

March 2, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Roger Wood, Grant Program Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item L: OWEB *Non-Capital* Grant Award Recommendations
Overview
March 15-16, 2006 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This staff report only addresses *non-capital* grant award recommendations. The staff report for Agenda Item J addresses *capital* grant awards.

II. Background

Ninety four grant applications requesting a total of \$4,338,188 of *non-capital* funds were received by the October 24, 2005, deadline (31 Technical Assistance grant applications totaling \$851,605, 37 Education applications totaling \$2,061,835, and 26 Monitoring applications totaling \$1,424,748). Attachment A shows the breakdown by region, project type, and dollar amount.

Technical Assistance applications have already been awarded according to a process approved by the Board in September 2005 with the purpose of expediting approval of applications and distribution of grant funds for projects that will lead to restoration project grant applications in the coming year.

This report briefly addresses the handling of the Technical Assistance, Education, and Monitoring grant applications. Regional staff reports in Agenda Item J contain the OWEB staff funding recommendations for Regions 1-5 and statewide.

A. Review Process

After being screened for eligibility and completeness, the three types of *non-capital* grant applications were sent to the five Regional Review Teams (RRTs) that reviewed them for merit and made prioritized funding recommendations to OWEB staff. After classifying projects as “fund” or “no fund,” the RRTs were then asked to prioritize the projects recommended for funding. The RRT recommendations on the Education and Monitoring applications are included in each applicable regional staff report which are attached to Agenda Item J. Any applications recommended for funding at a reduced amount and/or with special conditions are so identified in the tables attached to each regional staff report.

Prior to the RRT meetings, the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team (OPMT) reviewed the Monitoring applications on the basis of their benefit to the Oregon Plan and their certainty of success, and these ratings were shared with the RRTs. The four “statewide” Education applications were reviewed by a subcommittee of the Oregon Plan Outreach Team (OPOT). OWEB staff considered present and future funding availabilities, and special needs and circumstances in balancing and integrating the separate Team recommendations into this staff funding recommendation to the Board.

The RRT recommendations in summary form were distributed to all applicants by region. Staff continued in this grant cycle the practice of forwarding all comments received from applicants regarding the RRT recommendations to the Board prior to the Board meeting.

III. Update on Grant Offerings

A. Technical Assistance

At its September 2005 meeting the Board allocated \$500,000 to support a Technical Assistance (TA) solicitation for proposals designed to produce final or nearly final technical design drawings and specifications for restoration projects that are nearly ready for implementation. The Board authorized staff to run an “early action” process designed to expedite approval of applications and distribution of grant funds in order that applicants might use the final products of the completed TA grants to finish restoration project applications for submission to OWEB as early as the April 24, 2006, deadline. Staff reported at the January Board meeting on applications received and staff funding decisions. Staff also requested, and the Board approved, an allocation of an additional \$26,000 to support the early action TA grants. Many of the grant agreements for these projects have now been signed and the work is moving forward rapidly. The Board is not requested to take any further action on these TA grants. The funding tables included in this report show the TA applications received and their funding decision. (Attachment B)

B. Education

With limited available *non-capital* funds, the Board also authorized a special solicitation for applications targeted at one of OWEB’s three strategies for Education and Outreach – namely, “Knowledge Development.” OWEB’s guidance on this grant type describes it as “formal, intensive education efforts linked to teaching standards... defined educational objectives... and specific audiences” relating to watershed functions and values. Information on the targeted solicitation was posted on OWEB’s web site within a day of the Board’s directive to proceed, and information was disseminated to traditional OWEB applicants and grantees. Unfortunately, the short turn-around between the September 2005 Board meeting and the late October 2005 application deadline left too little time for workshops and other means of grant writing outreach, so a certain number of the applications – about 40 percent – shot for the wrong target and were not competitive (or even eligible) for the “Knowledge” focus of this solicitation. Still, a number of excellent proposals did hit the mark and are recommended for funding by staff. Given the limited *non-capital* funding, multi-year projects were reduced to a single year, and any non-“knowledge” elements were eliminated or reduced to the extent that could be done without undermining the delivery of the project’s “knowledge” content.

