB’s evaluation of a council’s progress and performance. OWEB will consider:

- The Council Capacity Grant application.
- OWEB staff’s knowledge of council performance, including information gained through the council’s OWEB project grants and OWEB staff’s firsthand knowledge of council activities.
- Any supplemental information provided by the council in response to OWEB’s request.
- If requested by OWEB, interviews with council officers and staff.

Merit Criteria

Merit Criterion #1: Effective Governance and Management

The council has effective bylaws or charter and policies and procedures, and follows them. The council includes a balance of interested and affected persons from the watershed on its governing body. The council regularly, but at least every three years, evaluates and takes action to improve its organization including bylaws, operations and policies and procedures.

The governing body takes action to ensure the council meets legal obligations and requirements; support successful achievement of the council's goals; and create organizational structure, policies, and procedures to support good governance. The council's governing body provides effective oversight of staff and contractors.

Evidence of Effective Governance and Management

CRITERIA o-r are new for the 2021-2023 biennium.

- a. The council holds elections according to its bylaws or charter.
- b. The council holds governing body meetings according to its bylaws or charter, and its governing body meets at least four times a year.
- c. The council operates as an open and inclusive organization according to its policies and procedures, including inviting the public to council meetings by publishing its meeting schedule in advance of meetings in a manner that provides adequate notice to the general public.
- d. The council, upon request, provides the public with records of its meetings and decisions.
- e. The council completes a self-evaluation or other assessment of its governing body at least once every two years.
- f. The council adopts an annual budget and regularly reviews that budget.
- g. The board regularly examines the nonprofit financial statements and discusses questions, concerns, issues, i.e. the board takes responsibility for the financial health of the nonprofit.
- h. The council has defined roles and responsibilities for its governing body and officers and follows them.
- i. The council has on file a current position description or set of deliverables for the council's executive director or coordinator.
- j. The council has personnel policies and follows them.
- k. The council coordinator or executive director is annually evaluated by the council.
- l. If the council is a membership organization,
- m. The council holds membership meetings according to its bylaws or charter, and
- n. The council membership meetings include agendas, attendance records, and records of decisions, and the council keeps this information on file and makes it available to the public upon request.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning

In planning its priority work, the council makes progress in engaging a balance of interested and affected persons in the watershed. The council uses its planning documents, such as the action plan, strategic plan, and other relevant documents, to identify and implement on-the-ground watershed restoration and stakeholder engagement projects. The council regularly evaluates its action plan and work plans and makes adjustments to respond to changes and challenges.

Evidence of Progress in Planning

- a. The council's 2-year work plan is reviewed and adopted by the council's governing body.
- b. Work plan projects are linked to the council's action plan and/or strategic plan.
- c. Council work plans are developed with consideration of the council's staffing and organizational resources.
- d. The council capacity grant application demonstrates the council is working with a mix of watershed stakeholders to plan and prioritize work to address current needs and is not operating in a manner that would alienate stakeholders. Example: working with a technical team, or a council project committee, to review and update the council's action plan(s). Regularly attending meetings of or otherwise engaging with stakeholders that do not typically participate in council activities.
- e. The council has a succession plan for board members and the executive director/coordinator.
- f. The council regularly engages in monitoring, assessments, or other actions that support using data and other watershed information to inform future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

The council's actions result in progress in completing priority, on-the-ground watershed restoration work.

Evidence of Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration (at a minimum a-c below; OWEB may request additional information if there are questions or concerns about whether there is progress in on-the-ground restoration)

- a. The application demonstrates the council's actions resulted in progress toward completing priority on-the-ground restoration projects.
- b. The application demonstrates the council has a clear niche related to on-the-ground restoration within the broader watershed community.
- c. The council's on-the-ground watershed restoration activities are linked to the council's action plan, strategic plan or a partnership strategic action plan.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

The council's actions result in progress in achieving specific stakeholder engagement objectives.

Evidence of Progress in Stakeholder Engagement (at a minimum a-c below; OWEB may request additional information if there are questions or concerns about whether there is progress in stakeholder engagement)

- a. The application demonstrates the council's actions resulted in progress toward completing stakeholder engagement activities for restoration purposes.
- b. The application demonstrates the council has a clear niche related to stakeholder engagement within the broader watershed community.
- c. The council's stakeholder engagement activities are linked to the council's action plan, strategic plan, a partnership strategic action plan or other stakeholder engagement plan.

- d. The application demonstrates the council is working to engage a broad mix of geographic areas and community interests within their watershed and not taking direct or indirect actions to alienate stakeholders.

Merit Evaluation

The merit evaluation will occur in two parts. The initial review will be completed by OWEB staff. The secondary review will include both OWEB staff and external reviewers.

Initial Review

Application materials will be initially reviewed by OWEB staff, including but not limited to:

- The Capacity Programs Coordinator;
- Regional Program staff;
- The Small Grant Program Coordinator.

OWEB staff will meet to evaluate merit by considering:

- The Council Capacity Grant application;
- OWEB staff's knowledge of the council, including but not limited to the council's history of performance on project and Council Capacity Grants.

Councils will receive a summary of the initial review and any requests for additional information by April 9, 2021.

Secondary Review

All applicants will participate in the secondary review. The secondary review will include OWEB staff and external reviewers.

The secondary review will be a virtual interview with the review panel and the council coordinator/executive director and board officers.

The virtual interview will occur the week of May 3, 2021 and last 1 hour. OWEB staff will contact the council coordinator/executive director the week of April 12, 2021 to schedule the interviews.

OWEB will send the following materials to external reviewers prior to the interview:

- Council Capacity Grant application.
- Additional information and documents provided by the council at OWEB's request.
- OWEB memo summarizing the initial merit evaluation, questions and concerns, and topic areas to be covered in the interview.

Notification of OWEB Merit Evaluation and Funding Recommendation

OWEB shall prepare brief summaries of the merit evaluations for each applicant. The evaluations and staff funding recommendations will be posted in OGMS at least 2 weeks before the OWEB Board meeting in which Council Capacity Grant awards will be considered.

Chapter 6: Board Action

Funding recommendations and Board awards

Staff funding recommendations will be based

- The merit evaluation,
- Available funding, and
- Merger Funding Policy (see attachment B).

Staff funding recommendations and Board awards

1. Full base award for councils that meet all merit criteria.

Councils meeting all merit criteria shall be placed in the highest merit category and be recommended for the same level of award.

2. Reduced base funding for councils that do not meet all merit criteria.

Councils that do not meet all merit criteria shall be placed in the reduced funding merit category and recommended for the same level of award. The reduced funding base award will be 80% of the full base award. For example, if the full base award is \$100,000, the reduced base award will be \$80,000.

3. Merger Funding for 2 or more councils that have merged.

If two or more councils successfully complete a merger, they may receive merger funding in addition to the base capacity grant award. The details of this policy and implementation process can be found in attachment B.

4. Discretion to rank Do Not Fund (inadequate performance).

OWEB has the discretion to place a council in the “do not fund” merit category. Factors OWEB will consider in this placement include:

- The council does not meet all merit criteria.
- The council’s history of performance over a period of years has resulted in little or no progress toward implementation and completion of on-the-ground watershed restoration projects.
- The council’s history of performance over a period of years has resulted in little or no progress toward implementation and completion of stakeholder engagement activities.
- The council’s history of organizational performance over a period of years has shown lack of board officer leadership, weak organizational structure, and/or poor organizational management.
- The council has made little or no progress toward implementation and completion of organizational development and management activities.

Chapter 7: Use of Funds

Council Capacity Grants help fund staff, contractors and other costs of watershed councils. All eligible costs described within OWEB’s Budget Categories Definitions and Policy document are eligible under Council Capacity Grants. If a council chooses to use council capacity grants funds for any aspect of a restoration project, it is the grantees responsibility to ensure they secure and provide to OWEB the

appropriate landowner agreements, land use forms and/or permits in advance of implementing on-the-ground work.

Outreach Activities

Measure 76 and ORS 541.956 authorize OWEB to make grants available for outreach activities that are necessary for carrying out eligible restoration and acquisition projects that protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitat or that protect or restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions in order to improve water quality or stream flows. To qualify as necessary for restoration or acquisition, the project must be tied to a specific geography, address clearly articulated habitat or watershed or ecosystem function goals for that geography, and identify a clear path toward achieving the restoration or acquisition measurable outcomes within a reasonable and specific timeframe. PROJECTS WHOSE PRIMARY PURPOSE ARE EDUCATION ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

Chapter 8: Grant Agreement Conditions

Grant agreement conditions for all Council Capacity Grants

Send all watershed council meeting announcements to the OWEB Project Manager.

Upload the Summary Chart generated at completion of the assessment with the Council Capacity grant project completion report.

Submit a progress report to OWEB by June 30, 2022. The progress report must include:

- Documentation that the council submitted an annual report to all local government entities that designated the council. Documentation can include a meeting agenda if the report was presented in person or a copy of a sent email if the report was submitted electronically.
- The annual report that was submitted.

All councils that are placed in the reduced funding merit category will be required to submit a progress report every six months.

