



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



Virtual Meeting
September 9, 2020



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
September 9, 2020

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the September 9 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 876 6834 9457 and password: 550061. 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, September 4 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 a.m. on September 9. In order to provide verbal comment, you must contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov, by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 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 June 10-11, 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 (9:20 a.m.)

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

E. Director's Updates (10:05 a.m.)

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

F. Oregon Conservation Partnership – Updates During Covid (11:00 a.m.)

Jan Lee from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Kelly Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, and Vanessa Green from The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils will provide 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 (12:00 p.m.)

Governor Brown's Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Amira Streeeter, will join the board to provide an update on several initiatives she is leading related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. She will highlight 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 (12:30 p.m.)

Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho and local partners, Jared Weybright from the McKenzie Watershed Council and Kate Meyer from the US Forest Service, will be highlighting outcomes associated with the floodplain restoration efforts on Deer Creek located in the McKenzie River watershed. *Information item.*

I. Organizational Collaboration Grants (1:00 p.m.)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will present 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 Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) Grants (1:30 p.m.)

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

K. 2021-2023 Spending Plan Initial Discussion (2:00 p.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will discuss the process for building and approving the 2021-23 OWEB Spending Plan and initiate a conversation with the board about the tie between the spending plan, the long-term investment strategy, and OWEB's 2018 strategic plan. *Information item.*

L. Global Warming Commission and Governor's Climate Executive Order (2:30 p.m.)

Cathy MacDonald, Chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission (Commission), will highlight the Governor's Climate Executive Order 20-04 and the Commission's work related to the Executive Order. *Information 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

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Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
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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
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)

June 10, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU4LYDnKRD4>)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Alvarado Ron
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
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Forney Miriam
Greer, Sue
Grenbremer, Mark
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

ABSENT

Henson, Paul
Murray, Eric

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

June 11, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU4LYDnKRD4>)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Alvarado Ron
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
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

ABSENT

Henson, Paul

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Forney Miriam
Greer, Sue
Grenbremer, Mark
Hartstein Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Silbernagel, Cindy
Williams, Eric

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

June 10, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU4LYDnKRD4>)

The June 10, 2020 meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

A. PCSRF Funding Update (Audio 0:26:15)

Deputy Director Renee Davis gave an update on the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund funding.

2019-2021 Budget Projections & Spending Plan (Audio = 0:36:14)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided the board with an introduction to budget projections and the resulting need for rebalancing of the 2019-2021 OWEB Spending Plan, as Oregon lottery revenues have declined due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. Public Comment (Audio = 0:52:47):

Agenda Item A3

1. Jan Lee, OR. Assoc. Conservation Districts
2. Cheryl McGinnis, Clackamas River Basin WC
3. Melaney Dunne, Coquille WA
4. Troy Abercrombie, Cascade Pacific RC&D
5. Kelley Beamer, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
6. Wendy Gerlach, Pacific Forest Trust
7. Lee Russell, Elk Creek WC
8. Clair Klock

Agenda Item K

1. Joe Moll, McKenzie River Trust
2. Brad Nye, Deschutes Land Trust

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

June 11, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU4LYDnKRD4>)

The June 11, 2020 meeting was called to order at 8:02 by Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

C. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:18:54):

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.

D. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 1:08:55):

The minutes of the April 21, 2020 virtual meeting were presented for board approval.

Jason Robison moved the board approve the minutes from the April 21, 2020 virtual meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. 2019-2021 Budget Projections and OWEB Spending Plan (Audio = 1:09:51):

Following the previous day's introduction to the topic and public comment, Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden answered questions from the board regarding the previous day's budget presentation.

Deputy Director Renee Davis requested the board approve receipt of funds from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund for support of OWEB and ODFW programs, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission funding for monitoring efforts in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed.

Finally, the board deliberated on options for rebalancing the 2019-2021 OWEB Spending Plan.

Item A-1 / PCSRF Funding: Mark Labhart moved the board approve receipt of PCSRF Federal Fiscal Year 2020 funding for inclusion in current and future OWEB spending plans, and utilize a combined total of \$9.5 million from the FFY20 award and previous PCSRF awards for the update to the spending plan. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item A-1 / PSMFC Funding: Randy Labbe moved the board approve receipt of Federal Fiscal Year 2020 PSMFC funding for the Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW totaling \$291,000 and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of July 1, 2020. Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item A-3 / Spending Plan Rebalance: Randy Labbe moved the board approve Spending Plan Option C as described in Attachment B of the 2019-2021 Spending Plan Rebalance staff report, including the commitment to award funding at the beginning of the 2021-2023 biennium to bring existing FIP partnerships to the full funding level approved by the board for FIP budgets during the 2019-2021 biennium. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Focused Investment Partnership 2021-2023 Solicitation (Audio = 2:47:17):

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams led the board in a discussion on postponing the 2021-2023 Focused Investment Partnership solicitation, due to Oregon lottery revenue declines because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jason Robison moved the board postpone the 2021-2023 Focused Investment Partnership application deadline until at least June 30, 2021, Mark Labhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Fall 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (Audio = 2:58:24):

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams provided background information on the Fall 2019 Open Solicitation grant offering. The board considered grant applications submitted through the Fall 2019 Open Solicitation grant offering. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations were discussed and acted on by the board.

Jason Robison moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment D to the Fall 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering staff report, with an award date of April 22, 2020. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Randy Labbe Recused from voting; Project # 220-5040-17377 Malheur Watershed Council

K. Land Acquisition Grant Awards (Audio = 3:45:33):

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Forney requested board action on land acquisition grant applications that were received during the Fall 2019 grant offering.

Mark Labhart moved the board award funding for Rainforest Reserve (220-9902) and Trout Creek Preserve (220-9909) as described in Item K, effective April 22, 2020 and with a requirement to close the transactions by April 22, 2023, and including the project-specific conditions detailed in Attachment C to the Land Acquisition Grant Awards staff report. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the transaction closing dates for Tillamook Head (219-9900) and Mt. Hood Oaks (219-9901) be extended 18 months, from October 17, 2020 to April 17, 2022. Randy Labbe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. OWEB Agency Request Budget (Audio = 5:29:51)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis requested the board's approval of budget proposals to be included in OWEB's Agency Request Budget to the Governor's Office and the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the 2021-2023 biennium.

Jason Robison moved the board approve the OWEB Agency Request Budget proposals found in Attachment B of the staff report, for inclusion in OWEB's 2021-2023 Agency Request Budget. Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Director's Update (Audio = 6:14:27)

Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program Manager Eric Hartstein updated the board on the Food Security and Farm Worker Safety Program.

O. Other Business (Audio = 6:31:19)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff requested that the board approve receipt of up to \$2,999,997 in federal funds from the Bureau of Land Management for aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects.

Jason Robison moved the board approve receipt of up to \$2,999,997 in federal funds from the Bureau of Land Management for aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

Committee Members

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

Background

The Executive Committee held their first committee meeting August 13. The committee discussed the charge from the board in January 2020 – addressing budget, policy, and program issues; and ensuring the board is actively working to implement the strategic plan, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

Summary of Discussion

The executive committee received updates from discussions from both the DEI and strategic plan committees. Those are included in separate committee reports.

Members had a robust conversation about what the role of the committee should be (outlined below). As a result of that conversation, the committee members identified that ‘executive’ committee is likely not the right title for the committee, given that executive committees tend to have 1) decision-making authority, and 2) engagement in staff-related issues. This committee serves neither of those purposes. Committee members proposed looking at the functions of ‘coordinating’, ‘advisory’, and ‘steering’ committees to determine which of those titles best fits the identified functions of the committee.

Role of Committee

The committee discussed the following roles and their relevance to the work of this group:

- 1) Guidance and direction for board discussions. This was discussed as a key role for the committee. When topics come from staff or committees that need framing to help the board make effective decisions, this committee could serve that role effectively.
- 2) DEI and Strategic Plan. Members agreed with the recommendation from the board in January that both DEI and Strategic Plan should be the responsibility of this committee.
- 3) Keeper of ‘ad hoc’ issues. Members identified this committee could serve a valuable role if ad hoc issues are raised by the board to be addressed. The committee can determine how best to follow through on those issues.
- 4) Cross-connection between committees and board. There are times that an issue might come up in two or more committees, and warrants coordination at a higher level. In addition, there may also be times that committees need assistance from a cross-committee group to further vet issues before they come in front of the board. This committee can serve both of those roles. In addition, this group could serve the role of making sure committees are staying on track to implement their work.

In addition to the roles identified above, members asked about other roles that were not likely best filled by the committee. These included:

- Would topics come to the committee and not to the full board? It was determined there would likely not be topics that come before this committee that are not ultimately presented to the full board.
- Is the committee a decision-making body? Members discussed whether the committee is a decision-making body. Statutorily it cannot be, so the role is more advisory or coordinating in nature. If there is disagreement on the committee, it would likely be noted in the form of a majority/minority opinion or a suite of recommendations for the board to consider.
- Should the committee work on board meeting agendas? Currently, the co-chairs serve in the role of coordinating with staff on board meeting agenda development. That process is working well, so it was determined that the function should stay with the co-chairs.

Future Meetings

The committee will establish a twice-yearly meeting schedule (likely April and October), and will add meetings as needed to address specific issues that need to be addressed.

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Liza Jane McAlister

Staff Contact

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

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

Subcommittee Members

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

Background

The Focused Investment Committee met on July 22, 2020, the first meeting of the committee since committee reorganization. The committee provides input to the board on solicitation, implementation, outcomes measurement, and reporting on Focused Investments.

Summary of Discussion

The committee reviewed the components and history of the Focused Investment Partnership initiative and discussed a regular quarterly committee meeting schedule.

Status of Funding for Current Initiatives

The committee reviewed a spreadsheet showing the funding status of the 11 implementation FIPs following spending plan rebalancing by the board at the June meeting. It was noted that four FIPs obligated all funds allocated to date, including two first cohort FIPs (Tri-county Sagegrouse and Ashland Forest) that have completely obligated all six years of funding. Each FIP operates on different schedules for holding grant cycles to obligate FIP funds, largely depending on the nature of the restoration work and timing of project implementation. At this time, match funding has not been an issue for FIP partnerships, but there is some concern that match funding may be impacted in the future due to ongoing impacts from Covid.

Implementation FIP Solicitation

The committee discussed the current paused status of the implementation FIP solicitation for the 2021-23 biennium. Initially slated for June 2020, the board postponed the application deadline until at least June 2021. The solicitation schedule will be revisited as the board develops the 2021-23 biennium spending plan.

Board Reporting

In previous biennia, partnerships presented progress on their FIP initiatives at the January meeting, along with written reports to the board. The written reports were in the form of Progress Tracking Reports that include metrics, narrative, and adaptive management measures implemented. Pre-covid, staff planned to have cohort 2 partnerships present to the board in January to inform spending plan proposals for the second biennium in April, with cohort 1 partnerships making final presentations in July. This would break the reporting of all 11 FIPs into two meetings. The reporting schedule is being adjusted to account for spending plan reductions made by the board in June. Cohort 2 partnerships will present progress to the board in December, with Progress Tracking Reports submitted at the March meeting to help inform spending plan decisions for the second biennium of investment. Since cohort 1 will not be fully funded at the end of the biennium, staff will defer setting a date for final board reporting.

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Tony Selle, Committee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

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

Subcommittee Members

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

Background

The Monitoring Committee held their first committee meeting after committees reorganized on July 10. 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, FIP monitoring, and the monitoring of OWEB's capacity investments.

Summary of Discussion

The committee will maintain its current scope as described above. In this capacity, committee members will work with staff to track implementation of ongoing projects, which were reviewed during the July meeting. Given recent staffing reductions, the committee will assess progress on their projects relative to staff capacity in the coming months. They also will help 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, including through such activities as roll-out of refined monitoring grant-making processes based on the rulemaking process that concluded in April 2020.

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, 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, wrap-up of FIP cohort 1 supplemental monitoring grants, and development of outreach products stemming from the tide gate report recommendations. Projects that are 'on pause' due to staffing and/or resource reductions include soliciting new *Telling the Restoration Story* grants, FIP progress tracking reporting, FIP cohort 2 supplemental monitoring grants, and retrospective evaluation of capacity investments.

