



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



Virtual Meeting
October 30, 2020



• Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
October 30, 2020

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the October 30 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: Dial 1-669-900-6833. When prompted, enter ID number 883 7877 5507 and password: 441273.

Virtual: Log on to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88378775507?pwd=WE9KOWZlZy90NWpUcmVMYUloV0F5dz09>
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 Wednesday October 28, 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 A) at approximately 8:05 am. on October 30. In order to provide verbal comment, you must contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov, by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, and provide the following information:

- A. Your first and last name,
- B. The topic of your comment, and
- C. 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. 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.

B. Wildfire Grants (8:20)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will discuss OWEB's actions in response to Oregon's unprecedented fire season. OWEB is considering providing emergency fire response funding to the areas impacted by 14 large fires that occurred in Oregon during late summer of 2020. *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 take action 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

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
Tel: 503-986-0178
Fax: 503-986-0199
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.



Agenda Item B 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: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item B – Wildfire Grants
October 30, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the proposed Wildfire Response grant offering and requests the board approve up to \$1,000,000 for this purpose.

II. Background

Wildfires of historic proportion ravaged our region this year, spreading to over a million acres in Oregon alone. The impacts from the fire 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, staff held a series of listening sessions to gather information on the immediate needs of fire-affected communities. These two sets of conversations have helped staff to identify how OWEB funding could address high priorities and complement funding available from agency partners.

Another important consideration is the ability for OWEB to provide funding given the agency's budget challenges. As reported to the board in September, August revenues were better than expected. It is assumed that November revenues will also be above expectations. Combined, these two distributions will provide the agency adequate funding for the next grant cycle with additional revenues available to respond to a limited range of fire needs now.

III. OWEB's role and objectives

Staff propose a limited grant offering to respond to gaps in fire funding in the short term. While limited, OWEB has funding and can respond to this crisis within budget constraints. In addition, OWEB's granting system can deliver a quick response to this crisis in a meaningful way. Funding objectives include:

- ▶ Invest in local organizations to respond to short-term fire recovery needs in a way that benefits long-term restoration; and
- ▶ Fill short-term gaps that aren't available through other funding sources while meeting OWEB's constitutional mandate.

IV. Proposed Structure

Local partners will identify one lead entity who will work in cooperation with area partners to apply for up to \$70,000 in funding for each of the following 14 fire areas:

- 242
- Alameda
- Archie Creek
- Beachie Creek
- Brattain
- Echo Mountain Complex
- Holiday Farm
- Indian Creek
- Lionshead
- Slater
- South Obenchain
- Thielsen
- Riverside
- White River

OWEB-funded work will focus on addressing short-term needs through June 2021 on tribal lands or private land (not including industrial forestlands) that have been identified as high priority in a federally led assessment through FEMA, BLM or the Forest Service, or other assessments with approval from OWEB.

Eligible implementation funding activities:

- Log transport and stockpiling for future restoration
- A limited suite of conservation practices that NRCS is funding on fires including Conservation Cover, cover crop, herbaceous weed treatment, mulching, range planting, woody residue treatment and fencing. Since NRCS is funding these practices for landowners eligible for Farm Bill programs. OWEB funding will focus on those landowners not eligible for NRCS funding.
- Other stabilization practices designed to protect or restore habitat or water quality that are specified in a qualifying assessment and discussed in advance with OWEB.

Eligible technical assistance activities:

- Stakeholder engagement – to secure landowner buy-in and coordinate post-fire restoration actions, and
- Technical assistance – to participate on local assessment teams and select restoration practices.

Applicants will use a streamlined online application to apply for the funding. OWEB staff, including the appropriate Region Program Representative, will complete application review.

At the conclusion of the grant, grantees will be asked to report on the following in their project completion reports:

- How funds were used;
- Feedback about whether/how funds were beneficial to addressing near-term post-wildfire risk to native fish and wildlife habitat and/or water quality;
- How work completed supported disproportionately impacted communities; and
- If/how the project utilized minority and women-owned contractors/businesses.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board approve up to \$1,000,000 in funding for a short-term Wildfire Response grant offering and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of August 15, 2020.

MINUTES 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=MRLAlbu4_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.