Other Conditions

Grant agreements may include additional conditions to support increased communication between OWEB Project Managers and the grantees when appropriate. Possible conditions include:

- Regular progress reports linked to requests for funds.
- Annual meetings between OWEB staff and the council staff and board officers to discuss progress.

Oregon Watershed Councils

North Coast Watershed Association

- *a. Ecola Creek WC
- *b. Nicolai-Wickiup WC
- *c. Skipanon WC
- *d. Youngs Bay WC

- e. Columbia Slough WC
- f. Greater Oregon City WC
- g. Johnson Creek WC
- *h. Lake Oswego WC
- *i. N. Clackamas Urban WC
- *j. Tryon Creek WC

Salem Keizer Area Watershed Councils

- *k. Claggett Creek WC
- † The North Santiam Watershed Council is also locally recognized in the Mill Creek and Pringle watersheds.

- *l. Spring Valley WC
- *m. Rickreall WC
- *n. Glenn-Gibson WC

**The MidCoast Watersheds Council is also locally recognized in the Alsea Basin and Salmon Drift.

Wasco County Watershed Councils

- *Bakeoven WC
- *Fifteenmile WC
- *Mosier WC
- *The Dalles WC
- *White River WC

* Indicates locally recognized watershed councils that have never received their own individual Council Support Grant and are not eligible for a Council Capacity Grant.

For Purposes of OAR 695-040-0030(2)(a) Geographic Eligibility Criteria: Boundaries of Councils which received a Watershed Council Support Grant Before July 1, 2013.



Area with no watershed council



South Coast Watershed Council

- *Floras Cr./New River WC
- *Elk/Sixes River WC
- *Port Orford WC
- *Euchre Creek WC
- *Hunter Cr./Pistol River WC
- *Chetco River WC
- *Winchuck River WC



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Updated by Paula Willis August 2017 using ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1 Oregon Lambert Projection, NAD 83 SRID 2992

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, NRCAN, METI, iPC, TomTom

Guidance for Merger Funding

Background

In 2013 the Board awarded its first Organizational Collaboration grants, one of which supported the merger of four watershed councils in the Rogue Basin. At the same time, the Board recognized the real costs associated with post-merger life and created the merger implementation grant offering. These grant funds can be used for strategic planning, board and staff development, and other real costs of merging multiple organizations. The goal of both the Organizational Collaboration and the Merger Implementation grant programs is to build capacity and support strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local organizations that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities.

Mergers in general are not common, and OWEB is in a unique situation as an agency which funds both mergers and ongoing operating costs of organizations. In addition, the agency believes that more organizations may consider merging in the future, and OWEB wants to support organizations in that process.

Merger Funding Approach

Pre-merger funding

Continue to provide Organizational Collaboration grants. Applicants requesting merger funding must include direct and clear measures of success for the merger process. The final project completion report must report on direct measures of success and methods for evaluating the new organization's post-merger progress toward integration.

Post-Merger Funding

Individual councils apply for a council capacity grant each biennium. If a group of councils is interested in merging they can apply for an organizational collaboration grant to help cover the costs of the merger process. The descriptions of funding options below are what two or more merged councils can apply for after the merger process is complete. The funding amount available is different when two, three, or four or more councils merge. The funding available reduces between the first biennium after the merger and the second biennium, reducing again in the third biennium. The explanation and proposed amounts are below. All council capacity grant award amounts are from the 2017-2019 biennium and are examples. Actual award amounts would be calculated on actual council capacity award amounts.

Four or more watershed councils

When developing the numbers below, staff took into consideration what four or more watershed councils would be eligible to receive if they had not merged. For example, in 2017-2019, that would be at least \$473,300 for a biennium.

In biennium 1 and 2 after the merger, in addition to their council capacity grant, the council could apply for merger implementation funding. Merger implementation funding in biennium 1 would be \$236,850, which is the council capacity grant award, \$118,425 x 2. In biennium 2 merger implementation funding would be \$207,243, which is the council capacity grant award, \$118,425 x 1.75. Beginning in biennium 3, and in all future biennia, the merged council would be eligible to receive additional merger funding of \$177,637, \$118,425x1.5.

Table 1 shows the distribution of funding across three biennia for a new organization where four or more watershed councils merged.

Table 1

	Council Capacity	Merger Funding	Total
Biennium 0 (pre-merger, four councils)	\$473,300	\$0	\$473,300
Biennium 1	\$118,425	\$236,850 (\$118,425x2)	\$355,275
Biennium 2	\$118,425	\$207,243 (\$118,425x1.75)	\$306,425
Biennium 3 and in all future biennia	\$118,425	\$177,637 (\$118,425x1.5)	\$296,062

Three watershed councils merge

When developing the numbers below, staff took into consideration what three watershed councils would be eligible to receive if they had not merged, in 2017-2019, that would be \$355,275 for the biennium.

In biennium 1 and 2 post merger, in addition to their council capacity grant, the council could apply for merger implementation funding. Merger implementation funding in biennium 1 would be \$207,243, which is the council capacity grant award, \$118,425x1.75. In biennium 2 merger implementation funding would be \$177,637, which is the council capacity grant award, \$118,425x1.5. Beginning in biennium 3, and in all future biennia, the merged council would be eligible to receive additional merger funding of \$148,031, \$118,425x1.25.

Table 2 shows the distribution of funding across three biennia for a new organization where three watershed councils merged.

Table 2

	Council Capacity	Merger Funding	Total
Biennium 0 (pre-merger)	\$355,275	\$0	\$355,275
Biennium 1	\$118,425	\$207,243 (\$118,425x1.75)	\$325,668
Biennium 2	\$118,425	\$177,637 (\$118,425x1.5)	\$296,062
Biennium 3 and in all future biennia	\$118,425	\$148,031 (\$118,425x1.25)	\$266,456

Two watershed councils merge

When developing the numbers below, staff took into consideration what two watershed councils would be eligible to receive if they had not merged, in 2017-2019 that would be \$236,850 for the biennium.

In biennium 1 and 2 post merger, the council could apply for merger implementation funding in addition to their council capacity grant. Merger implementation funding in biennium 1 would be \$88,818, which is the council capacity grant award, 118,425 x .75. In biennium 2 merger implementation funding would be \$59,212, which is the council capacity grant award, \$118,425 x .5. Beginning in biennium 3, and in all future biennia, the merged council would be eligible to receive additional merger funding of .25x the base award (\$118,425x.25=\$29,606).

Table 3 shows the distribution of funding across three biennia for a new organization where two watershed councils merged.

Table 3

	Council Capacity	Merger Funding	Total
Biennium 0 (per-merger)	\$236,850	\$0	236,850
Biennium 1	\$118,425	\$88,818 (118,425x .75)	\$207,243
Biennium 2	\$118,425	\$59,212 (\$118,425x .5)	\$177,637
Biennium 3 and in all future biennia	\$118,425	\$29,606 (\$118,425x .25)	\$148,031



Kate Brown, Governor



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Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) Grants
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the current status of the 2020 SIAs and requests funding for one SIA, which is ready for implementation.

II. Background

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program leads the SIA program, under which select areas around the state receive focused stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, and monitoring funding to address priority non-point source water quality concerns in agriculturally influenced areas. Water quality goals are achieved by voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address issues, and by ODA enforcing water quality regulations.

The pause on grant funding implemented by the board in June included nine pending 2020 SIA grants. At the September board meeting staff shared with the board a plan for OWEB and ODA to work together to refine the funding approach and bring requests for SIA funding to the board as local partners are ready to begin implementation.

III. Current Status

In September OWEB and ODA staff met with the nine 2020 SIAs and discussed the revised funding approach and next steps. Most of the local partners expressed interest in more time to work with ODA and local partners before applying for SIA funding and beginning implementation. One SIA, Lower Deschutes, led by Sherman SWCD, was prepared to move forward with the application and is ready to begin implementation. The SWCD submitted an application for stakeholder engagement and technical assistance funding at the end of October and OWEB and ODA have been working together with the district on next steps. The district will apply for monitoring funding at a later date.

IV. Next Steps

There are eight remaining SIA's that will apply for funding in early 2021. OWEB and ODA staff are working with the remaining SIA leads to determine when is the appropriate time

to apply for the technical assistance and monitoring funding and staff will likely bring an additional SIA funding request to the board in March 2021.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board award \$99,951 of SIA funds and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds, through appropriate agreements with an award date of October 1, 2020.



Kate Brown, Governor



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Agenda Item J supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #5: Working Lands.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Appointments
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Background

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (commission) is appointed by the board, and is authorized by statute to recommend grant projects for succession planning, conservation management plans, and conservation easements and covenants on working lands. This staff report provides a recommendation to the board to reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the commission.

II. Commission Reappointments

By statute, the commission is nested under the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The board is tasked with appointing commissioners. The commission was established in 2018, with four-year terms that were initially staggered from one to four years. Commissioner Woody Wolfe of Wallowa represents farmer/rancher interests on the commission and Commissioner Lois Loop of Salem represents agricultural water quality interests. Both commissioners' terms expire in January 2021. Both are interested in serving a new four-year term on the commission, and both have been recommended by the Board of Agriculture.

III. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission for four-year terms.