Committee members recommended leveraging partnerships and collaborations where possible to help keep projects moving forward, despite staffing constraints, and offered to help identify potential opportunities for that.

Emerging Opportunities

The committee discussed several emerging areas for OWEB's monitoring work, including:

- Links to the climate committee's work, such as surveying current monitoring investments to determine how some could inform climate-change planning and considering how monitoring can help assess restoration return on investment relative to climate impacts;

- Use of drones in monitoring, such as a) best practices on drone collected data for use in reporting to OWEB; and b) connecting with regional processes to address drones/sensors needed for specific uses;
- Social science assessing co-benefits to restoration investments, including better understanding in what areas social science is being applied such as FIPs, and Stage 0 restoration monitoring; and
- Data management relative to monitoring projects, including using the roll-out of revised monitoring rules to help identify needs associated with data management that local partners are experiencing.

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.

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Alan Henning, Chair

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

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

Subcommittee Members

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

Background

The Climate Committee held their first committee meeting July 2. 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. The group discussed potential refinements to the scope, along with OWEB's role in the Governor's Executive Order (EO) on Climate and opportunities to listen, learn, and gather information to inform the committee.

Summary of Discussion

Areas of Focus

The committee discussed several possible initial areas of focus, including: identifying approaches to help disseminate climate science to partners; identifying climate-related gaps in information that partners need to better understand how climate change could impact projects, and bringing that information to the scientific community; and inviting expert review of OWEB's granting through the lens of climate action and justice. More specifically, they discussed potential actions that the committee could take to advance these early ideas:

- Document climate co-benefits from traditional investments;
- Help the board understand the effectiveness of restoration investments in addressing climate change and in mitigating and adapting to climate impacts;
- Better signal OWEB's expectations around carbon sequestration and adaptation to applicants;
- Connect to other agencies' climate expertise, including through the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC), and explore coordinated monitoring related to climate effects of investments; and
- Assess what measurement tools are available to estimate/quantify carbon sequestration from projects, among others.

Role of the committee

The committee discussed the importance of clarifying what its "sphere of influence" is, relative to the board's needs and expectations, other processes that are underway like implementation associated with the Climate EO, and staff capacity. The committee also will assess how to interface with the board on setting measurable goals related to climate and from which the committee's work will tier; and, through time, share ideas with the board about concepts such as developing a climate action statement for OWEB.

Next Steps

The committee brainstormed near-term activities in the coming six months that would advance the focus areas described above. Initial actions will focus on establishing a common

understanding related to climate, including such activities as: describing how OWEB addresses climate in its current grant-making processes and criteria, and learning about both existing processes and quantitative analysis that describe the carbon sequestration benefits of natural climate solutions. The committee will scope OWEB's climate goals by communicating with representatives from the Governor's Climate Office and OGWC, developing links to other committees such as monitoring and focused investment, and taking early steps to outline an approach to incrementally incorporate climate considerations, based on available resources.

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Bruce Buckmaster, Chair

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

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

Subcommittee Members

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

Background

The Water Committee held their first committee meeting July 30. The committee based their discussion on the charge from the board in January 2020 – to develop a more refined purpose, including strategic alignment with the 100-Year Water Vision and with future OWEB grants. The committee concluded that additional discussion is needed before developing a formal proposal to the Board.

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 work hasn't been finalized.

Role of the committee

As noted above, the committee would like to continue discussions before proposing a final role to the board. Initial ideas for committee work include:

- Helping the board identify strategic priorities for investment,
- Helping to identify funding gaps,
- Helping non-traditional partners and vulnerable communities identify potential resources to compete for grants (this also supports equity), and
- Helping push the conversation forward to incorporate natural resources into statewide agency planning.

Natural Infrastructure

In addition, the committee discussed the role of OWEB funding relative to natural infrastructure. The committee proposes to initiate a conversation about natural infrastructure by presenting some specific examples of natural infrastructure, showing how OWEB and other partners participate in funding those projects, and suggesting opportunities to improve coordination. This may also help identify funding challenges for local communities.

The committee also discussed the role of OWEB in working with other funders to better understand the funding picture for natural infrastructure, funding gaps, and who is best to fill them. Finally, the committee discussed ways to elevate the conversation more broadly regarding the use of natural infrastructure as a viable solution to build infrastructure projects. This may include considering ways to encourage natural infrastructure as an option in project planning, while at the same time recognizing that every situation is unique and has its own challenges.

Equity

The committee identified the nexus with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and identified the need for organizational growth to better incorporate equity into our work. They concurred with the DEI committee that asking the Governor's Office to join a conversation with the board about their DEI focus would be helpful. The committee also discussed incorporating the equity framework and community feedback into the water committee's work by expanding partners and identifying water-related needs.

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

Subcommittee Members

Jason Robison, Tony Selle, Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Background

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) ad hoc Committee held their first committee meeting July 27. The committee based their discussion around the charge from the board in January 2020, including the following items:

- OWEB staff and board are trained and model that we are inclusive and diverse;
- OWEB ensures all stakeholders are heard and at the table;
- OWEB considers ways to incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion into how and where we grant; and
- OWEB works to ensure that the agency reaches diverse participants to make sure they know funding is available and how to participate in OWEB programs.

Summary of Discussion

Action items to help board increase their knowledge and understanding of DEI and their role

This is a critically important issue for the board, especially in this time of challenging budgets and limited funding. Short-term actions include:

- Have staff share grantee DEI survey results with Executive Committee and at a full board meeting so board members gain an understanding of where local partners are in their DEI work.
- Invite Governor's Office (Amira Streeter) to come and talk about what she is working on with respect to equity and Governor Brown's work around racial justice.
- Ask partners to come and talk about their specific experiences to help the board better understand local perspectives.
- Identify potential online resources that can be a training tool for board – ask them to commit time to accessing those or other resources to get themselves up to speed on these key issues.
- Tie DEI to all aspects of OWEB's strategic plan – it fits all priorities.
- Survey board members to assess their current understanding of DEI, and potential challenges and opportunities.
- Look for opportunities, wherever possible, to coordinate with other agencies/Governor's Office on this work.

Additional lens for board and staff consideration

In addition to goals, committee members recommended having board and staff consistently ask the following questions when making major board decisions (excerpted from "[Is your business model anti-racist?](#)" by Nadia Owusu (Quartz, online)):

- How have our programs and services left out or harmed communities of color in the past?
- Reflecting on that past, what potential adverse impacts or unintended consequences on communities of color could result from our current and future programs/services and how might we work to address them?

- Have stakeholders from communities of color been meaningfully represented in the development of our programs and services?
- How might we work to ensure that communities of color benefit from our programs/services and how might we maximize those benefits?

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, committee member

Staff Contact

Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator

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September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Strategic Plan ad hoc Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Jason Robison, Bruce Buckmaster, Debbie Hollen, Tony Selle, Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Background

The Strategic Plan ad hoc Committee held their first committee meeting July 16. The committee based their discussion on the charge from the board in January 2020 – to develop a high-level template measuring how OWEB’s projects advance the strategic plan, and to design an approach for the executive committee to review progress toward the plan. In addition, during the meeting, the committee discussed developing a formal process to update the strategic plan as suggestions arise.

Summary of Discussion

The ad hoc committee recommended that future conversations regarding the strategic plan and the next steps outlined below move to the executive committee given that much of the membership is the same and the executive committee is made up of the co-chairs and other committee chairs.

Recommendations for next steps

As noted above, the committee provided a suite of recommendations for the executive committee to consider. These included:

- Measures. The committee recognized staff are working on strategic plan measures and the board should engage in this work as well. The committee advised on the value in bringing back the external advisory group who helped guide the 2018 strategic plan to have them provide feedback on measures that would be valuable
- How well is the plan being implemented. The committee suggested developing a ‘360-like’ survey to provide to our customers (grantees and partners) to have them provide feedback about the board and staff’s implementation of the strategic plan.
- Reporting. The committee recommended that staff should continue reporting using the existing quarterly format, but focus on what’s changed (not just ongoing reporting) and any red/yellow flags around the plan for now. In addition, should add a column that references challenges we are facing in implementing priorities.
- Connection between granting and the strategic plan. The committee would like to consider ways to encourage the board to think about the strategic plan in terms of our granting – what offerings we provide, what questions we ask of grantees, etc.
- Plan updates. The committee recommended establishing a formal way to update the plan through the committee process

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Jason Robison

Staff Contact

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

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September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-1: Budget and Staffing

This report provides the board an update about OWEB's budget and staffing.

Background

At its June meeting, the board rebalanced the 2019-2021 spending plan to address budget shortfalls due to reductions in lottery revenues. The rebalancing option selected by the board awarded Open Solicitation grants and provided funding for a subset of Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grants, while reserving approximately \$4.7 million for future open solicitation granting. In June, the board also heard an update from the Executive Director about staffing reductions that were necessary, also due to budget shortfalls. By early July, 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 missions, moving to job rotations or positions with other agencies, or selecting another professional option of their choice. This impact will continue through the rest of the biennium.

Budget Update

Regarding budget, updates fall into two categories:

2019-2021 budget – In August, OWEB received its quarterly distribution of lottery revenues, as required by the Constitution. Revenue to the OWEB grant fund came in at 41% of the expected amount. This number is higher than expected, given that lottery machines were turned off for nearly two of the three months of the quarter. Operating revenues were higher than expected as well, coming in at around 96% of average, in large part because the legislature provided a beginning fund balance for the 2019-21 biennial budget. The agency intends to hold those additional funds on the staffing side in case revenues slide during winter months.

2021-2023 budget – The budget development process for next biennium is ongoing. OWEB has been required to develop a 'revenue shortfall package' based on current lottery revenue projections for next biennium. The estimated shortfall is 20.3% below Current Service Level for the agency. In contrast, though, agencies are requested to continue plans to submit policy option packages (POPs) also. In addition to the POPs approved by the board in June, staff now are also building into OWEB's 2021-23 Agency Request Budget, a 'restoration package' that—if revenues are higher than estimated—would restore most of the staffing capacity that is proposed to be lost in the 'revenue shortfall package.'

Staffing

The staffing situation due to budget shortfalls remains as discussed in June, with OWEB staff capacity reduced by 11 individuals. In addition to the staff in this group who have moved to positions at other agencies, five OWEB staff continue to be assigned to the Food Security and Farmworker Safety (FSFS) Program (see Agenda Item D-4). Following completion of FSFS in late 2020, it is expected that these staff will be placed in job rotations or similar arrangements through the end of the biennium.

At the September board meeting, staff will provide any late-breaking budget updates to the board.

Staff Contact

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

This report provides the board an update about OWEB's online grant system improvements.

Background

In 2016, OWEB launched its first online grant applications. The online application system is directly connected to OWEB's grant management system (OGMS), the agency's enterprise database. Since the launch of online applications and the subsequent improvements to OWEB's online systems overall, staff have provided the board with annual updates about enhancements.

Recent Improvements to OWEB's Online Systems

Extensive improvements have been made to the online system content and functionality since the last update to the board in July of 2019. The improvements include:

- The addition of online applications for Oregon Department of Agriculture noxious weeds grants, partnership technical assistance grants, federal forest collaborative grants, and CREP technical assistance grants;
- Significant progress in preparing new small grant and Bureau of Land Management application types;
- Ongoing refinements to OWEB's existing online applications for restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and land acquisitions grants, based on feedback from applicants, reviewers and staff. These refinements include the addition of character limits directly after questions, responsive design of pop-ups and tables, and various other interface updates to improve the user's experience;
- Ongoing refinements to OWEB's application review and management system, including the addition of applicant contact information, enhancement of filter functionality, and various improvements to the application builder tool;
- Creation of an award memo generator and improvements to the auto grant agreement generator;
- Refinements to Dashboard user experience, such as improved project filtering and a portal to the project completion reporting pages used by grantees; and
- Addition of the Food Security and Farmworker Safety program to OGMS.

The 'Project Life Cycle' (PLC) initiative that kicked off in 2018 continues its work to leverage existing technology and streamline processes across the full 'life cycle' of a grant. The initiative is creating a more efficient, user-friendly grant management and reporting system that captures key information at the appropriate points in time, thus maximizing both process effectiveness and accuracy of the information OWEB gathers. Current areas of focus include online payment requests and a streamlined reporting interface for restoration metrics.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203.