C. Monitoring

The Monitoring grant applications received for the October 2005 solicitation totaled \$1,424,748. The grant applications recommended for funding by the RRTs exceeded \$1,100,000. These figures are in stark contrast to the \$250,000 reserved for Monitoring grants at the September 2005 Board meeting. It became apparent following the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team (OPMT) and RRT meetings in January that the budget allocation of \$250,000 was not sufficient to fund more than two highly ranked monitoring projects. Thus, staff recommended and the Board reserved an additional \$250,000 for monitoring grants at the January Board meeting.

Subsequent to the January Board meeting, regional and Salem staff conducted data analyses regarding the extent and term of OWEB investments in monitoring projects over the last few years. Through that review, staff learned there is a collection of monitoring projects that have been funded for a number of years with a cost that exceeds \$1,000,000 on a rolling two-year period. Staff also know that meaningful monitoring activities require consistent and repeated data collection over time. As a result, monitoring projects have a multi-year dynamic that is more critical than for other grant types. Data collection, analysis, and the distribution of results can be severely compromised if continuity is not maintained for several years in a row.

Given that there are limited *non-capital* funds available for projects and a high demand for funding, staff utilized additional criteria to develop Monitoring grant funding recommendations for the Board. First, staff considered maintaining high quality, relevant, ongoing activities as a top priority for monitoring grant awards. Second, staff reduced ongoing projects to more closely approximate one year of funding. This affects some projects that, as submitted, include a two-year budget for staff, equipment, and services. By using these two criteria, the staff funding recommendations emphasize support for as many ongoing, proven monitoring projects as possible so they may continue in the near term.

This approach also provides time for staff and grantees to consider options for supporting monitoring projects in the future. Action on the staff recommendations may result in many of the current project applicants and March 2005 grantees submitting Monitoring grant applications in October 2006. In anticipation of this demand and the continued limitations on available funds, staff will work with the OPMT and grantees to establish clear guidance with focused monitoring priorities in advance of the next monitoring grant cycle.

IV. Budget Considerations

At the January 2006 Board meeting, staff recommended reserving these amounts for the October-March grant cycle:

Education:	\$500,000
Monitoring:	\$500,000

The Board has expressed concern at the low amount available for Education and Monitoring grants. Since the January Board meeting, staff have identified additional funding for these grants. Agenda Item G recommends the Board reserve \$299,225 in additional funds to help fund

Education and Monitoring grant needs identified in this report. See Agenda Item G for a more detailed discussion of the additional *non-capital* funding.

V. Summary of Funding Options

The funding totals recommended by staff for the Education and Monitoring applications are shown below. Funding recommendations are contained within each of the regional staff reports contained in Agenda Item J, Attachments C and D, and the statewide education staff report contained in Agenda Item J, Attachments A and B. “Do Fund” projects are indicated on the tables by shading.

- **Education Projects: \$619,143**
- **Monitoring Projects: \$680,082**

VI. Recommended Board Action

Staff recommend that the Board award *non-capital* funding for the projects indicated in each of the five regional staff reports contained in Agenda Item J, Attachment C, and the statewide education staff report contained in Agenda Item J, Attachment A.

Attachments

- A. Types of Applications Received and Amounts Requested by Application Type
- B. Technical Assistance Applications Received

ATTACHMENT A

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Types of Applications Received October 24, 2005

	Technical Assistance	Education	Monitoring	Acquisition	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	5	4	8	2	16	35
Region 2	8	4	8	1	19	40
Region 3	8	14	1	1	24	48
Region 4	4	7	2	0	17	30
Region 5	6	4	7	1	41	59
Statewide	0	4	0	0	0	4
Totals	31	37	26	5	117	216

Dollar Amounts Requested by Application Type

	Technical Assistance	Education	Monitoring	Acquisition	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	128,110	59,979	330,803	1,620,000	924,507	\$3,063,399
Region 2	179,286	146,119	547,939	500,000	2,391,749	\$3,765,093
Region 3	230,631	682,067	15,400	210,000	2,529,024	\$3,667,122
Region 4	145,725	356,860	217,879	0	3,391,343	\$4,111,807
Region 5	167,853	81,962	312,727	250,000	3,441,340	\$4,253,882
Statewide	0	734,848	0	0	0	\$734,848
Totals	\$851,605	\$2,061,835	\$1,424,748	\$2,580,000	\$12,677,963	\$19,596,151

TA Projects # z206-165 Through z206-195
Ed Projects #z206-196 Through z206-232
Mon. Projects #z206-233 Through z206-258
Acq/Res Projects #z206-259 Through z206-380