September 23, 2020

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St NE #360
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

At the quarterly State Board of Agriculture meeting held today, the board discussed the recommendations for commissioner appointments to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC).

It is our understanding the first term for the farmer/rancher representative position currently held by Mr. Woody Wolfe from Wallowa and the agricultural water quality representative position currently held by Ms. Lois Loop from Salem will expire January 1, 2021.

The State Board of Agriculture voted to recommend the re-appointment of Mr. Wolfe and Ms. Loop for a second term.

If you have any questions, please contact me or our staff at the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hallock, Chair
State Board of Agriculture

cc: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, OWEB
Alexis Taylor, Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture



Kate Brown, Governor



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Agenda Item K supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 4: Diverse and Stable Funding Portfolio.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – Land Trust Project Selection and Management & Easement Stewardship
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Background

Part of OWEB's constitutional mandate is to fund land acquisition projects that permanently protect native fish and wildlife habitat. For the past 20 years, OWEB has invested in projects resulting in a portfolio of over 100 parcels. OWEB has conservation easements on properties where grantees acquired fee simple title, and third-party rights of enforcement on properties where grantees acquired conservation easements. This staff report is in response to board requests to better understand how land trusts determine which properties to invest in, and once legal interest is obtained, how conservation properties are stewarded.

II. Deschutes Land Trust Presentation

Recently celebrating 25 years of land conservation, Deschutes Land Trust has protected more than 17,500 acres of land in central Oregon, including 12 properties with OWEB investment. Most recently, the board awarded funds in June 2020 for the Trout Creek Preserve, which added another 5,680 acres to DLT's portfolio.

At the December board meeting, Brad Nye, Conservation Director at DLT will give a presentation on land trust project selection and management and easement stewardship and be available for dialogue with the board.

III. Recommendation

This is an information item only.



Agenda Item M supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – Cohort 2 FIP Biennial Progress Reporting
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update on Cohort 2 Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) initiatives that were awarded funding starting in the 2019-2021 biennium, including:

- Baker Sage-Grouse LIT – Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction Initiative
- Clackamas Partnership – Restoration for Native Fish Recovery Initiative
- John Day Basin Partnership – John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative
- Rogue Forest Partners – Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative
- Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership – Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative

Staff will introduce the biennial reporting and Cohort 2 partnerships, and partners will report on FIP initiative progress and answer questions from board members.

II. Background

In January 2019, the board selected five partnerships for FIP funding beginning in the 2019-2021 biennium. They comprise OWEB's second cohort of FIP initiatives.

FIP administrative rules require that partnerships report to the board on the progress of their initiatives at the end of each biennium (OAR 695-047-0130). For reference, Table 1 below outlines current FIP funding for each Cohort 2 initiative, and a map of FIP geographies is provided in Attachment A.

Table 1: FIP Cohort 2 Biennial Funding.

(Does not include Requested Amount for the 2023-2025 biennium.)

Cohort 2 FIPs	2019-2021 Award Amount	2021-2023 Requested Amount
Baker Sage-Grouse LIT	\$1,714,566	\$2,062,724
Clackamas Partnership	\$3,454,580	\$2,980,500
John Day Basin Partnership	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
Rogue Forest Partners	\$1,500,000	\$2,700,000
Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership	\$2,000,000	\$2,006,000
Total	\$12,669,146	\$13,749,224

III. Implementation

In order to implement their FIP initiatives, each partnership submits project grant applications for any of the following project types: partnership capacity, stakeholder engagement, land/water acquisition, technical assistance, monitoring, and restoration. Proposals are reviewed by technical review teams (TRT). The role of the TRT is to: a) verify that proposed projects contribute to the outputs and outcomes described in each partnership’s Strategic Action Plan; b) collaborate with OWEB and the partners to ensure that each project is technically sound, including optimal design and actions needed for successful implementation; and c) ensure that each proposal accurately and thoroughly reflects the project scope of services. Attachment B provides an accounting of each partnership’s FIP projects to date, including projects not yet submitted to OWEB that will use any balance of funding remaining for the biennium.

In previous reporting periods, staff have provided written reports in addition to in-person reporting with partners. Staff intend to provide Cohort 2 FIP written reports for the 2019-2021 biennium in the form of Progress Tracking Reports at the March 2021 board meeting. Progress Tracking Reports for Cohort 1 FIPs were shared with the board at the January 2020 meeting. Following the Cohort 2 FIP reporting in December, staff will recommend biennial funding requests for each of the Cohort 2 FIPs at the March 2021 board meeting.

IV. Recommendation

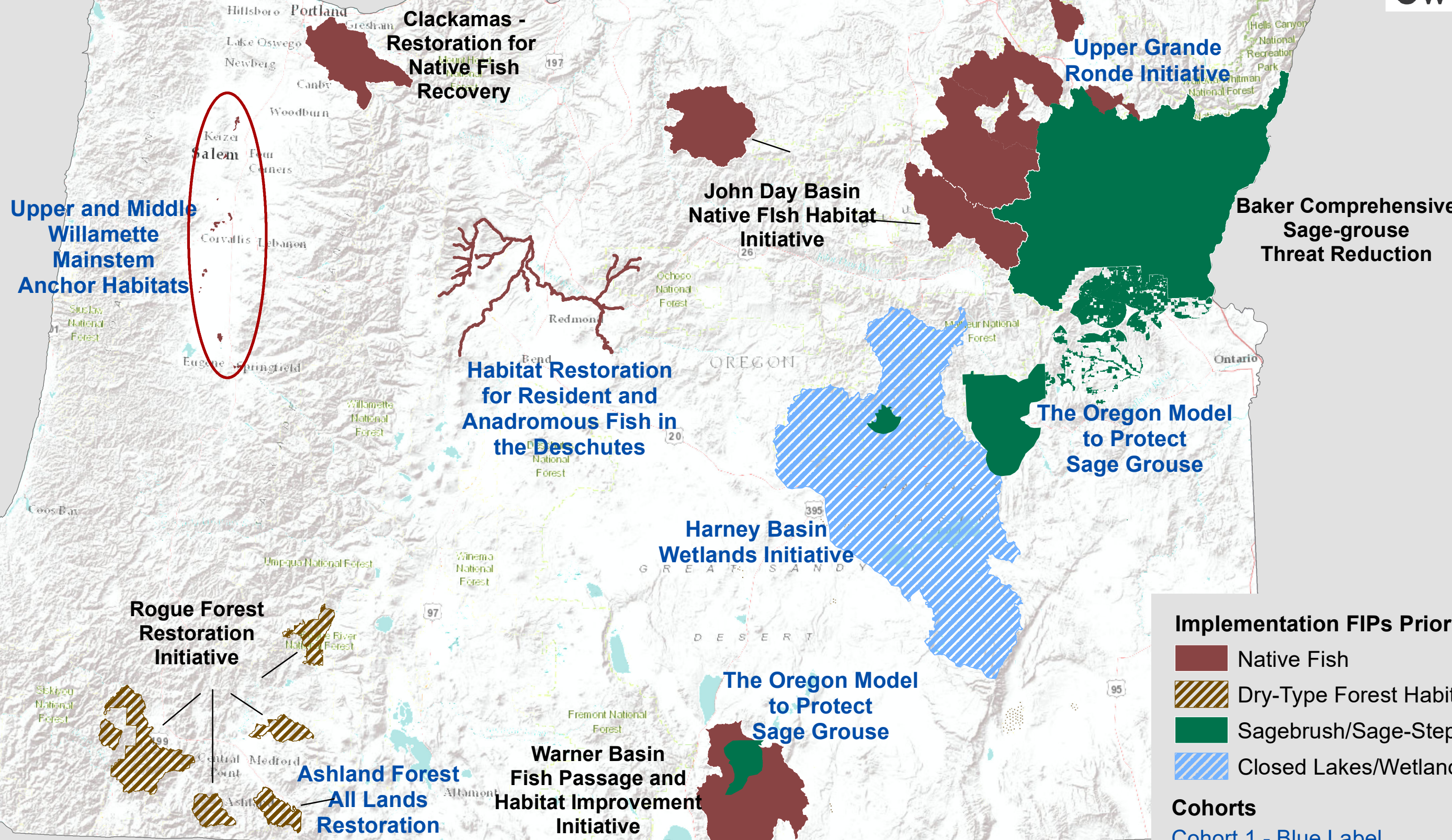
This is an information item only.