September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-3: 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 January and August 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, January to August 2020

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – January-August 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> - New Oregon Lottery natural habitats website launched in winter 2020 featuring new OWEB projects.	<u>So That: (outputs)</u> - 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> - Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools. - More Oregonians: 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> - 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> - 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> - Marko Bey, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Executive Director, spoke to the board in January 2020 on their work with restoration crews, specifically those of Hispanic and native maerican decent. - Staff completed follow-up interviews with grantees as a result of the DEI surveys distributed earlier this year. - All-staff participated in a DEI exercise during the August all-staff meeting. - Staff received materials regarding racial equity and systemic racism. Materials were also provided to partners to share. - The ad hoc DEI committee held its first meeting to discuss how to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion into conversations with board, staff, and OWEB’s operations. The initial discussion recognized that this is a critical area for board discussion and focus. The ad hoc committee with work with staff and the Executive Committee to find opportunities for presentations and trainings that can be shared at future board meetings.	<u>So That: (outputs)</u> - 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> - 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> - Staff has participated in 365 hours of training (July 2018-December 2019). <u>Potential impact measure:</u> - 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	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions) - 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 pick this back up in the new biennium.	So That: (outputs) - 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.	To Make This Difference: (outcomes) - 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.	Near-term measure: - Under development Potential impact measure: - 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	- In January the board awarded 6 applications for the new Partnership Technical Assistance grant that provides funding to create a new or enhance an existing strategic action plan and supports partnership capacity.	- Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions.	- Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity. - Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively.	
	Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships		- 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.	- State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships.	
Priority 4 - Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio					
Strategies	Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions) - 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.	So That: (outputs) - 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.	To Make This Difference: (outcomes) - 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	Near-term measure: - Increase in the use of new and diverse funding sources by grantees. Potential impact measure: - 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
	Align common investment areas with private foundations		- Foundations and corporations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon		
	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 to continue the 100-Year Water Vision work along with the Governor’s office in the 2020 Short Legislative Session. While funding was slated for approval, the legislature closed the session without passing a budget, so no funding was received for the program. - The water committee held its first meeting to discuss the connections between OWEB’s work and the 100-year water vision. Initial areas of focus include equity and natural infrastructure. The committee will continue to meet to develop refined proposals for board consideration. - The climate committee held its first meeting to discuss opportunities for OWEB to more fully integrate climate related considerations into its grant-making. Initial areas of focus include better understanding how existing OWEB investments are providing climate benefits and learning about complementary initiatives (e.g., Climate EO). - Continued engagement with the state’s process to update Oregon’s Climate Change Adaptation Framework, including final work on near-term and longer-term coordination leadership options; the draft framework is now under review by state executives. - Supported Business Oregon to develop a proposal to distribute \$6 million in grants and loans for tide gate infrastructure projects for the 2020 session. While funds were not approved in February 2020, the legislature is considering \$3 million in funding for the 2020 special session. 	<p>and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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>work that is also environmentally sustainable.</p>	<p>investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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

Strategies	<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"> - Continued discussions with the Commission around funding strategy for OAHP grant programs. 	<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. 	<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>Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successfully launched the Food Security and Farmworker Safety grant program, which provides CARES act funding to producers to meet housing, sanitation, and PPE needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examples of successful working lands conservation projects are available for local organizations to use. 	<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. 	<p><u>Potential impact measure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased conservation awareness amongst owners and managers of working lands.
	<p>Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awarded funds for the Rainforest Reserve land acquisition project, which includes a 3,500-acre mosaic of conservation and working forest lands. Matching funds are provided through the USFS Forest Legacy Program. - Deputy Director and Executive Director began engaging with the Oregon Global Warming Commission’s Natural and Working Lands process, as described in the Climate EO. 	<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"> - Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future. - Sustained vitality of Oregon’s natural resources industries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A better understanding of conservation participation, barriers and incentives for working lands owners.
	<p>Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OWEB and ODA staff worked together to incorporate lessons learned from Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) grant-making to date, and proposed refinements to the funding process to the OWEB board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landowner engagement strategies and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expanded relationships with agriculture and forestry associations.
	<p>Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OWEB awarded Stakeholder Engagement grants that communicate with and recruit private working landowners in the following watersheds: North Coast (forest land), South Fork Coquille (ranches and farms), Long Tom (forest land). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission has administrative rules and stable funding for the OAHP to protect working lands. - Local capacity exists to implement the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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

			Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> water quality. Expanded funding opportunities exist for working lands conservation.
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Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategi	Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts	<p><u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented “Telling the Restoration Story” products to the OWEB board at multiple meetings, and continued work with grantees on outreach product development for ongoing projects. The Conservation Effectiveness Partnership completed a virtual tour of the Floras Creek Watershed, to scope opportunities for a data driven case study that quantitatively describes the results from restoration; and worked with communication leads at the five partner agencies to develop a communications strategy that matches products and messages to key audiences. 	<p><u>So That: (outputs)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners. A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects. A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described. 	<p><u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners are using results-based restoration ‘stories’ to share conservation successes and lessons learned. Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs. Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. 	<p><u>Near-term measure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 outreach products were developed through staff, grants or partnerships (January-December 2019). <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 outcomes.
	Invest in monitoring over the long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with implementation and funding partners to secure an additional year of funding for the Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding. 	<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. 	
	Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Began planning for outreach to monitoring grant applicants to provide training on the new application requirements based on revised administrative rules that were completed in April 2020. Drafted a document to assist practitioners developing tide gate replacement or removal projects in Oregon; it is currently under review by practitioners and scientists. Seven SIA teams have monitoring plans approved by the Statewide Monitoring Advisory Group (MAG). Engaged in planning process to update Photo-point Monitoring Guide to include drone based photos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level. Priorities are proactively established and clearly articulated to plan for adequate monitoring resources that describe restoration investment outcomes. Monitoring practitioners focus efforts on priority monitoring needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly. Impacts on ecological, economic and social factors are considered as a part of successful monitoring efforts. 	
	Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged in the planning process to host a Stage 0 Stream Restoration and Monitoring Workshop in November 2020, at which practitioners, researchers, regulators and other stakeholders will discuss current topics and data gaps related to implementing and monitoring restoration projects intended to achieve a Stage 0 condition. Engaged in planning process for an Emerging Technology Webinar Series to share examples of using drones to monitor stream restoration projects. The webinar series will occur in October 2020. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared. Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales. Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results. 	
	Define monitoring priorities				
	Develop and promote a monitoring framework				

Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds

Strategi	Invest in landscape restoration over the long term	<p><u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded land acquisition grants to land trusts for two landscape-scale projects that will result in permanent protection of over 8,000 acres in the North Coast and Deschutes watersheds. 	<p><u>So That: (outputs)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community. 	<p><u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway. Conservation communities value an 	<p><u>Near-term measure:</u></p> <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.
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	<p>Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopted extensive changes to water acquisition rules that include more options for contractually protected instream flows. Such projects can be structured to enhance both economic and ecological benefits. - Board supported additional funding for a pipe sizing tool to aid in the development of tide gate designs that meet regulatory requirements for fish passage. - Supported Business Oregon in finalizing an application for tide gate repair and replacement grants. Funding was not approved in the 2020 legislative session but may be approved in the August 2020 special session. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	<p>experimental approach to learning and innovation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<p>Potential impact measure:</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.
	<p>Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB’s mission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued work to plan for the November virtual workshop focused on Stage 0 restoration monitoring, in coordination with a steering committee of practitioners, researchers, and agency partners. Currently, more than 80 participants are registered. - OWEB’s Project Life Cycle team initiated a project to scope software programming opportunities to better capture and share lessons learned in Project Completion Reports to make the information more accessible internally and externally. Due to limited staffing the project is currently on pause. 			

This report provides the board an update on the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program.

Background

In June, the legislative emergency board allocated \$16 million in federal funding to OWEB to administer a COVID-19 response program to help secure Oregon's food supply chain and protect essential agricultural workers. OWEB entered into an interagency agreement with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to help develop and communicate the program.

Program Goals

This program was developed in response to safety needs for farmworkers who harvest Oregon's agricultural products, and to the temporary rules enacted by Oregon Occupational Safety Health Administration (OR-OSHA) in response to COVID-19. These requirements come with an increased cost to agricultural producers in providing farmworker housing, field sanitation, and transportation. The goals of the program are to:

- Deploy rapid support and resources to Oregon's agricultural growers to meet harvest demands and ensure the protection of migrant and seasonal farmworkers during the COVID-19 emergency.
- Reduce the potential for illness and death associated with COVID-19 among farmworkers, their families, and employers, and other residents in rural and urban communities.
- Enhance the public health of the state and educate Oregon's agricultural industry to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Program Implementation

As noted at the June board meeting, staff worked with ODA, OHCS, and other agency partners to develop the Food Security and Farmworker Safety grant program, which became live on June 10. The grant program elements are:

- Farmworker Housing (\$10 million)
 - Temporary Modifications to Existing Housing
 - Temporary Alternative Housing
 - Hotel/Motel Assistance
- Field Sanitation (\$5 million)
 - Toilets/Handwashing Stations
 - Face Coverings
- Transportation (\$1 million)
 - Rental Vehicles/Mileage Reimbursement

As of the writing of this staff report, 117 applications to the program have been received. It is expected that applications will be received into October. The program will end on October 25, 2020 as the federal funding supporting the program must be expended by December 30, 2020. In addition to grant application information, the program webpage includes additional resources for keeping farmworkers healthy:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/fsfs/Pages/resources-for-farmworkers.aspx>

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Coby Menton at coby.menton@oregon.gov.



Kate Brown, Governor



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Agenda Item F 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 F – Oregon Conservation Partnership Update
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an update on how the Oregon Conservation Partnership is working with and supporting its stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

II. Background

The Oregon Conservation Partnership (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.

III. Update

The Executive Directors of the individual organizations will provide an update to the board about how they are working together to deliver information and training opportunities to their members to provide support and resources during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.



Kate Brown, Governor



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Agenda Item G supports OWEB's Strategic Plan Priorities 2, 3 and 7

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Governor's Office Update on Equity and Environmental Justice Initiatives
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

During several committee conversations, discussion arose around the connection between work of the committee and work Governor Brown's office is initiating regarding equity and environmental justice. Board members requested the Governor's Office provide an update about those initiatives, so that work can be coordinated with the various OWEB board committees.

II. Background

In March, Governor Brown approved Executive Order 20-04 "directing state agencies to take actions to reduce and regulate greenhouse gas emissions. "Section 3.E of the order establishes an Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts to Impacted Communities. "The Governor's Office will convene an interagency workgroup on climate impacts to impacted communities to develop strategies to guide state climate actions, with participation by the following agencies and commissions: DEQ, DLCD, ODA, ODF, ODFW, ODOE, ODOT, OHA, OWEB, OWRD, PUC, Environmental Justice Task Force, Oregon Global Warming Commission, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Oregon Sustainability Board."

In July, Governor Brown established the Racial Justice Council. This council has subgroups focused on criminal justice reform and police accountability, health equity, economic opportunity, housing and homelessness, and environmental justice/natural resources.

Natural Resources Policy Advisor Amira Streeter is the lead for Governor Brown's office for both Section 3.E of the Executive Order and for the environmental justice/natural resources subgroup of the Racial Justice Council. She will join the board to provide an update about both initiatives to help the board increase their understanding of this work, how it relates to the Governor's priorities, and how the OWEB board might best engage in these efforts.

III. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.



Agenda Item H supports OWEB's Strategic Plan Priority #6: Coordinated Monitoring and Shared Learning.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item H. – *Telling the Restoration Story* Grants Update
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Telling the Restoration Story is a targeted grant offering that helps OWEB and grantees better communicate the ecological outcomes of restoration funded by OWEB. At each board meeting, staff will briefly highlight *Telling the Restoration Story* products, drawing on recently completed projects to illustrate outcomes from a range of restoration activities funded by OWEB. At the September 2020 board meeting, local partners will join staff to share information about the Deer Creek *Telling the Restoration Story* project and discuss products from the board's investment in that effort.

II. Background

Telling the Restoration Story grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing monitoring data from a watershed restoration project or projects, and production of outreach materials that describe outcomes from that work. Products aim to reach a broad audience, including board members and legislators. Grantees also identify specific audiences, so the materials developed can be used to communicate with landowners, restoration practitioners, and natural resource managers working to restore similar landscapes in Oregon.