R-3 z206-311, \$283,800 Withdrawn by Applicant a/o 12-13-05 (not subtracted from totals)

OWEB
“Early Action” Technical Assistance Projects Funded
January 2006
October 24, 2005 Grant Cycle

Region 1 – North Coast

Project #	Project Name	Amount
206-165	Lost Cr Large Wood Enhancement	3,385
206-166	Vaughn Cr Reach 2 Fish Passage Engineering Design	37,000
206-169	Lint Slough Hydrologic Analysis**	39,375
Total Region 1 “Early Action” Technical Assistance Projects Funded		\$79,760

Region 2 – Southwest Oregon

Project #	Project Name	Amount
206-170	Bear Cr Riparian Program Development-Site Prescriptions	15,500
206-173	West Fork Williams Cr Salmonid Habitat Restoration Plan*/**	8,016
206-174	Bennett Cr Culvert Replacement Design*□/**	12,021
206-175	Sediment Abatement Project Plan Development	27,461
206-176	Brummit Cr Instream Log Placement Design	8,190
206-177	S Fork Coos R Mixed-ownership High-Risk Road Sediment Reduction	39,151
Total Region 2 “Early Action” Technical Assistance Projects Funded		\$110,339

Region 3 – Willamette Basin

Project #	Project Name	Amount
206-179	East Lane Riparian Restoration Planning*/**	41,024
206-180	Hatch Airport Fish Passage/Habitat Restoration Design Feasibility Study	39,565
206-181	Deer Cr Wetland & Stream Restoration Design	8,653
206-182	Pond Turtle Enhancement Project	12,473
206-185	West Fork Dairy Cr Culvert Removal & Stream Enhancement Design	28,196
Total Region 3 “Early Action” Technical Assistance Projects Funded		\$129,911

Region 4 – Central Oregon

Project #	Project Name	Amount
206-186	Squaw Cr Restoration Design	50,000
206-188	Wastewater to Constructed Wetland Design	47,700
206-189	Middle Crooked R WS Restoration Planning & Design**	23,805
Total Region 4 “Early Action” Technical Assistance Projects Funded		\$121,505

Region 5 – Eastern Oregon

Project #	Project Name	Amount
206-190	Ordell Ditch/Grande Ronde Ditch Diversion Rehabilitation	36,278
206-192	Zell Ditch Diversion Design	8,400
206-193	Cow Hollow Engineering Project	3,570
206-194	Five Point Diversion Fish Screen & Passage*	35,405
Total Region 5 “Early Action” Technical Assistance Projects Funded		\$83,653

*Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction

□ Amount Reflects Reduction of Administration to the Required 5%

**Fund with Conditions

Total “Early Action” TA Projects Funded by the Board January 2006	\$525,168
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OWEB
“Early Action” Technical Assistance Projects Not Funded
January 2006
October 24, 2005 Grant Cycle

Region 1 – North Coast

Project #	Project Name	Amount
z206-167	Conyers Cr Planning Phase	24,150
z206-168	Engineering Design for Re-establishment of Reneke Cr Channel	24,200

Region 2 – Southwest Oregon

Project #	Project Name	Amount
z206-171	Jumpoff Joe Cr Bio-Engineering Technical Design	8,925
z206-172	Roberts Cr & South Fork Deer Cr Conservation Planning	50,000

Region 3 – Willamette Basin

Project #	Project Name	Amount
z206-178	Willow Cr Confluence Restoration Scoping & Budgeting	36,435
z206-183	Sauvie Island Hydraulic & Hydrologic Modeling	21,950
z206-184	Luckiamute WS Winter Steelhead Fish Passage Survey	33,589

Region 4 – Central Oregon

Project #	Project Name	Amount
z206-187	Upper McKay Cr Flow Study & Restoration Design	24,220

Region 5 – Eastern Oregon

Project #	Project Name	Amount
z206-191	USFS Road 4600-930 Chesnimnus Cr Crossing Design	30,000
z206-195	Wallowa Lake Dam Replacement- Final Engineering	50,000

Agenda Item L: Board Consideration of Pending *Non-Capital* Grant Applications

See Agenda Item J, Regions 1-5, Sections V and VI, and Attachments C and D, and the Statewide Staff Report for information on Education and Monitoring applications.

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