Attachments

- A. FIP Initiatives Map 2020
- B. Cohort 2 FIP Project Accounting



FIP Initiatives Map 2020

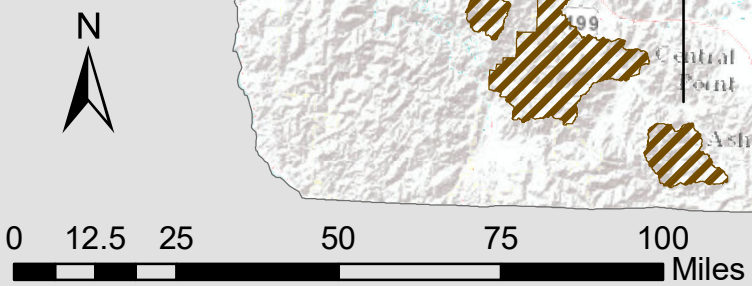


Implementation FIPs Priority

- Native Fish
- Dry-Type Forest Habitat
- Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe
- Closed Lakes/Wetlands

Cohorts

- Cohort 1 - Blue Label
- Cohort 2 - Black Label



Cohort 2 FIP Project Accounting

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Baker County	Baker Sage-grouse LIT: Implementation FIP Capacity Funding	220-8206-17225	Partnership Technical Assistance	\$149,085	\$27,948	Active	
Baker County	Baker Sage-grouse LIT: Stakeholder Engagement	220-8206-17237	Stakeholder Engagement	\$279,746	\$229,770	Active	
Baker County	Lawrence/Sardine Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration	220-8206-17361	Restoration	\$62,180	\$84,000	Active	
Tri-County CWMA	Love Reservoir Sage-grouse Habitat Enhancement Phase I	220-8206-17607	Restoration	\$254,055	\$531,742	Active	
Tri-County CWMA	Medical Springs Whitetop Control	220-8206-17609	Restoration	\$48,097	\$414,296	Active	
Tri-County CWMA	Unity Whitetop Containment & Control Phase I	220-8206-17610	Restoration	\$82,112	\$300,469	Active	
Tri-County CWMA	Keating Sage-grouse Broadleaf Weed Control Phase I	220-8206-17608	Restoration	\$92,294	\$121,264	Active	
Power Basin WC	CCAA Coordinator	220-8206-18736	Stakeholder Engagement	\$127,680	\$36,500	Active	
Tri-County CWMA	Glasgow Butte Habitat Restoration	220-8206-18734	Restoration	\$149,657	\$133,475	Active	
Baker County	Harrell and Flack	220-8206-18710	Restoration	\$47,509	\$101,200	Active	
Baker County	Lookout Mountain Restoration	TBD	Restoration	\$115,817	\$92,740	To Be Submitted	To be submitted in Fall 2020 grant cycle. Technical review scheduled for Dec. 10, 2020
Baker County	Keating Powder River Restoration Project 2021	TBD	Restoration	\$96,685	\$64,100	To Be Submitted	To be submitted in Fall 2020 grant cycle. Technical review scheduled for Dec. 10, 2020
Baker County	Maiden Gulch	TBD	Restoration	\$89,500	TBD	To Be Submitted	This project is anticipated for the Spring (April) 2021 application cycle.
Tri-County CWMA	Forb Islands	TBD	Restoration	\$30,000	TBD	To Be Submitted	This project is anticipated for the Spring (April) 2021 application cycle.
Tri-County CWMA	Keating Yellow Starthistle	TBD	Restoration	\$90,000	TBD	To Be Submitted	This project is anticipated for the Spring (April) 2021 application cycle.
TOTAL				\$1,714,417	\$2,137,504		
19-21 BIENNIAL AWARD				\$1,715,000			
BALANCE				\$583			

Baker Sage-grouse Local Implementation Team (LIT)
 Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction Initiative

Biennium 2019-2021

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Clackamas River Basin Council	Clackamas Partnership Initiative Capacity	220-8207 - 17215	Partnership Technical Assistance	\$155,000	\$40,249	Active	Completed 2 online application cycles and OWEB TRT reviews. Ongoing partnership coordination for restoration, stakeholder engagement, data and monitoring.
North Clackamas Watershed Council	Watershed Assessment, Action Plan & Project Prioritization	220-8207 - 17280	Technical Assistance	\$29,988	\$56,040	Active	First phase complete, project designs partially complete, selecting contractor now for next phase. Leveraged funders; PGE Salmon Habitat Support Fund, NCPRD, Clackamas WES.
Clackamas River Basin Council	Cazadero North Stream Restoration Project	220-8207 - 17281	Restoration	\$160,182	\$186,472	Active	Site visit 10/29/19. Instream restoration construction completed 2020. Site prep to manage invasives completed fall 2020; planting planned winter 2020-21 with maintenance following for 3 years to reach <i>free-to-grow</i> plant establishment.
Johnson Creek WC	Kelley Creek Fish Passage Restoration	220-8207 - 17282	Restoration	\$109,052	\$85,125	Active	Dam removal completed in August of 2020, livestock exclusion fence installed October of 2020, riparian revegetation to begin this winter! Funds leveraged by partnerships with East Multnomah SWCD and American Rivers/Paul Allen Foundation.
Clackamas River Basin Council	"J" (Johnson) Creek Confluence Side Channel Project	220-8207 - 17283	Restoration	\$548,550	\$263,619	Active	Progress ongoing for future permitting and construction; Tour conducted with landowners May 2020.
Johnson Creek WC	Lower Johnson Creek Habitat Enhancement	220-8207 - 17284	Restoration	\$117,779	\$21,880	Active	Site visit 10/29/19. Restoration work completed early August, 2020 with the placement of 7 log complexes and creation of 5 pools. This site will also be revegetated this winter. Funds leveraged from our partners to be determined, as some funding may not be eligible as match.
Clackamas River Basin Council	Kingfisher Side Channel Restoration	220-8207 - 17285	Restoration	\$590,464	\$415,861	Active	Design and permitting in progress
Clackamas River Basin Council	Eagle Creek Confluence Restoration Project	220-8207 - 17286	Restoration	\$343,405	\$303,400	Active	Completed in-water restoration construction Aug 2020; preparing for planting in 2021, followed by maintenance spring 2021-23
Johnson Creek WC	Clackamas FIP fish habitat and macroinvertebrate monitoring	220-8207 - 17287	Monitoring	\$201,113	\$6,877	Active	Agreements in place; Pre-project monitoring initiated for fish habitat and macroinvertebrate baselines.

Clackamas River Basin Council	Lower Clackamas River Habitat Assessment & Project Prioritization	220-8207 - 17288	Technical Assistance	\$74,998	\$2,320	Active	TRT had no revisions. Habitat assessment, followed by project identification and prioritization is completed. Feasibility designs will be developed for a subset of projects January through March 2021.
Clackamas River Basin Council	Clackamas Partnership Stakeholder Engagement	220-8207 - 17289	Stakeholder Engagement	\$23,000	\$7,383	Active	Progress ongoing; Landowner communication tools developed. Broad stakeholder engagement for biennium 2 projects is underway. In-house video production underway to display types of restoration projects within geographic scope of the Clackamas Partnership OWEB FIP for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species focus for future stakeholder engagement.
Clackamas River Basin Council	Upper Clackamas River Habitat Restoration	220-8207 - 18717	Restoration	\$171,848	\$188,203	Active	USFS engaged Enterprise Team to further designs for permit authorizations and implementation. Partner meetings held. Anticipated instream restoration construction in 2021 or 2022 dependent on extent of Riverside Fire impact and potential delay (fire assessments still underway; site is not accessible at this time)
Greater Oregon City WC	North Newell Creek Stream Restoration Project	220-8207 - 18722	Restoration	\$176,079	\$114,966	Active	Progress ongoing; Project planning underway for permit applications and implementation.
Greater Oregon City WC	Strategic Restoration Action Plan for the Abernethy Creek Watershed	220-8207 - 18723	Technical Assistance	\$29,975	\$2,000	Active	Projects identified and prioritized based on ecological benefit for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species. Landowner contacts initiated for future stakeholder engagement.
Johnson Creek WC	Johnson Creek Watershed Stormwater BMP Prioritization and Outreach	220-8207 - 18724	Technical Assistance	\$50,000	\$4,319	Active	Progress ongoing and on target; Initiated involvement with partners
Clackamas River Basin Council	Sieben Creek Confluence Restoration	220-8207 - 18727	Restoration	\$571,749	\$677,640	Active	In process of hiring consultants for design and permitting support winter 2020/2021.
TOTAL				\$3,353,182	\$2,376,354		
19-21 BIENNIAL AWARD				\$3,454,580			
BALANCE				\$101,398			

Note: The remaining balance of funding will be used in the next round of proposals to be submitted in Spring 2021.