Eight projects have been funded under this offering so far. An online map provides short summaries and links to completed products as they become available:

<https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7bc381f4422944778431a65f2b9b7fd6>

III. *Telling the Restoration Story*: Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement

This story was developed by the McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC) and their partners to highlight the outcomes associated with their restoration actions. The design approach, termed Stage 0, seeks to reestablish hydrologic connection across the entire valley bottom, largely through the removal of streamside berms, filling of incised channels, and placement of significant amounts of large wood throughout the floodplain. The project successfully restored

hydrologic connection and increased habitat and flow over 35 acres of the valley bottom in the lower reach of Deer Creek, a tributary of the McKenzie River in Lane County.

The relatively new design approach and the immediate geomorphic response has generated interest from a range of professional colleagues, funding entities, and the public. The *Telling the Restoration Story* project created outreach materials describing the Stage 0 design approach (Attachment A), along with an overview of the Deer Creek project and initial monitoring results (Attachment B). Short-term monitoring has shown that 'Stage 0' restoration on Deer Creek has 1) increased habitat availability and complexity, 2) increased the diversity and abundance of aquatic macroinvertebrates, and 3) enhanced spawning and rearing habitat for spring Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, and cutthroat trout.

In addition, a digital GIS StoryMap was created and available online:

<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=a1eab14df971439580ac2c17e308fa09>. Finally, a separate report outlines potential approaches for monitoring geomorphic changes associated with Stage 0 projects over time. Project partners, including the USFS, intend to use these materials to increase awareness and understanding of this emerging floodplain restoration approach.

IV. Next steps

OWEB staff will continue to share *Telling the Restoration Story* products with the OWEB board at upcoming meetings to highlight outcomes associated with OWEB's restoration investments. Staff also will identify new opportunities for investment, when funding is available.

V. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

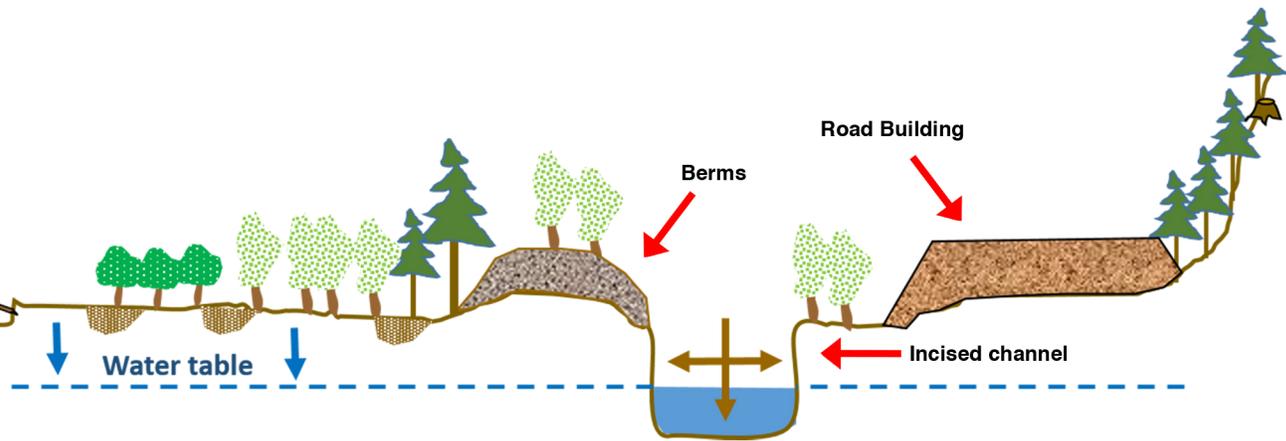
- A. Stage 0 Restoration Approach, Two-Page Flyer
- B. Deer Creek Restoration, Four-Page Flyer

Stage 0 Design Approach to Floodplain Restoration



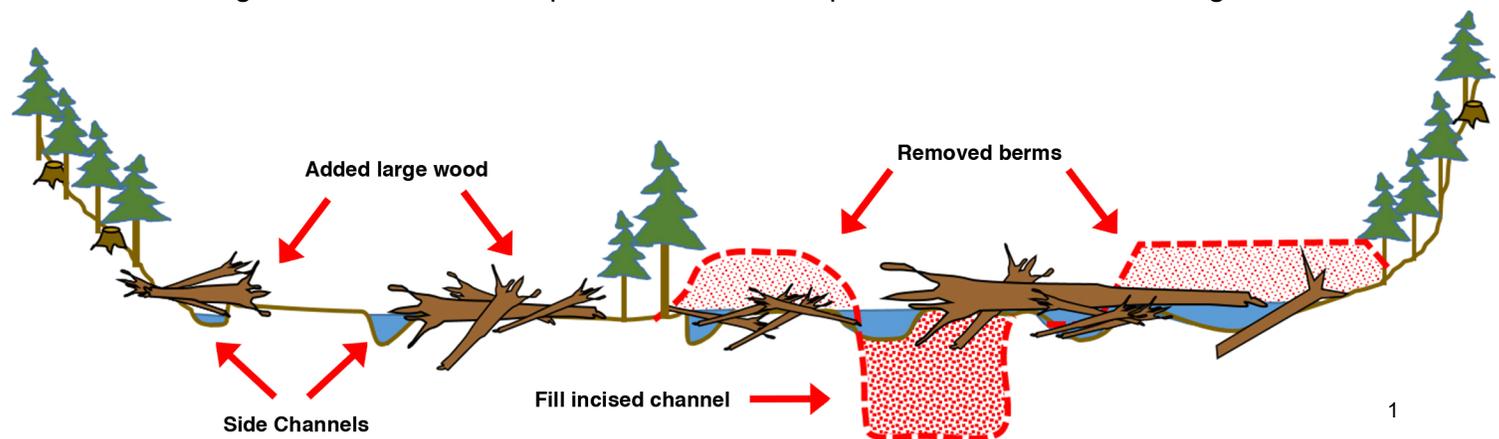
Background

Historically, valley bottoms in low gradient river valleys were complex depositional zones for sediment, wood, and nutrients from upstream areas. These conditions created and maintained braided channel networks with abundant gravels, wood, and deep pools needed to support diverse fish, wildlife, and vegetation communities. Land management practices over the last century (dams, roads, urban and rural development, agriculture, berm placement, in-stream wood removal, and harvest of timber) have channelized rivers, disconnected valley bottoms, lowered water tables, altered vegetation communities, and negatively impacted native fish and wildlife.



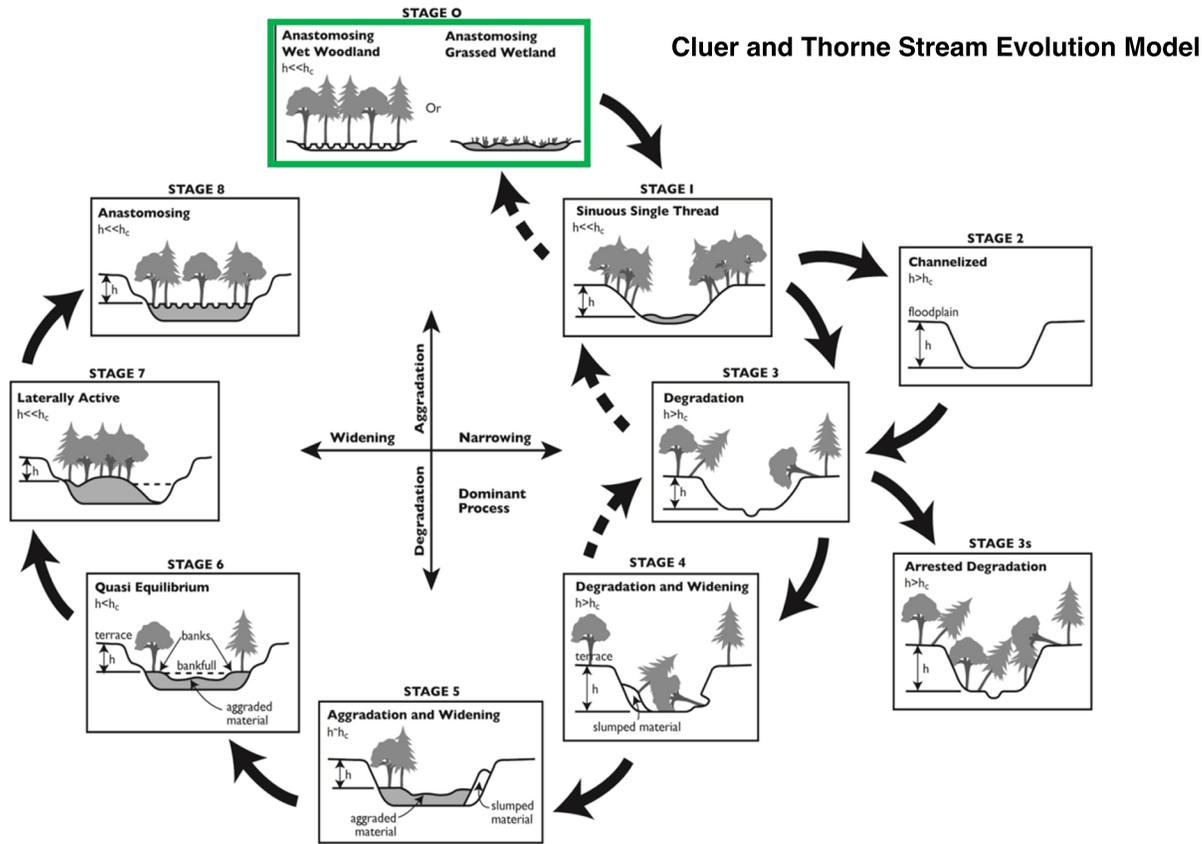
Restoration

Traditional approaches to valley bottom restoration have largely focused on working within incised channels and engineering stable channels to reconnect side channels. Recently, an alternative approach developed over time by US Forest Service specialists and community partners working in Oregon has instead focused on restoring river processes that encourage deposition and the development of complex habitat over time. This is typically accomplished by filling previously incised channels with sediment removed from stream-side berms, old road beds or natural deposits and adding high volumes of large wood. This approach creates a well-connected valley bottom and allows the river to shape braided channel networks in response to environmental drivers like floods, and biological drivers such as riparian forest development and beaver damming.

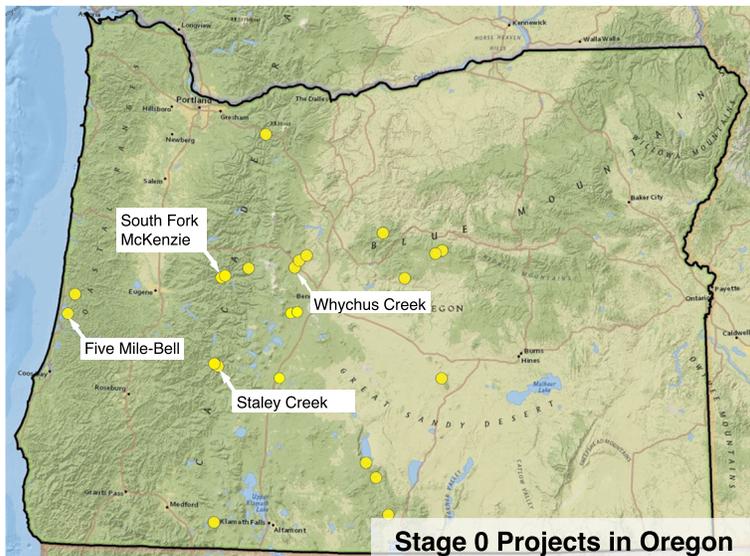


Stage 0 Restoration

This new approach to river restoration is well described in the literature by Cluer and Thorne (2013) as Stage 0 of the Stream Evolution Model. Their research shows that in wide, low-gradient river valleys, an anastomosing or braided channel network that is regularly flooded better represents historical conditions prior to widespread human disturbance. Their research also shows that habitat and ecosystems benefit significantly increase within the more complex, braided stages (Stage 0 and Stage 8) of the model.



Oregon Stage 0 Projects



Stage 0 restoration projects have been implemented at 20 sites in Oregon. To date, projects have exclusively been implemented on US Forest Service land and range in size from large rivers (South Fork McKenzie River) to small meadow creeks. Early results show that projects have created dynamic and complex habitats.

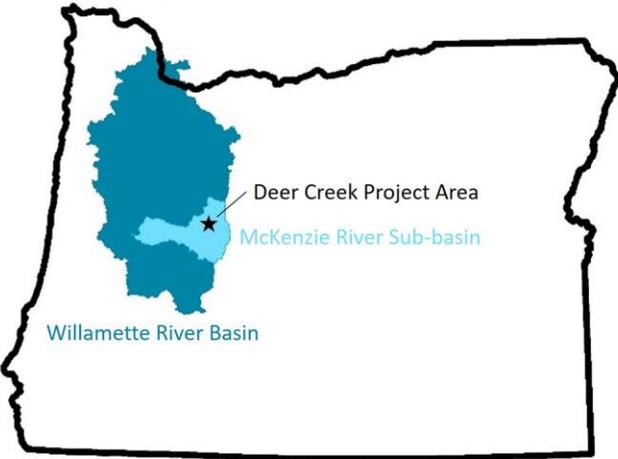
The next challenge for restoration practitioners and research partners will be to evaluate the linked physical and ecological responses to Stage 0 restoration. Several monitoring projects are underway on the South Fork McKenzie River, Staley Creek (Middle Fork Willamette River), Whychus Creek (Deschutes River) and Five Mile Creek/Bell Creek complex (Coastal).



Deer Creek: A Stage 0 Approach to River Restoration



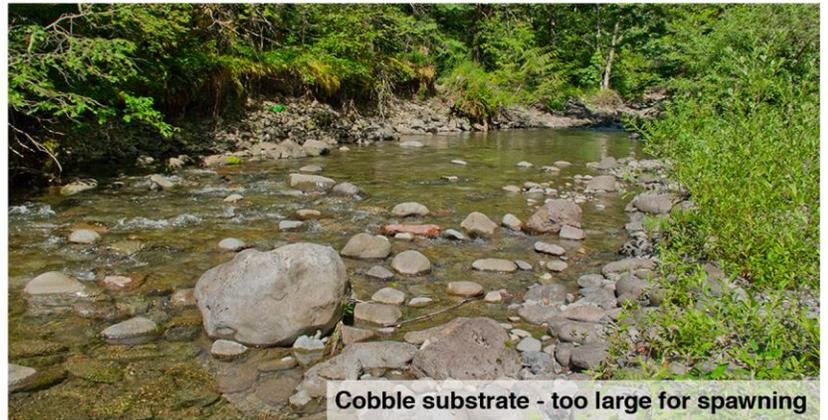
Background



Deer Creek is a tributary of McKenzie River located in western Oregon in the Cascade Mountains. The creek is 8.2 miles long and drains nearly 15,000 acres. Ownership within the Deer Creek watershed is almost entirely public lands managed by the US Forest Service (USFS).

Historically, Deer Creek was a complex stream with a gravel-rich bottom. The lower portion of the creek flowed through a wide valley bottom as a braided system of channels that would move and change during periodic flooding. Fallen trees from the surrounding forest trapped sediment providing diverse habitat for native fish and wildlife including Chinook salmon, bull trout, and rainbow trout.

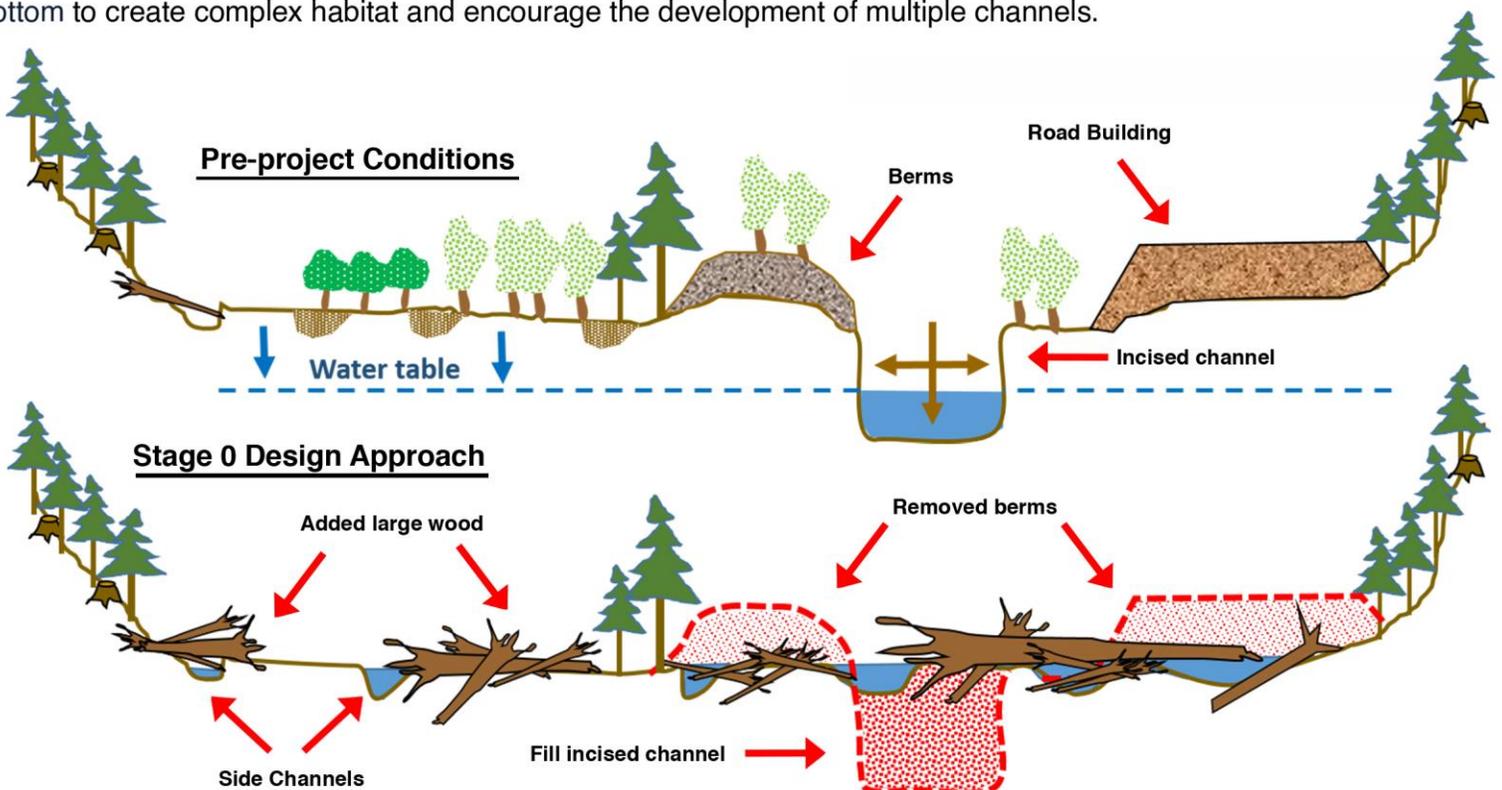
Deer Creek has been significantly altered by human activities since the late 1800s. Logging and the removal of large wood from the creek simplified and narrowed the channel. Stream-side berms were constructed after the historic 1964 flood to keep the stream in a single channel disconnecting it from its natural valley bottom. These changes had a dramatic impact on the physical environment of the creek and drastically changed the habitat on which salmon and other native fish and wildlife depend.



Cobble substrate - too large for spawning

Design

In 2016, the USFS and the McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC) began a project to restore habitat conditions on Deer Creek. The project followed a new design approach since termed "Stage 0", to restore natural processes that form and maintain complex in-stream and valley bottom habitat. The Stage 0 design approach removes berms or old roads that are preventing valley bottom connectivity. This material is then placed within incised portions of the stream channel to connect flows to side channels and large areas of the valley bottom. Large wood is then placed throughout the creek and valley bottom to create complex habitat and encourage the development of multiple channels.



Implementation

The Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project was designed to restore habitat for native fish and wildlife in the lower 1.1 miles and 42 acres of Deer Creek. Work started in the summer of 2016 and was completed by two Oregon contractors, Haley Construction (Sweet Home) and Blue Ridge Timber Cutting (Coos Bay).



Decked logs prior to transport to project site



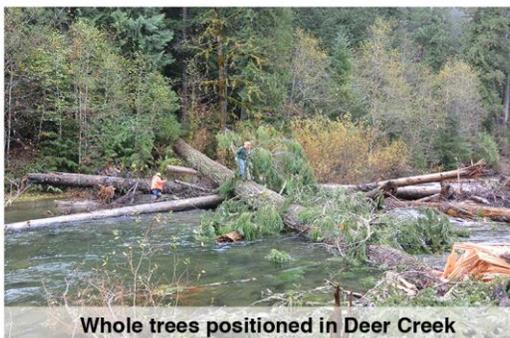
Diversion channel



Berm removal and channel fill



Large wood placement



Whole trees positioned in Deer Creek



Rewatered floodplain

The first step of the Project was to divert sections of Deer Creek so that berm removal, channel fill, and large wood placement could take place in dry conditions. A bulldozer and large excavator were used to construct small dams on Deer Creek, temporarily diverting stream flow into side channels. Small teams collected stranded fish from the dewatered channel and relocated them outside of the project area. Streamside berms were then removed and the material placed within incised portions of Deer Creek. Over 450 pieces of large wood were then distributed throughout the project area in various-sized log jams. The diversion dams were then removed allowing the creek to flow freely over the newly reconnected valley bottom and around the placed log jams, forming complex pools and braided channels.



Reconnected floodplain and log jams

Project Cost

The project cost was \$466,000 and was funded by a variety of state, federal, and private foundation sources., including the USFS, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Bring Back the Natives Program (NFWF), and the Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI). Both the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) and the USFS provided personnel and material support. The project was managed by the MWC and Willamette National Forest McKenzie River Ranger District.

Funders	Amount
USFS	\$241,000
OWEB	\$142,000
NFWF	\$60,000
WNTI	\$17,000
EWEB	\$6,000
Total	\$466,000

Post-Project Results

Early results of the restoration are encouraging. Deer Creek changed from less than 30 pieces of large wood per mile to over 300. The previously constrained channel now connects to its valley bottom. Pre- and post-project photos show a dramatic difference in how the creek meanders through the valley bottom. Water flowing downstream is now slowed and redirected by complex log jams and islands, creating a diversity of habitats. As water flows over logs and a wider channel, it slows down allowing gravels to deposit and accumulate, creating spawning habitat. Before, a narrower channel with fast-flowing water would have carried those gravels downstream.



In 2017, biologists observed spring Chinook salmon spawning in Deer Creek, the first documented spawning since 1993! A summer snorkel survey also documented the presence of juvenile bull trout.

Aquatic insects are a critical part of the food web and an important monitoring tool. Analysis of macroinvertebrate samples collected in 2019 shows that the number of species present and their total biomass is significantly greater within the project area when compared to untreated sections of Deer Creek.



Project managers recognize the need for formal monitoring to measure the changes in Deer Creek over time. The USFS and MWC are currently working with a variety of scientists to design a monitoring program that will capture physical habitat changes and biological responses over time. Due to the large project area, partners are exploring the use of aerial imagery in combination with transect surveys across the valley bottom to efficiently track habitat complexity. This data will be assessed along with annual fish spawning and macroinvertebrate sampling.



Agenda Item I 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 I – Organizational Collaboration Grants
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of Organizational Collaboration grants and requests the board approve a revised Organizational Collaboration grant offering and signal their intent to add funding to this offering at the December 2020 board meeting.

II. Background

Organizational collaboration technical assistance grants have been offered since 2013 and support organizations working together to create strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local organizations that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities.

Past grants have funded two or more organizations to work together to change operational structure of the organizations, including the merger of four watershed councils. Through consultations, application materials, and interviews the applicants must demonstrate the organizational restructuring options being considered will strengthen organizational impact and sustainability for the purposes of achieving ecological outcomes and engaging local communities. The evaluation criteria contained in Attachment A focus on stakeholder engagement, proposal clarity, organizational capacity, and technical soundness.