John Day Basin Partnership
John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative

2019-2021 Biennium

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
South Fork John Day Watershed Council	John Day Basin Partnership FIP Capacity	220-8208-17219	Partnership Technical Assistance	\$389,957	\$37,800	Active	
Trout Unlimited	Desolation Meadows Restoration Project	220-8208-17290	Technical Assistance	\$125,386	\$12,545	Active	
Gilliam SWCD	Anderson - East Fork Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration Design	220-8208-17304	Technical Assistance	\$23,518	\$1,760	Active	
Gilliam SWCD	Sniption Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration Design	220-8208-17305	Technical Assistance	\$23,136	\$1,760	Active	
Wheeler SWCD	Butte Creek BDA Designs	220-8208-17308	Technical Assistance	\$33,458	\$9,020	Active	
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	Upper John Day LiDAR Project	220-8208-17312	Technical Assistance	\$165,008	\$1,265,099	Active	
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Vinegar to Vincent Fish Habitat Improvement	220-8208-17296	Restoration	\$166,746	\$1,848,428	Active	
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Middle Fork Planting and Fencing	220-8208-17313	Restoration	\$155,163	\$395,029	Active	
Grant SWCD	Junkens Creek Riparian Improvements	220-8208-17302	Restoration	\$29,235	\$19,310	Active	
Gilliam SWCD	Wilson Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration	220-8208-17303	Restoration	\$151,151	\$60,715	Active	
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	Camp Creek Planting FIP	220-8208-17298	Restoration	\$244,357	\$319,416	Active	
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	Junken's Creek Bridge	220-8208-17299	Restoration	\$52,074	\$82,200	Active	
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	Butte, Ruby, Beaver Creek Restoration	220-8208-17300	Restoration	\$263,214	\$315,765	Active	
Trout Unlimited	North Fork John Day Resilience Project	220-8208-17291	Restoration	\$44,389	\$36,757	Active	
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	John Day Basin Partnership Stakeholder Engagement Campaign FIP	220-8208-17309	Stakeholder Engagement	\$51,835	\$8,845	Active	
Blue Mountain Land Trust	JDBP Focal Geography Targeted Outreach	220-8208-17317	Stakeholder Engagement	\$40,658	\$1,564	Active	
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Bull Trout Status and Trend Monitoring	220-8208-17314	Monitoring	\$140,523	\$2,328	Active	
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	North Fork Monitoring	220-8208-17301	Monitoring	\$267,238	\$65,390	Active	

Gilliam SWCD	Butte/Thirtymile Monitoring	220-8208-17307	Monitoring	\$82,395	\$4,999	Active	
Gilliam SWCD	John Day Basin Partnership UAV Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring Program	220-8208-17316	Monitoring	\$150,000	\$13,087	Active	
Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation	Granite Creek RM 7.5 Implementation	220-8208-17315	Restoration	\$600,000	\$676,429	Active	
Grant SWCD	No.10 Road Relocation Project, Ph.1	220-8208-17306	Restoration	\$58,295	\$24,000	Active	
Trout Unlimited	NFJD Resilience Project, Treatment 2	220-8208-19237	Restoration	\$ 56,097.00	\$ 73,237.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
Grant SWCD	Little Indian Creek Riparian Fence Project	220-8208-19242	Restoration	\$ 27,164.00	\$ 42,290.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Vinegar to Vincent Fish Habitat Improvement, Ph.2	220-8208-19245	Restoration	\$ 202,455.00	\$ 500,000.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
Gilliam SWCD	Thirtymile Floodplain Analysis and Prioritization	220-8208-19240	Technical Assistance	\$ 62,909.00	\$ 172,509.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	Hidaway Creek, Ph.1	220-8208-19243	Restoration	\$ 126,765.00	\$ 137,025.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	Cultural TA MFJD Tribes	220-8208-19241	Technical Assistance	\$ 39,087.00	\$ 945.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
Wheeler SWCD	Butte Creek Riverscape Restoration	220-8208-19238	Restoration	\$ 174,036.00	\$ 199,315.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
Wheeler SWCD	Kinzua Culvert Designs	220-8208-19239	Technical Assistance	\$ 30,752.00	\$ 39,252.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
Gilliam SWCD	Butte/Thirtymile Monitoring	220-8208-17307	Monitoring	\$ 22,999.00	\$ -	Pending	Monetary amendment to increase funding for 220-8208-17307. Leverage funding accounted for with original application.
				TOTAL	\$4,000,000	\$6,366,819	
				19-21 BIENNIAL AWARD	\$4,000,000		
				BALANCE	\$0		

Rogue Forest Partners

Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative

2019-2021 Biennium

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Southern Oregon Forest Collaborative	RFRP Capacity/Rfri Initiative	220-8213-17214	Partnership Technical Assistance	\$92,169	\$23,042	Active	On schedule; still assessing potential software platforms to assist partnership
Southern Oregon Forest Collaborative	Rfri Stakeholder Engagement	220-8213-17217	Stakeholder Engagement	\$133,648	\$37,000	Active	On schedule except for some delays due to difficulty in conducting engagement during COVID 19. Private landowner targets met.
The Nature Conservancy	Monitoring Rfri BN1	220-8213-17222	Monitoring	\$82,831	\$14,884	Active	On schedule for BN1 completion, but internal timelines have been modified, including monitoring plan finalization in Q1 2021 and songbird monitoring to be completed in spring 2021.
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative-Restoration	220-8213-17221	Restoration	\$975,735	\$685,000	Active	On schedule for contractual portions but actual on the ground implementation may be delayed due to late signing of EA decision notice and COVID-19 impacts. Some match may come in the form of retained receipts from Stewardship Agreements.
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative-TA	220-8213-17220	Technical Assistance	\$215,615	\$210,000	Active	On Schedule, meeting timelines.
TOTAL				\$1,499,998	\$969,926		
19-21 BIENNIAL AWARD				\$1,500,000			
BALANCE				\$2			

Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership

Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat improvement Initiative

Biennium 2019-2021

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Warner FIP Partnership Technical Assistance	220-8215-17227	Technical Assistance	\$ 19,976	\$ 5,000	Active	
Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District	Honey Creek Town Diversion - Fish Passage	220-8215-18642	Restoration	\$ 969,307	\$ 301,174	Active	
Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Deep Creek Starveout Diversion Fish Passage	220-8215-18643	Restoration	\$ 429,165	\$ 159,500	Active	
Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Deep Creek Relict Weir Fish Passage	220-8215-18644	Restoration	\$ 267,598	\$ 81,999	Active	
Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Warner Sucker Passage Effectiveness Monitoring	220-8215-18645	Monitoring	\$ 26,723	\$ 8,999	Active	
TOTAL				\$1,712,769	\$556,672		
19-21 BIENNIAL AWARD				\$2,000,000			
BALANCE				\$287,231			

Note: The remaining balance of funding will be used in the next round of proposals to be submitted in Jan. 2021.



Kate Brown, Governor



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Agenda Item N supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Approval of Receipt of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill Funding

I. Introduction

This report requests that the board retroactively approve receipt of up to \$500,000 in federal funds from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs.

II. Background

The NRCS works collaboratively with local partners to implement conservation programs under the federal Farm Bill. Over the last few years there has been an increase in landowner interest in these programs. Collaborating with local partners enables NRCS to meet the demand and support the capacity of local organizations.

III. NRCS Funding

In August of 2018 OWEB received \$1 million from NRCS, which was distributed via grants to watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts across the state, to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs. All the initial \$1 million has been distributed to local partners and many of the local partners are close to closing out the grants. Local partners, working collaboratively with NRCS, have been able to address local needs, but there continues to be more demand. To address this continued demand, NRCS has made an additional \$500,000 available to OWEB to be distributed to local partners via grants. If the board approves receipt of this funding, OWEB will work with NRCS to solicit for grants early in 2021 using the process and application materials developed for the initial offering in 2019.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board approve receipt of \$500,000 from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds, through the appropriate agreements with an award date of December 17, 2020.



Kate Brown, Governor



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Agenda Item O supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager
Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Kristi Primley, Administrative Support
Katie Duzik, Region 1 Program Representative
Sue Greer, Region 6 Program Representative
Miriam Forney, Acquisitions Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Results of OWEB's DEI Survey of Grantees & Board Next Steps
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the quantitative results of a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) survey of OWEB grantees and qualitative analysis of subsequent grantee interviews. This report also references the DEI committee report, providing recommendations for next steps for the board's consideration.

II. Background

In June 2018 the board adopted its strategic plan and one of the seven priorities focuses on OWEB's DEI journey, Priority 2: Leaders at all level of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians. The first strategy under this priority is to listen, learn, and gather information about diverse populations. After board adoption of the strategic plan, OWEB convened a staff team to lead the agency's internal and external DEI efforts. The first task of this group was to develop a short and simple survey of OWEB grantees to learn about the demographic make-up of their organizations and the stakeholders they serve, and the organizations' DEI efforts. After the online survey, staff interviewed a subset of the respondents to ask more detailed questions about their DEI efforts.

III. Grantee Survey Results

The survey was sent to all of OWEB's active grantees in Spring 2019 and was open for six weeks. Of the 292 unique grantees that received the survey link 75, or 26%, completed the survey. A variety of OWEB's grantees responded including watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, land trusts, other nonprofits, counties, and tribal governments. Generally, the survey results affirmed OWEB staff experience with grantees,

showing that grantee board members are predominately older, white males, and staff are a mix of male and female, but predominately white. All survey respondents reported that the nine federally recognized tribes are being engaged at some level. Finally, respondents expressed a high level of interest in learning more about how to engage in DEI work, from training to strategic planning and data collection.

IV. Grantee Interview Qualitative Findings

OWEB staff used tools and methods from a 2017 Project Impact Training to develop interview questions and complete a post-interview data analysis. Questions were developed to better understand our grantees' efforts to engage under-represented communities and the challenges they face. This one-on-one communication was key to provide a deeper understanding of what our grantees are experiencing that we could not have learned through an online survey alone. Eleven grantees were interviewed using the same set of questions and their responses were analyzed using a qualitative analysis to identify common themes and insights. Six findings emerged from the analysis and are described in detail in Attachment A. Each finding also describes the significance to OWEB and how we can incorporate this into meaningful action.