III. Revised Offering

Many of our local partners are facing new and unforeseen challenges due to COVID-19. In May the Oregon Conservation Partnership sent a survey to watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and land trusts to gain an understanding of concerns and challenges due to COVID-19. Results of the survey showed that 53% of respondents are concerned about their ability to maintain current staffing levels and more than 30% expressed that they could not maintain current staffing levels if the pandemic lasted more than six months.

The revised Organizational Collaboration grant offering would focus funding specifically toward organizations exploring operational change to support improved delivery of actions

to protect and restore native fish and wildlife habitats and water quality and stream flows. Change can happen in many forms such as merger, formal alliances (i.e. administrative consolidation, fiscal sponsorship, joint programming, joint fundraising) or action networks (organizational aligning around specific objectives and common purpose and goals). Staff understand this work takes time to develop, with many conversations needed between staff and boards of interested organizations before concepts can move forward. Collaborating organizations might not be ready to apply for funds, but by announcing the offering now some groups might begin serious conversations with their partners and could be ready to apply in early 2021.

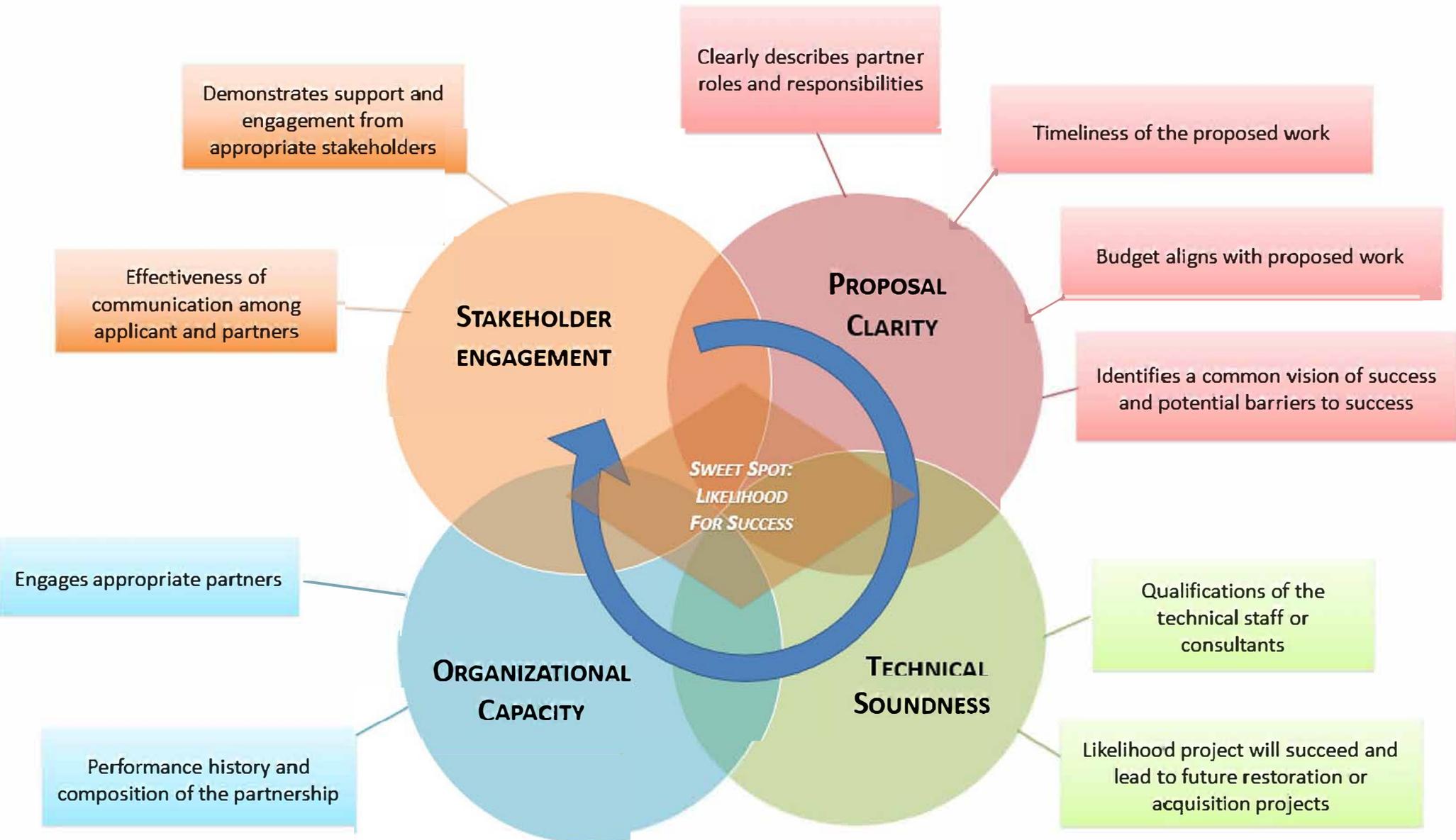
Staff intend to announce the offering in September, hold consultations beginning in October and accept applications, via a rolling deadline, beginning in early 2021. The review process involves a technical review team composed of OWEB staff and external reviewers and involves an interview with the staff and board of all organizations involved in the grant. Board action on applications could occur in March or June 2021.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve a revised Organizational Collaboration grant offering and signal its intent to add additional funds to the Organizational Collaboration TA grant spending plan category in December 2020.

Attachments

Attachment A. Evaluation Criteria



Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-030-0045(3)a-j



Kate Brown, Governor



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Overview of 2021-2023 Spending Plan Development Process
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will discuss the process for building and approving the 2021-23 OWEB Spending Plan and initiate a conversation with the board about the tie between the spending plan and OWEB's 2018 strategic plan.

II. Background

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's budget at the beginning of each biennium, 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, and salmon license plate revenues, along with other, smaller funding sources. The bulk of OWEB's grant funding 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 \$99.3 million. In June 2020, the Board revised the spending plan to address a number of issues – a drastic downturn in Lottery revenues, receipt of federal PCSRF funds, and use of recapture dollars to help fill the budget shortfall. The revised spending plan totaled \$76.0 million (Attachment A). While the board has generally adjusted the spending plan in even years, primarily due to receipt of the annual PCSRF award, this year's update was a larger shift because of the shortfall in Lottery revenues.

III. 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 September 2020, the board will discuss the overall timeline for the spending plan development process, and the connection between the spending plan, Long-Term Investment Strategy and the 2018 Strategic Plan, including an initial review of percent targets from previous board spending plans (Attachment B).

- In December 2020, based on initial conversations in September, the board will provide an indication of the percentages it would like to include for Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, Operating Capacity, and Other grant categories.
- Between the December 2020 and March 2021 board meetings, staff and the Executive Committee will convene to discuss funding options for specific grant types within each category.
- In March 2021, staff will present on each of the grant types within each category (e.g., restoration, FIP capacity-building, etc.) and propose an investment amount for each grant type based on the overall percentages indicated by the board in December. At that time, the board will provide feedback on the funding amounts for each grant type.
- In June 2021, staff will present the 2021-23 Spending Plan as a slate of final recommendations for the board's approval. The board will also consider the latest revenue forecast and use of additional funds for the spending plan from PCSRF and recapture, as occurred during the June 2020 board meeting. Ultimately, in June 2021, the board will approve next biennium's spending plan.

IV. Connection to Strategic Plan and Long-Term Investment Strategy

The board is currently operating under both the Long-Term Investment Strategy (approved in 2013, provided as Attachment C) and the 2018 Strategic Plan (summary provided at the front of the board book). These continue to guide the process of developing the spending plan. In addition, the board has generally operated in a 'no surprises' approach with grantees, seeking to keep shifts in the spending plan gradual to ensure that grantees have time to respond to any changes the board proposes to make in funding categories.

V. Recommendation

This is a discussion item only.

Attachments

Attachment A. 2019-21 Spending Plan (updated in June 2020)

Attachment B. Previous Spending Plan Percentages Based on Long Term Investment Strategy

Attachment C. Long Term Investment Strategy

	2019-21 SPENDING PLAN for M76 & PCSRF Funds	Jan 20 Spending Plan	June 2020 changes	Spending Plan as of June 2020	June 2020 Awards	TOTAL Awards To- Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To- Date
1	Open Solicitation:						
2	Restoration	31.200	(11.998)	19.202	7.897	15.945	3.257
3	Technical Assistance						
4	Restoration TA	3.100	(0.609)	2.491	0.975	1.966	0.525
5	CREP TA	1.163		1.163		1.163	0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement	1.000	0.248	1.248	0.755	1.000	0.248
7	Monitoring grants	3.500	(1.747)	1.753	1.753	1.753	0.000
8	Land and Water Acquisition						
9	Acquisition	6.750	(1.845)	4.905	4.748	4.905	0.000
10	Acquisition TA	0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000
11	Weed Grants	3.000		3.000		3.000	0.000
12	Small Grants	3.150	(1.650)	1.500	(1.650)	1.500	0.000
13	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.278	(0.518)	0.760		0.760	0.000
14	TOTAL	54.141	(18.119)	36.022	14.478	31.992	4.030
15	% of assumed Total Budget	54.53%		47.39%			
16	Focused Investments:						
17	Deschutes	4.000	(1.915)	2.085	(1.915)	2.085	0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habi	2.180	(1.400)	0.780	(1.400)	0.780	0.000
19	Harney Basin Wetlands	2.500	(0.100)	2.400	(0.100)	2.400	0.000
20	Sage Grouse	0.474		0.474		0.474	0.000
21	Ashland Forest All-Lands	2.000		2.000		2.000	0.000
22	Upper Grande Ronde	2.777	(0.466)	2.311	(0.466)	2.311	0.000
23	John Day Partnership	4.000		4.000		4.000	0.000
24	Baker Sage Grouse	1.715	(0.372)	1.343	(0.372)	1.343	0.000
25	Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.000	(0.287)	1.713	(0.287)	1.713	0.000
26	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptrnshp	1.500		1.500		1.500	0.000
27	Clackamas Partnership	3.455	(0.101)	3.354	(0.101)	3.354	0.000
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.450	(0.300)	0.150		0.150	0.000
29	TOTAL	27.051	(4.941)	22.110	(4.641)	22.110	0.000
30	% of assumed Total Budget	27.25%		29.09%			
31	Operating Capacity:						
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	14.416	(0.086)	14.330		14.330	0.000
33	Statewide org partnership support	0.250	0.175	0.425	0.175	0.425	0.000
34	Organizational Collaborative	0.200	(0.100)	0.100		0.100	0.000
35	Partnership Technical Assistance	0.779		0.779		0.779	0.000
36	TOTAL	15.645	(0.011)	15.634	0.175	15.634	0.000
37	% of assumed Total Budget	15.76%		20.57%			
38	Other:						
39	CREP	0.750		0.750		0.750	0.000
40	Governor's Priorities	1.000	(0.207)	0.793	(0.207)	0.793	0.000
41	Strategic Implementation Areas	0.700		0.700		0.700	0.000
42	TOTAL	2.450	(0.207)	2.243	(0.207)	2.243	0.000
43	% of assumed Total Budget	2.47%		2.95%			
44	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	99.287	(23.278)	76.009	9.805	71.979	4.030
45	OTHER DIRECTED						
46	ODFW - PCSRF	11.690		11.690		11.690	0.000
47	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.321		0.321		0.321	0.000
48	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF	0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000
49	TOTAL	12.011	0.000	12.011	0.000	12.011	0.000
50	TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds	111.298	(23.278)	88.020	9.805	83.990	4.030

Previous Spending Plan Percentages Based on Long Term Investment Strategy*

Category	2015-2017	2017-2019	2019-2021
Open Solicitation	62.69%	61.65%	55.28%
Focused Investments	17.15%	19.14%	26.05%
Operating Capacity**	18.11%	16.09%	15.38%
Other	2.06%	3.13%	3.29%

**Note: the spending plan percentages are taken from the board meeting at which the board approved each of the spending plans (July of each even year), and are the 'Year 2' numbers for each approved plan.*

***Note: while the operating capacity percent has gone down each biennium, the amount for capacity has gone up using a cost of living allowance calculation in all three biennia. The lower percentage is because Lottery revenues increased more than the cost of living calculation in those biennia.*



OWEB Strategic Direction 2019

Mission: To help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.

Strategic Plan

With extensive input from our stakeholders, OWEB has designed a strategic plan to provide direction for the agency and its investments over the next 10 years.