V. Next Steps for Board Consideration

As referenced in the DEI ad hoc committee staff report (Agenda Item D), staff and the committee are recommending a survey for all board members to complete. Details are provided in the committee report.

In addition, the DEI committee recommends the board consider two additional steps. First, the committee would like to continue in its ad hoc role until the survey is completed and strategic next steps determined. Second, the committee recommends that both the board and the coordinating committee include a standing agenda item for diversity, equity, and inclusion in each meeting.

VI. Action

The DEI committee recommends the board take the following actions: 1) commit that all board members will complete a DEI survey, 2) continue the DEI ad hoc committee to analyze survey results and determine strategic next steps, and 3) include DEI as a standing agenda item for all board and coordinating committee meetings.

Attachments

Attachment A. Interview Qualitative Findings

OWEB's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Interview

Qualitative Findings

Introduction

In 2019 OWEB sent a short online survey to all grantees. The purpose of the survey was to learn about the demographic make-up of their organizations, the stakeholders they serve, and the organization's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts. Of the 292 unique grantees that received the survey 75 or 26% completed the survey during the six weeks it was available. We received responses from watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, land trusts, other nonprofits, counties and tribal governments. Highlights of the results include:

- The board members of our grantees organizations are predominately older white males.
- The staff of the organizations are a mix of male and female, but predominately white.
- Among the 75 survey respondents all the federally recognized tribes are being engaged with at some level.
- There is a lot of interest among our grantees to learn more about how to engage in DEI work, from training to strategic planning and data collection.

After the online survey was complete OWEB staff interviewed eleven of the survey respondents to ask more detailed questions to learn more about their DEI efforts. The six findings described in the following pages of this report are the result of those interviews. The information contained in the findings is not specifically tied to OWEB's funding, but reflect the actual accomplishments and struggles of our grantees in their local diversity, equity, and inclusion work. The findings provide information that OWEB can use as we seek out other partners, including other funders, to advance Priority 2 of OWEB's strategic plan.

Finding #1: DEI work flows from within the culture of the organization and the community

Description

Our interviews demonstrated that our grantees are at many different places when it comes to individual and organizational diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work. This includes incorporating DEI into planning efforts and actively using tools and resources to recruit a greater diversity of staff, board members and volunteers. Our grantees are striving to increase involvement of under-represented communities in their restoration and stakeholder engagement efforts. Many people see DEI work as both an individual and organizational journey, with the individual work coming first, and sometime easier to achieve. Making the transition from personal to organizational can be challenging without leadership.

“It is hard to translate personal trainings to an organizational level.” – interview participant

Interviewees talked about how the mission of the organization can impact its culture and the amount of focus it is willing to put into DEI work. Some organizations have broad mission statements, enabling them to implement projects that align with OWEB’s Constitutional requirements to address protection and restoration of native fish and wildlife habitat or water quality improvement and broader conservation and DEI efforts. Other organizations have more narrow missions and may be limited on board membership and allowable actions. Without leadership some members of these organizations do not see value in DEI work.

“Before this kind of work can take place, we really need to take the time to learn the history of why we are where we are today. Everyone at the table needs to take the time to understand this, and that takes time, effort and training.” – interview participant

Interviewees also talked about how the demographics, culture and history of the community impacts the organization’s DEI efforts. Our grantees are working to serve the communities in which they are located. They seek board members and staff from the communities they serve, develop and implement projects and seek financial support. They recognize the demographics of Oregon are changing, and this includes land ownership, but they are also facing historical racism in many communities, which makes change hard.

“Within the watershed is a pretty rural, white male, over 50 that owns land demographic. But the people who use the water, who we also want to value the water, are more diverse with large LatinX, Russian, and deaf/hard of hearing populations.” – interview participant

Significance

There is a strong desire to begin organizational DEI work among some of our grantees. They recognize this will be challenging work, especially in some communities. They recognize that

landownership, though shifting, is still predominantly older, white male. However, there is recognition that there is a broader, more diverse population that also has interest in and benefits from native fish and wildlife species and habitat and natural watershed functions. It is also important to note that some of our grantees do not see the nexus between DEI work and conservation work and this view is often directly linked to the culture of the community they serve.

Our Response

Strategic Plan priority connections:

- Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
 - 2.1 Listen, learn and gather information about diverse populations

Findings #2: A diversity of barriers exist and we need the entire tool box to break them down

Description

As our grantees begin to consider working on DEI issues they are faced with a wide variety of challenges. Our interviews revealed many barriers to performing DEI work. While they mentioned it was relatively easy to identify who the under-represented communities in their areas are they often identified significant barriers that they need to overcome before they can begin to engage with them in a meaningful way. Engaging with the communities is the first step to eventually develop shared goals and objectives. One of the barriers that exists is the lack of training to gain the skills to understand the unique culture and language of the under-represented communities in their areas. Learning how to serve one community does not necessarily work for another community. For example, engaging with veterans is very different than engaging with the LatinX community. Our grantees also mentioned multiple times that the lack of childcare is a barrier to get diverse stakeholders to attend their meetings and events. In addition, there is a need for translators and interpreters to perform outreach and then understand the feedback they receive. However, after the communities are engaged we heard about other barriers that soon emerge.

Under-represented communities often have different concerns than those that are focused on watershed restoration. Under-represented communities' top priority may not be improving fish habitat in a stream and may be more focused on accessing green space near their homes for recreation or access to rivers for food resources. There is a need for our grantees to communicate the commonalities amongst the goal to improve fish habitat and access to green space or fishing opportunities. One of the major barriers that emerges after the communities provide feedback is that our grantees don't have the human capital to take action. Some communities are interested in activities that don't align well with OWEB funding priorities, such as environmental education for their children and work related experiences for high school students. Some of our grantees' organizations are smaller and don't have the staff on hand to focus on these type of outreach events and education opportunities. If they had additional staff they might be able to focus more on these efforts. Our grantees that receive a majority of their funding from OWEB for planning and implementing on the ground restoration actions could jeopardize their funding streams by focusing on other activities that OWEB typically is not interested in funding.

*“A big barrier is the need for a long-term investment to develop relationships without a particular project in mind. We need to go into the community to listen and build trust and be open to new types of projects that might not be our priorities.” –
interview participant*

There are also additional barriers that exist within their own organizations that prevent them from working on DEI issues due to a lack of understanding why this matters and how that fits

into a rural community's needs. We heard that there is apprehension amongst staff about diving into changing an organization's strategic plan or policy directions when their board may not share their same view that there is a need to engage in DEI efforts. One of the reflections that we heard was SWCDs may not have the broader mission statement to engage under-represented communities because they are focused on assisting agricultural producers. This could be a barrier to engaging those communities but as the demographics of agricultural producers change there could be an opportunity to engage a more diverse audience to assist them. If the grantee's board members and the landowners within the community are predominantly white there may not be a desire to engage with a diverse audience based on their historic way of doing business in an exclusive manner.

Significance

As we reflect on the many barriers that exist we need to acknowledge that Oregon's racist history impacts our grantees ability to engage under-represented communities and recruit a greater diversity of staff, board members and volunteers. OWEB can help our grantees overcome barriers to engage a broader audience to understand what is needed to enhance the health of our watersheds. Potentially, there are ways we can help our grantees leverage the operational capacity funding we provide to overcome some of the barriers that exist. By encouraging our grantees to engage under-represented communities today it will help our funding be applied in a manner that benefits a broader audience in the future.

"Eventually, if we get the foundation right, it could be that we could really align this work with specific projects that could be funded by OWEB –but there is a huge investment in capacity first." – interview participant

Our Response

Strategic Plan priority connections:

- Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
 - Strategy 2.2 Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table

Finding #3: Capacity is needed to launch and sustain DEI efforts

Description

Organizational capacity is at the foundation of many of the constraints our grantees experience when delving into DEI work within their communities. Many watershed organizations are small non-profits with limited staff. It takes time to develop and maintain partnerships and relationships, especially with communities that haven't been a part of the conversation before. Resources are lacking in which to engage new stakeholders; staff are already busy with normal day-to-day tasks of running the organization and implementing projects.

While funding certainly is part of the capacity discussion, even organizations that had received grants for hiring DEI trainers and beginning the diversity-focused strategic planning work struggled to find time to begin. Planning trainings for staff and board and engaging stakeholders takes time outside of the daily operations of an organization. In addition, we heard that Covid-19 had further limited the ability of organizers to execute planned training events.

"It's a question of capacity. We need staff time to build relationships with culturally-specific and low income communities. It is very labor intensive to build community relationships, and this is not funded by OWEB grants." – interview participant

Engaging in this work and broadening community relationships also requires both staff and board to be literate in the language of DEI work. This literacy is built with training and an accumulated understanding of the history behind the issues we face today. Some grantees felt it is important to get everyone in their organizations educated first before beginning down this path- both staff and board. The time to do the work in an already overstretched small non-profit with a primarily environmental mission was hard to find, especially with the limited capacity of volunteer Board members.