PRIORITY 1. Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

- Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration, and community successes of watershed investments
- Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

PRIORITY 2. Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians

- Listen, learn, and gather information about diverse populations
- Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table
- Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion

PRIORITY 3. Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

- Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding
- Champion best approaches to build organizational, community, and partnership capacity
- Continue to catalyze and increase state/federal agency participation in strategic partnerships

PRIORITY 4. Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

- Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision
- Seek alignment of common investment areas with private foundations
- Explore creative funding opportunities/partnerships with the private sector
- Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources

PRIORITY 5. The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

- Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
- Strengthen engagement with a broad base of landowners
- Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farms, ranches, and forestlands
- Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands
- Develop engagement strategies for owners/managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations

PRIORITY 6. Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

- Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts
- Invest in monitoring over the long term
- Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring
- Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners
- Define monitoring priorities
- Develop and promote a monitoring framework

PRIORITY 7. Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

- Invest in landscape restoration over the long-term
- Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies
- Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission



Long-Term Investment Strategy

OWEB's Framework for Grant Investments

In 2013, the Board adopted a Long-Term Investment Strategy that guides its investments of Lottery, federal, and salmon plate funding. All of OWEB's investments in ecological outcomes also help build communities and support the local economy. The Board also approved a direction for the investments outlined below. They will continue operating capacity and open solicitation grants and continue focused investments with a gradual increase over time.

OPERATING CAPACITY

Operating Capacity Investments support the operating costs of effective watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. Councils and districts are specifically identified in OWEB's statutes.

OPEN SOLICITATION

OWEB offers responsive grants across the state for competitive proposals based on local ecological priorities.

FOCUSED INVESTMENTS

OWEB helps landscape-scale collaborative partnerships achieve collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes.

EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

OWEB evaluates and reports on the progress and outcomes of watershed work it supports.



Kate Brown, Governor



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Agenda Item K 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 K – Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) Grants
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the current status of SIA grants and provides a plan for funding the remaining 2019-2021 SIA areas.

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.

Beginning with the 2017-2019 biennium the OWEB board awarded \$100,000 of technical assistance funds for each SIA identified through ODA to support stakeholder engagement and project development. Technical assistance funds, which are available for up to four years, help SIA partners engage stakeholders, plan and develop future conservation actions to address impacts on Oregon's water quality standards, and/or to address goals identified in salmonid conservation and recovery plans.

The board also awarded an additional \$25,000 in monitoring funds for each SIA. These funds are available for monitoring work after an approved monitoring proposal has been developed. The purpose of SIA monitoring is to measure change in landscape and/or water quality resulting from the implementation of projects that improve agricultural management practices. Detecting a signal in water quality and landscape conditions takes time, which is why the monitoring funds are available for up to 10 years.

At the conclusion of the SIA grant period, local partners are expected to have worked with landowners within the targeted geography to address agricultural water quality concerns and limiting factors identified in salmonid conservation and recovery plans and complete the necessary monitoring. Because each SIA is unique in terms of size, number of

landowners, agricultural concerns, available data, and partnership capacity, OWEB and ODA acknowledge that the SIA process may differ. However, it is important that all components - outreach, technical assistance and monitoring - are included in each SIA.

III. Current Status

There are currently 19 SIAs that have received OWEB technical assistance/monitoring grants (Attachment A, 2017-2019 SIAs). Each lead organization has submitted an OWEB online grant application for the entire SIA amount (\$125,000). Grantees cannot use the \$25,000 of monitoring funds until they have a monitoring plan that has been approved by the statewide, interagency Monitoring Advisory Group (MAG). Seven groups have approved monitoring proposals, three have proposals in draft form, and the remainder are in various stages of development.

IV. Next Steps

There are nine SIA's (Attachment A, identified via asterisk) that have yet to receive technical assistance and monitoring funds in the 2019-2021 biennium. OWEB and ODA have applied lessons learned during previous years' SIA to refine the funding process, which now involves additional upfront work by OWEB and ODA with the local SIA partners to clearly describe the expectations and process for the program. ODA, with OWEB's support, will talk with local partners to gain a better understanding of local capacity and funding needs prior to having the partners submit applications for funding. Partners will submit separate technical assistance and monitoring proposals for funding, and only submit those proposals when they are ready to begin the work. Ultimately, this refined approach may result in funding and implementation efficiencies for the program. OWEB and ODA staff will implement the refined process during fall of 2020 and will request funding in December to support initial technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring efforts.

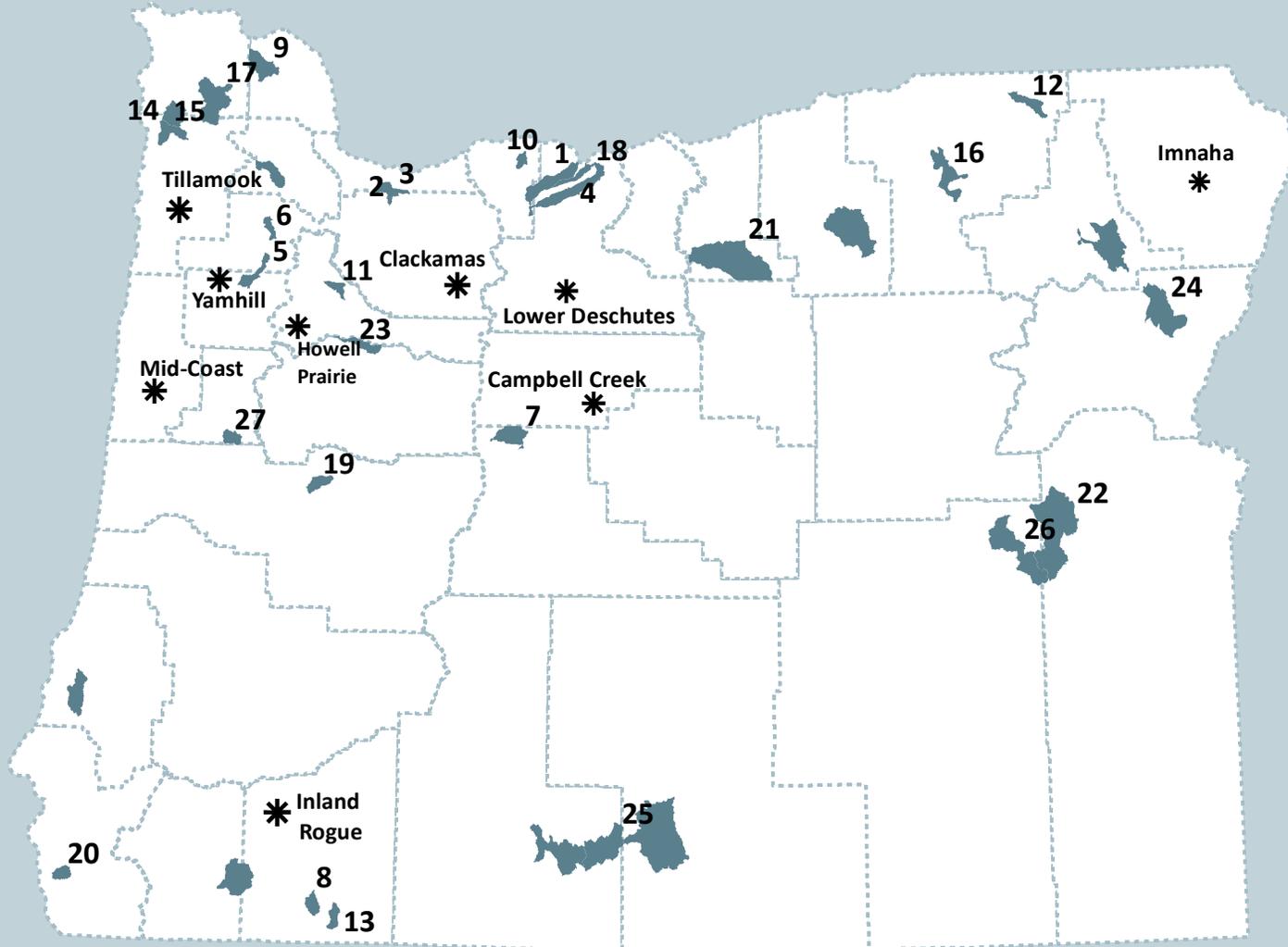
V. Recommendation

This is an information item only. Staff will identify refinements to the SIA funding process and outline steps that will take place over the coming months so the board can add funds to the SIA grant line item in the 2019-2021 spending plan at their December 2020 meeting.

Attachments

Attachment A. Map of SIAs

Strategic Implementation Areas 2014 to 2019 (with 2020 SIAs)



- Strategic Implementation Areas 2015 to 2019
- County Lines
- * 2020 SIAs: Geographic Boundaries Still to be Determined



0 5 10 20 Miles

Strategic Implementation Areas

2019

- 34 – Applegate River: Phase 1
- 33 – Upper Willow Creek Basin
- 32 – Upper Chewaucan
- 31 – Upper Catherine Creek
- 30 – Lower Coquille River
- 29 – Lower Gales & Carpenter Creeks
- 28 – Middle Sprague River

2018

- 27 – Upper Muddy Creek
- 26 – Malheur River – Drewsey
- 25 – Upper Sprague River
- 24 – Lower Powder River
- 23 – Walker – Stout
- 22 – Lower North Fork Malheur
- 21 – Thirtymile Creek

2017

- 20 – Pistol River
- 19 – Camp Creek
- 18 – Eightmile
- 17 – Mid-Nehalem River
- 16 – McKay Birch

2016

- 15 – Nehalem Bay
- 14 – Lower NF Nehalem River
- 13 – Neil Creek

2015

- 12 – Cache Hollow
- 11 – Lower Abiqua Creek
- 10 – Odell Watershed
- 2015
- 9 – Upper Nehalem River
- 8 – Wagner Creek
- 7 – Indian Ford Creek
- 6 – Lower North Yamhill River
- 5 – Lower Salt Creek
- 4 – Threemile Creek
- 3 – Upper Johnson Creek

2014

- 2 – Noyer Creek
- 1 – Mill Creek



Agenda Item L supports OWEB's Strategic Plan Priorities 5, 6, and 7

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Oregon Global Warming Commission / Executive Order 20-04 Update
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

The newly formed, board-level Climate Committee articulated a strong interest in learning more about work related to the Governor's Executive Order (EO) 20-04 focused on climate. At the September 2020 board meeting, OWEB staff will be joined by Catherine Macdonald, Chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC), for an update about the OGWC's work related to the EO, and the connection to OWEB's climate initiatives and interests.

II. Background

In early March of 2020, Governor Brown issued the EO, which directs state agencies to take actions to reduce and regulate greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to the general directive for agencies to exercise authority and discretion in helping to meet greenhouse gas emissions goals and prioritize actions that will help vulnerable populations and impacted communities, OWEB is specifically identified in the Executive Order in several sections of the EO:

- Section 3.D. Report on Proposed Actions – Along with other agencies, report to the Governor by May 15, 2020, on proposed actions within OWEB's statutory authority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change impacts. OWEB submitted its report to the Governor's Office on 6/19/20, following the agency's reduction plan being completed.
- Section 3.E. Participate on an interagency workgroup convened by the Governor's Office on climate impacts to impacted communities, with the intent of developing strategies to guide state climate actions. *See Agenda Item F for additional information.*
- Section 12.A. Directives to the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) – In coordination with Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Forestry and OWEB, the OGWC is directed to submit a proposal to the Governor by June 30, 2021 for consideration of adoption of state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands, based on best available science.

The OGWC has initiated work on several components of the EO, including but not limited to the priorities described in Section 12.A of the EO. In particular, however, the natural and working lands component of the OGWC work is especially relevant to OWEB due to 1) the agency's participation in that effort; 2) the emphasis on natural climate solutions that OWEB already is supporting via its grant investments in restoration and conservation actions; and 3) the expressed interest of the board in being more deliberate about how OWEB's investments can result in climate related benefits. OWEB staff are partnering with the OGWC (and other agencies) on the natural and working lands process, including co-sponsoring an Oregon Sea Grant fellow to assist with the process beginning in fall of 2020.

At the September meeting, Catherine Macdonald, Chair of OGWC, will join the board to provide an update about the natural and working lands component of the EO (Attachment A), and discuss with the board and staff how this work relates to OWEB's emerging climate initiatives.

III. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

Attachment A. EO 20-04 Natural and Working Lands Implementation



MEMORANDUM

TO Oregon Global Warming Commission

FROM Catherine Macdonald

SUBJECT Implementation of EO 20-04 with a focus on the development of a proposal of state goals for carbon storage and sequestration by Oregon's natural and working lands

DATE July 10, 2020

In Executive Order 20-04, Governor Brown provided general directives to 16 state agencies and specific directives to a subset of those agencies, including the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC). The general directives require agencies to exercise any and all authority and discretion vested in them by law; to prioritize and expedite any processes and procedures; and to consider and integrate climate change and climate change impacts into their planning, budgets, investments and policy making decisions in order to accelerate reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to advance adaptation measures. The Commission will follow this general directive as we draft our new mission, vision and values statements and develop a work plan for the coming year this summer and fall.

In addition, EO 20-04 charged the OGWC with three specific directives:

1. "Participation in the Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts to Impacted Communities being convened by the Governor's Office along with 14 other agencies. The Workgroup is charged with developing strategies to guide state climate actions to address climate impacts to impacted communities." (EO-20-04)
2. "Consistent with its reporting requirements in Houser Bill 2543 (2007), the OGWC shall also include reporting on progress toward the GHG reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Order, and the zero-emission vehicle adoption goals set forth in SB 1044 (2019)" (EO 20-04).
3. "In coordination with ODA, ODF and OWEB, the OGWC is directed to submit a proposal to the Governor for consideration of adoption of state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands and agricultural lands, based on best available science. The proposal shall be submitted no later than June 30, 2021" (EO 20-04). ODEQ, DLCD and OWRD have also offered to assist the OGWC in fulfilling this directive.

Commission member Oriana Magnera has generously volunteered to be the Commission's representative to the Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts to Impacted Communities. Commission member Richard Whitman will be representing the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality on the Workgroup, Commission member Lillian Shirley will be representing the Oregon Health Authority, and Commission staff Maya Buchanan will be representing the Oregon Department of Energy. The first meeting will be taking place on July 30, 2020. The Zero Emission Vehicle Working Group currently tracks progress toward the vehicle adoption goals. We will include information on the zero-emissions vehicle adoption goals and on Oregon's progress toward the new GHG reduction goals in our report to the Legislature this fall.

Below, I outline draft principles, a scope of work and a draft workplan for the Commission's work to develop a proposal regarding state goals for carbon storage and sequestration in Oregon's natural and working lands. I follow these with a brief summary of information and resources I am aware of to assist the Commission meet the directive; identification of additional resources is welcome. The proposal builds on materials presented to the Commission at our [December 2019 meeting](#) and preliminary conversations with the coordinating agencies. We will discuss modifications to the principles, scope of work and draft plan and vote to adopt the principles and scope of work at our July 28, 2020 meeting. Please come with questions and comments for improvements to the principles, scope of work and draft workplan. The work plan will be finalized after additional consultation with Tribal governments and the coordinating state agencies in September 2020.

Principles:

- The process for developing a proposal for Governor Brown will be inclusive and transparent and provide opportunities for broad public engagement and coordination with other Boards and Commissions.
- The inventory, baseline and projection methods will be based on guidance from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the best available science.
- The proposed goals and practice, program and policy recommendations will:
 - Prioritize consideration of benefits to Climate Impacted Communities,
 - Consider landowner and community interests in policies, practices and programs,
 - Include provisions to ensure a diversity of landowners can participate in any potential market and incentive-based programs and provide meaningful climate benefits, and
 - Consider co-benefits—additional societal benefits occurring from an action—that may be relevant for other state goals.

Scope of Work: We have identified six tasks associated with developing a proposal for Governor Brown.

1. Create a technical and public engagement work plan.
2. Establish methods for tracking emissions, carbon storage, and sequestration from the land sector.
3. Identify existing land sector inventory data and priority inventory improvements.
4. Develop a baseline and a business-as-usual projection for land sector emissions.
5. Identify potential policies, programs and practices that could be advanced to reduce emissions and increase carbon storage and sequestration on natural and working lands.
6. Develop and finalize proposed goals and a process for including Natural and Working Lands for Governor Brown's consideration.

Draft Work Plan:

July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify the Governor’s charge to the Commission • Consult with agency staff and outside experts • Draft principles and a scope of work for Commission review and approval
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin gathering existing inventory data • Determine land-specific inventory best practices from other jurisdictions
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with Tribes • Draft priority inventory improvement recommendations • Inform other Boards and Commissions about the directive and work plan • Finalize the technical and public engagement work plan • Schedule webinars for stakeholders • Complete gathering existing inventory data •
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin developing the natural and working lands baseline Host webinars • Develop stakeholder surveys to gather input on practices, programs, policies and goals
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer surveys to collect stakeholder input • Finalize work on the natural and working lands baseline • Begin work on business-as-usual (BAU) projections
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize survey results • Complete work on BAU projections • Begin evaluation of practices, programs and policies
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present survey findings, baseline and projections to Boards and Commissions • Host webinars for stakeholders on survey findings, baseline, projections and potential goals • Continue evaluation of practices, programs and policies
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present survey findings, baseline and projections to Boards and Commissions • Host webinars for stakeholders on survey findings, baseline and projections and potential goals • Draft proposal for Commission Review
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit draft proposal for public review
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesize public comments on the draft proposal
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a final draft proposal for Commission review and approval
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete proposal and submit to Governor Brown

Inventory, Baseline, Projection Considerations

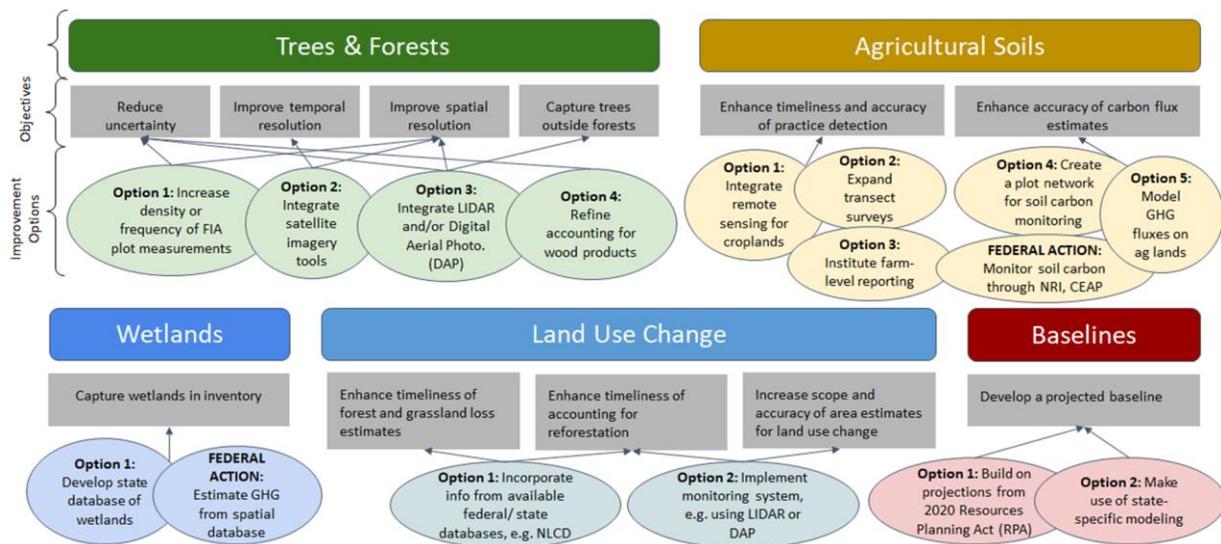
Healthy lands sequester carbon and provide significant and cost-effective opportunities to reduce GHG emissions. The Global Warming of [1.5°C Special Report](#) from the IPCC emphasized the urgency of climate action and the important role the land sector can play as part of a comprehensive climate mitigation strategy.

Unlike other sectors, the land sector can be a carbon storage reservoir or “carbon sink” as well as a source of emissions. Natural and working lands (N&WL) carbon “stocks” (the total amount of carbon stored at any point in time) and carbon “fluxes” (the change in carbon storage between time a and time b) can be affected by both natural processes and land use and management changes. These characteristics add complexity to developing methods for land carbon inventories, establishing business-as-usual baselines and projections, and for setting emission reduction and sequestration goals.

The IPCC has developed guidelines for inventorying land sector stocks and fluxes. The EPA follows the IPCC methods to assess U.S. land sector emissions. For more details on inventory methods and considerations, the current IPCC guidelines can be referenced in their [Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories](#) (2019). The World Resources Institute’s [Mitigation Gold Standard Report](#) (2014) provides additional considerations for national and subnational GHG accounting and reporting.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains data and a [State Inventory and Projection Tool](#) designed to help states develop GHG emissions inventories and projections. The EPA data and tools are easy to use, and the underlying datasets are consistent with the National GHG Inventory. However, the Inventory Tool has significant data gaps, poor temporal and spatial resolution, and outdated default assumptions (5-20 plus years old) in relation to the land sector. Because of these shortcomings, several states in the U.S. Climate Alliance are opting to improve their N&WL inventories. Options for improving inventory data include increasing field data collection, integrating field data with remotely sensed data, and modeling (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Options for improving Natural and Working Land Inventories. (Source: World Resources Institute, 2019)



The Oregon Department of Forestry's recent and pending work with the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) is a good example of such an effort to [improve forest and wood products inventory data](#). The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon State University, the American Farmland Trust among others have data and tools to improve estimates of carbon stocks on agricultural lands. The Pacific NW Blue Carbon Working Group has data on [coastal and marine carbon stocks](#). All these resources can be used to aid us in developing an improved baseline, projections, and identify additional inventory needs.

Identifying Practices, Programs, and Policy Options and Goal Setting

Reducing emissions and increasing sequestration in the land sector can be achieved through a variety of policies and programs that help support the prevention of land conversion, changes in management practices, and restoration of ecosystems. In 2018, the Oregon Carbon Policy Office convened a Natural and Working Lands Workgroup to identified potential practice, program and policy options for increasing sequestration in the land sector as part of their work to inform cap and trade legislation in Oregon. The Carbon Policy Office provided a [report](#) to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction in [December 2018](#) on the Workgroup's findings. The Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board [reported](#) on a proposed framework for an agricultural incentive programs that could be adopted as part of the state's strategy to mitigate

for and adapt to climate change. Representatives from The Nature Conservancy and American Forest Foundation [reported](#) on recommendations regarding forest incentive and offsets programs. The recommendations in these reports can provide a starting point for identification of practice, policy and program options. In addition, several states in the US Climate Alliance have or are in the process of developing action plans for increasing sequestration in natural and working lands. We can evaluate these plans to identify additional options.

Recently published research estimates that reduced emissions and increased sequestration on natural and working lands could contribute as much as 21 percent of current U.S. emissions ([Fargione et al. 2018](#)) and produce approximately 30 percent of the needed global climate mitigation needed by 2030 ([Griscom et al. 2017](#)). In Oregon, several research projects have estimated the emissions reduction and sequestration contribution that have or would result from changes in policies and land management practices, including:

- [Cathcart et al. 2007](#) (regarding Oregon land use laws);
- [Latta et al. 2016](#), [Diaz et al. 2018](#), [Franklin, Johnson and Johnson 2018](#), and [Law et al. 2018](#) (all regarding forest management practices); and
- [Graves et al. 2020](#) (regarding twelve practices across all natural and working land types).

In addition, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has tools for evaluating the benefits of changing practices on agricultural lands including [COMET Planner](#) and [COMET Farm](#). COMET Planner works at the farm scale. The American Farmland Trust will also be releasing a new tool called CaRPE that builds on COMET Planner. This tool will be able to help estimate the potential increase in carbon stocks associated with increased adoption of management practices at the county level. NRCS also recently completed a report on [Farms Under Threat](#) for the US to help identify agricultural lands that are at risk of conversion. A presentation of their report for Oregon can be found [here](#). As part of this project, they analyzed [state policies and programs](#) aimed at avoided conversion of farmlands. The Department of Land Conservation and Development also produces a [Farm and Forest Report](#) which analyzes current trends regarding the conversion of agricultural and forest lands to developed uses.

MINUTES 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.