"It takes the right language to even begin this work, we are working on building up that capacity. We need to take the time to learn the history of where we are today. Everyone at the table needs to take the time to learn this." – interview participant

Significance

OWEB's grantees and partners recognize that engaging with under-represented communities and recruiting a greater diversity of staff, board members, and volunteers is important. Many organizations seem to have been inspired by the inclusion of community capacity and diversity within our strategic plan. OWEB wants to support our grantees to explore being more intentional about diversity, equity, and inclusion. However, watershed organizations are primarily smaller non-profits that struggle with finding staff time for day-to-day activities. The lack of capacity was identified by our grantees as a constraint on several levels, both time and knowledge. When a small staff is already committed to other aspects of an organization's mission the time to plan DEI trainings for staff and board and thoughtfully engage new stakeholders is very restricted. The lack of knowledge and language capacity among staff and

board was also identified as a constraint. Building up this type of “know how” capacity among our grantees will provide them with the confidence necessary to tackle this sometimes daunting subject.

Our Response

Strategic Plan priority connections:

- Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
 - 2.1 Listen, learn, and gather information about diverse populations
 - 2.2 Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table
- Priority 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds
 - 3.2 Champion best approaches to build organizational community and partnership capacity

Finding #4: Organizational training is needed to embark upon a DEI journey

Description

Our interviews clearly revealed that our grantees are enthusiastic to listen and learn more to best address diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in their community. There is a lot to learn about this topic and there is a significant need for more knowledge to engage properly within the community. While some staff in an organization might have some literacy around this topic it is necessary that everyone in their organization have a consistent level of understanding to fully engage on this topic. Several interviews identified the need for training in order for everyone in their organization to gain the knowledge necessary to develop a strategy to engage with their community. This training is not only needed across the staff but also for their board members. It is believed that with additional training everyone within the organization can begin to get excited about DEI efforts.

“It’s way deeper than race, economics, and gender. So, without having a good understanding of the scope and what should happen at the organization level, it’s hard to dig into it.” – interview participant

Part of the challenge that is closely linked to training is access to funding for their staff and board to obtain this training. There is an interest and awareness that OWEB is making this a priority (by including in board strategic plan), but without funding they cannot learn what to do next. We heard repeatedly that part of the challenge to dig into DEI work is the need for specific training on how to link it to their organization’s mission. The large events such as conferences that discuss diversity, equity, and inclusion are important but don’t have the same level of impact to help move an organization forward. Specific training can help them overcome challenges they described around lack of understanding of the importance of engaging with under-represented communities and the benefit of recruiting a greater diversity of staff, board members, and volunteers. Once their organization gains this knowledge and collective understanding, they can work together to overcome other barriers and find opportunities.

Significance

Our grantee’s need for training is important to OWEB because financial resources are necessary to obtain instructors to work closely to figure out how to apply theories of practice to their organization. Unfortunately, due to constitutional requirements and statute we are unable to provide funding for our grantees to obtain desired DEI training to gain the necessary knowledge to fully engage within their organization and broader community. This is a challenge for OWEB since we are a funder and are typically able to use our funding to support our grantees need to learn more. However, we heard from several organizations that they have pursued funding from other funders such as the Meyer Memorial Trust to obtain training for their staff and board members. Their funding has been extremely helpful to further their organization’s DEI work. In addition, many of the grantees we spoke with expressed a willingness to work with others and OWEB to develop a DEI Community of Practice for natural resources professionals.

We cannot solve this issue alone and will need our fellow funders and grantees to build partnerships and avenues for success.

Our Response

Strategic Plan priority connections:

- Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
 - Strategy 2.1 Listen, learn and gather information about diverse populations
 - Strategy 2.3 Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity and inclusion

Finding #5: Funding is a key ingredient to initiate DEI work within an organization

Description

Funding is a main driver for organizations that depend on grants to keep their doors open and staff paid. Finding funders that focus on initiating DEI work is challenging, even to those in a more urban setting. For rural grantees, getting buy-in from the rural and conservative community at large and from their board of directors, that a DEI focus is important is challenging. DEI work is both time consuming and difficult to communicate an engaging message without trained staff. Obtaining funding to focus on DEI work is difficult for those in areas where demographics are mostly white.

Balancing an organization's environment or ecological mission and expanding into under-represented communities takes time, trained staff and resources to engage. This cannot happen without dedicated funds to build relationships.

"A big barrier is there needs to be a long-term investment to develop relationships without a particular project in mind." – interview participant

Situations both here in Oregon and on a national level have helped bring this conversation to the forefront. This brings both opportunities and challenges – opinions can be strong and it is crucial to develop a communication skill set that encourages people to see this as an opportunity rather than a polarized/political viewpoint.

"One potential obstacle is that boards, depending on how conservative, could feel that that this is something that is mandated and might make people defensive." – interview participant

Funding for training is just the first, yet critical step in the move toward DEI engagement. Many groups will then need funding to help develop the message based on the group(s) they are working to engage with, then hiring translators, developing and providing materials in several languages, and hiring staff with the necessary skills to achieve the DEI goals of the organization.

"We have had camps and "walks" with interpreters/translators, and it is difficult and expensive to hire interpreters/translators who can translate science. In the future, we would like to be able to include those costs into grant budgets." – interview participant

Significance

As a lead funder in Oregon's restoration community, it is important for OWEB to understand how our grantees are thinking about incorporating DEI into their work, and the challenges they face in achieving those goals. At the same time, figuring out how to leverage resources from different funders, when missions are disparate is an issue but also serves as an opportunity. For instance, OWEB funding is dedicated to improving fish and wildlife habitat and watershed

function, which often requires engaging stakeholders to pave a path toward restoration. At the same time there are funders that focus solely on engaging under-represented communities and training organizations on how to do this. Developing funding models to represent DEI principles is identified as an objective in OWEB's 2018 strategic plan and is truly needed to help our grantees make significant progress in the future.

"It takes whole communities and every demographic held within, to restore function and balance in our natural systems. It takes healthy functioning natural systems to support happy, healthy communities." – interview participant

OWEB needs to think about how our own programs can embrace, encourage and result in engaging under-represented communities and recruitment of greater diversity of staff, board members and volunteers. Guided by Oregon's Constitution and Statute, making progress towards meeting the DEI priority in OWEB's 2018 Strategic Plan will require some expansion of how we think about doing business.

Our Response

Strategic Plan priority connections:

- Priority 1: Broad awareness of the relationships between people and watersheds
 - Strategy 1.2 Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches
- Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians.
 - Strategy 2.2 Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table
- Priority 4: Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio
 - Strategy 4.2 Align common investment areas with private foundations

Finding #6: Partnerships create opportunities for DEI success

Description

Interest is growing among our grantees to connect diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work to natural resource work and individual desire to connect with a broader audience. We heard from several interviews that our grantees are very interested in this topic at the staff level and is more of a mixed response when the Board's level of engagement or interest is considered. OWEB's grantees described being involved in partnerships that are working on collective DEI training and engaging under-represented communities. Some grantees have been able to leverage their collaborative work to secure funding, mostly from Meyer Memorial Trust, for both organizational and partnership DEI work. Forming a new partnership with under-represented communities can be challenging. There are cultural and language barriers, but is worth the effort to connect with under-represented communities and expand outreach opportunities.

Connecting with nontraditional partners takes time and organizations don't always have the time, capacity, and funding to build partnerships without a specific project as the end goal. Grantees are beginning to identify groups, including contractors, their crews and migrant farmers to engage in new ways.

"Just recently we began targeting the contractor community, not only as a contractor, but as a stakeholder, so they can understand the importance of the work that they are doing; it isn't only a paycheck." – interview participant

A gap in this work is the lack of funding to develop relationships to serve cross-sector populations. Partnering with other organizations to provide natural resource related outreach and education allows our grantees to meet community needs without having to do all the work and they can focus on their core mission.

"We are in the community, we are asking questions and the community is telling us the needs of different groups in the community. Sometimes the needs overlap with our mission and sometimes not." – interview participant

Significance

OWEB's grantees are looking for opportunities to expand their DEI work by forming partnerships with underserved communities. Some of these efforts have been paused because of COVID-19, related funding and capacity challenges. There are limited funders supporting DEI focused partnership development. There is not always a clear nexus with OWEB funding because projects must have a clear link to OWEB's Constitutional requirements to address protection and restoration of native fish and wildlife habitat or water quality improvement. Stakeholder engagement and partnership technical assistance grants can be used to build partnerships and engage new communities, but there must be a clear link to current or future restoration and/or acquisition actions.

Our Response

Strategic Plan priority connections:

- Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
 - Strategy 2.1 Listen, learn and gather information about diverse populations
 - Strategy 2.2 Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table
- Priority 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds
 - Strategy 3.2 Champion best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity



Agenda Item P supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
Kathy Leopold, Small Grant Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item P – Wildfire Update
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update about OWEB's recent Wildfire Response grant offering and the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force, which OWEB is co-convening with the Oregon Departments of Forestry and Environmental Quality at the request of the Governor's Office.

II. Background

Wildfires of historic proportion ravaged our region this year, spreading to over a million acres in Oregon alone. The impacts from the fires pose great risk to the health of Oregon watersheds.

Since mid-September, OWEB staff have been meeting with state and federal agencies to better understand each agency's role, ways to increase coordination, and funding needs and gaps. In addition, at its October meeting, the OWEB board provided up to \$1 million in funding for wildfire response grants to address near-term needs of impacted watersheds.

III. Wildfire Response Grants

OWEB's wildfire response grants have two objectives: 1) invest in local organizations to respond to short-term fire recovery needs in a way that benefits long-term restoration; and 2) fill short-term gaps that aren't available through other funding sources while meeting OWEB's constitutional mandate. Grants will be awarded to one lead entity that works in cooperation with area partners in each of the 13 fire areas. Grant are available for up to \$75,000 per fire to fund short-term, high priority needs for a limited set of implementation, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement activities.

OWEB developed a streamlined online application to facilitate quick-response efforts by local partners. Key elements of the application include confirming partnership conversations have occurred via the upload of letters from appropriate local partners in the fire area, and documenting eligible actions through checkboxes and narrative responses.

To accommodate the varying stages of local partner readiness and federal assessment status in fire areas, the offering was opened November 5, 2020, with applications accepted through May 25, 2021. Technical review of each application will be initiated as each proposal is submitted. OWEB technical reviewers will confirm eligibility and compliance with OWEB rule and offering requirements. To date, OWEB has approved the one grant that has been submitted, with a number of other partners working through details to submit a grant application.

Recommended applications then will move quickly through the internal OWEB processes to execute grant agreements. Conditions of the agreement will include reporting requirements to document the implementation of project activities, along with information on grantees' efforts to engage tribal and minority owned contractors. Funds awarded through this offering must be spent by June 30, 2021.

IV. Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force

Interagency and intergovernmental coordination on fire recovery is occurring through the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force (NCRRTF), convened by the Oregon Department of Forestry and Department of Environmental Quality, along with OWEB. The group provides coordination and implementation for the State's recovery response to catastrophic wildfires in September 2020. The NCRRTF also serves as the coordination and implementation mechanism for State Recovery Function (SRF) 7 from the March 2018 Oregon Disaster Recovery Plan: "to integrate state assets and capabilities to help local governments, tribal governments, and impacted communities address long-term environmental and cultural resource recovery needs after large-scale and catastrophic incidents." The NCRRTF was convened by the Governor's Natural Resources Office, and natural resources agency directors in coordination with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The task force is focusing on near and long-term post-fire recovery needs, serving as the staff-level coordination and implementing entity for the recovery work in the coming months and years.

Because of the broad scope of the NCRRTF, representation includes state and federal natural resources agencies, in addition, the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) is engaged, and tribes have been invited to participate in the process. Early coordination and communication focuses on natural and cultural resources assessments, alignment of funding programs to support on-the-ground stabilization and restoration, and public information needs, while continuing to plan for long-term natural resources recovery in the coming years. The task force is coordinating with other SRF related groups, such as the Debris Management Task Force, and the Oregon Office of Outdoor Recreation.

V. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.



Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item Q supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item Q – Oregon Department of Forestry Funding to Support Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report requests the board approve receipt of funding from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in support of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) technical assistance (TA) grants.

II. Background

Oregon CREP is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and the Farm Services Agency, with technical support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and local implementers. The program restores riparian areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners who voluntarily enroll in CREP receive annual rental payments and state and federal cost-share incentives to install approved conservation measures, such as planting riparian vegetation, and installing fencing and livestock water facilities.

OWEB also provides competitive, statewide CREP Technical Assistance (TA) grants every two years. These grants support costs associated with local CREP implementation including staffing, travel, training, outreach, and planning. ODF is one of multiple agencies that works with local CREP technicians to provide technical review and development of planting plans when needed.

III. Available Funding

ODF has indicated it will have up to \$140,000 in funding available for use in CREP TA grants. These funds are available for general support of CREP TA grants such as work by CREP technicians to recruit landowners and complete the necessary review process to successfully enroll them in the program. In addition, the funds may be used for monitoring and tracking of CREP contracts, including work by CREP technicians to track performance of

CREP practices over time and help ensure landowners are achieving maintenance and performance requirements of their CREP contracts.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board approve receipt of up to \$140,000 from ODF in support of the CREP Technical Assistance grants, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements with an award date of December 17, 2020.

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

December 16 & 17, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Selle, Tony

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Fetcho, Ken
Forney, Miriam
Greer, Sue
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

ABSENT

Alvarado, Ron
Henson, Paul

OTHER

Bey, Marko
Brandt, Troy
Brick, Jim
Cupples, Jacqueline
Defrees, Dallas Hall
Fairbanks, Terry
Ferrell, Justin
McGinnis, Cheryl
Neider, Brandi
Nye, Brad
Tattam, Ian
Walz, Kristen

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:02:36)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. This is also an opportunity for public and tribal board members to report on their recent activities and share information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item.*

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:54:18)

The minutes of the September 9, 2020 and October 30, 2020 virtual meetings were presented for board approval. *Action item.*

Jason Robison moved the board approve the minutes from the September 9 and October 30, 2020 virtual meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 0:55:36)

Executive Director, Jan Lee, from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts addressed the role that DEQ is taking in land conservation and the work they are doing to build a coalition that would support the benefits of working in natural lands to help affect climate mitigation and adaptation. DEQ will review how offset programs (Alternative Compliance Instruments (ACI)) may be used to provide offsets from working lands that could comprise an ACI.

Four written comments were provided in lieu of oral comments addressing agenda item G, Spending Plan:

- Luckiamute Watershed Council (and agenda item H)
- Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (and agenda item H)
- Western Invasive Species Network
- West Multnomah SWCD

D. Committee Updates (Audio = 1:02:01)

Representatives from board subcommittees provided updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

E. Director's Updates (Audio = 1:28:19)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and OWEB staff updated the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item.*

F. Budget and Legislative Updates (Audio = 2:15:17)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis updated the board on the current biennium's revenues and staffing and the 2021-23 Governor's Recommended Budget. *Information item.*

G. Spending Plan Discussion (Audio = 2:37:50)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on the timeline for approval of the 2021-2023 spending plan, and requested the board provide general direction in terms of major spending plan category percentages. *Information item.*

H. 21-23 Council Capacity/Application Process (Audio = 3:15:42)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the 2021-2023 biennium council capacity grant guidance and sought board approval of changes to the guidance. *Action item.*

Jason Robison moved the board approve the changes to the 2021-2023 council capacity grant program and guidance documents, as described in Attachments A through C of the December 2020 staff report. Gary Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) Funding (Audio = 3:06:35)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the current status of the 2020 SIAs and requested funding for one SIA grant that is ready for implementation. *Action item.*

Gary Marshall moved the board award \$99,951 of funding for SIA grants and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds, through appropriate agreements with an award date of October 1, 2020. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHC) Appointments (Audio = 4:01:05)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams provided a recommendation to the board to reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the commission. *Action item.*

Jason Robison moved the board reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, as recommended by the Board of Agriculture, for four-year terms ending in January 2025. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Land Trust Project Selection and Management & Easement Stewardship (Audio = 4:12:40)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Brad Nye, Conservation Director at Deschutes Land Trust, responded to board requests to better understand how land trusts determine which properties to invest in, and once legal interest is obtained, how conservation properties are stewarded. *Information item.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

Thursday, December 17, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

L. Public Comment

None provided.

M. FIP Cohort 2-Board Presentations (Audio = 0:01:05)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer and FIP partners provided an update on Cohort 2 Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) initiatives that were awarded funding starting in the 2019-2021 biennium. *Information item.*

N. NRCS Funding to Support Local Delivery of Farm Bill Programs (Audio = 3:24:18)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff requested the board retroactively approve receipt of up to \$500,000 in federal funds from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs. *Action item.*

Mark Labhart moved the board approve receipt of \$500,000 from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds, through the appropriate agreements with an award date of December 17, 2020. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

O. DEI Activity – Results of OWEB’s DEI Survey of Grantees & Board Next Steps (Audio = 3:28:56)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff, Sue Greer, Miriam Forney and Ken Fetcho provided an overview of the quantitative results of a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) survey of OWEB grantees and qualitative analysis of subsequent grantee interviews and discussed next steps for the board. *Action item.*

Bruce Buckmaster moved the board take the following actions: 1) commit that all board members will complete a DEI survey, 2) continue the DEI ad hoc committee to analyze survey results and determine strategic next steps, and 3) include DEI as a standing agenda item for all board and coordinating committee meetings. Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

P. 2020 Fire Update (Audio = 4:32:35)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Small Grant Coordinator Kathy Leopold provided an update about OWEB’s recent Wildfire Response grant offering and the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force, which OWEB is co-convening at the request of the Governor’s Office to support post-wildfire recovery. *Information item.*

Q. Additional Funding for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance Grants (Audio = 4:48:05)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Coordinator Ken Fetcho requested the board approve receipt of funding from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in support of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) technical assistance (TA) grants. *Action item.*

Gary Marshall moved the board approve receipt of up to \$140,000 from Oregon Department of Forestry in support of the CREP Technical Assistance grants, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements with an award date of December 17, 2020. Mark Labhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 by Co-Chair Jason Robison.