

January 20-21, 2010 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update #D1: Small Grant Program Review

Background

Oregon Administrative Rule 695-35-0070 directs OWEB to review reports submitted by the Small Grant Teams and evaluate the need for program improvements and administrative rule changes once a biennium. As previously reported to the Board, staff committed to conducting a review of the Small Grant Program following the end of the 2009 legislative session.

Staff began to review the program by scheduling several “listening” tours, which combined visits to small grant project sites and discussion with small grant team members. Staff planned to visit each of the six regions to tour Small Grant Team projects during the summer and fall of 2009. Tours were accomplished in regions 2, 3, 4, and 5, but tours in regions 1 and 6 were postponed due to staff illness. Staff intend to resume the tours in late March and April 2010 as weather permits.

Small Grant Project Tour Schedule

Date	Region	Small Grant Team Area
July 24	4	Hood River SGT 14
August 13	3	Upper Willamette West SGT 09
October 5	2	South Coast SGT 05
September 14 & 17	5	Grande Ronde SGT 27
November—Postponed until February/March	6	John Day SGT 25
November—Postponed until March/April	1	Lower Columbia 01

Staff have also reviewed the biennial reports for 2007-2009 submitted by Small Grant Teams in August 2009. Comments concerning the program will be summarized in a final report to the Board in June 2010. The updated table below outlines the timeline for program review.

Small Grant Program Review Timeline

Timing	Activity
July-September 2009	Review Small Grant Team Biennial Reports; summarize comments; develop list of issues and OWEB proposals on how to respond/address
July 2009-March 2010	Site/Listening Tours with Small Grant Teams (6 tours around the state ensuring a visit to each region)
January 2010	Update Board
March-April 2010	Summarize listening tours and Small Grant Biennial Report comments; develop list of issues and OWEB proposals on how to respond/address to circulate to the Small Grant Teams via email
June 2010	Final report and recommendations to the Board

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Bev Goodreau, Grant Program Specialist, at bev.goodreau@state.or.us or 503-986-0187.

**January 20-21, 2010 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update #D2: Deferred Acquisitions**

Background

Land acquisition grant applications often require more time to fully evaluate and prepare a funding recommendation than is available in the regular 21-week grant cycle. Attachment A provides a summary of the five land acquisition grant applications that are currently deferred by the Board for due diligence review. Two applications were recently withdrawn by applicants. At the time of the writing of this staff report, none of the deferred land acquisition grant applications is ready for funding consideration by the Board at the January meeting.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information about the deferred land acquisition grant applications, please contact Miriam Hulst at miriam.hulst@state.or.us or 503-986-0026.

OWEB DEFERRED ACQUISITIONS AS OF DECEMBER 11, 2009							
Application Number	Applicant	Project Name	Date Received	OWEB Funds Requested	Acreage	Primary Ecological Value(s)	Status
208-117	The Wetlands Conservancy	Yaquina II	2/29/2008	\$46,250	61 ac.	tidal marsh	match for Coastal Wetlands grant; deferred for due diligence
209-101	North Coast Land Conservancy	Necanicum Forest	4/23/2008	\$1,314,960	212 ac.	riparian and wetlands	deferred for due diligence
209-104	Benton County	Cardwell Hills Conservation Easements	4/23/2008	\$385,230	66 ac.	prairie	deferred for due diligence
209-112	City of Cannon Beach	Ecola Creek Forest Reserve Addition	10/20/2008	\$1,400,000	805 ac.	riparian, wetlands, forested upland	deferred for due diligence
210-102	City of Tigard	Summer Creek	10/19/2009	\$1,000,000	43 ac.	riparian, wetlands, forested upland	deferred for due diligence
Total				\$4,146,440			

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Executive Director Update #D3: Willamette and Deschutes SIP

Background

In 2008, the Board allocated \$10 million of capital funds for two Special Investment Partnerships (SIP). In September 2009, the Board awarded an additional \$4 million of capital funding for the Deschutes SIP along with \$125,000 of non-capital funding for project development and outreach.

Deschutes SIP

The Deschutes partnership is comprised primarily of four local groups and the operators of the Pelton Fund (the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation and Portland General Electric). The Deschutes SIP is dedicated to projects that enhance the habitat and access for anadromous fish reintroduced above the Pelton-Round Butte Dam complex. The \$4 million allocated in 2008 has been awarded in grants, the majority of which have been completed. A biennial report of the accomplishments has been completed that identifies the SIP projects and other work in the basin. The Deschutes partners will report to the Board in March of 2010 describing the progress made to date. Grant awards for \$3,250,000 of the \$4 million allocated in September 2009, have already been made this biennium. A non-capital project development grant has also been awarded from this biennium's funding. The partners are making great strides in their implementation efforts.

Willamette SIP

In March of 2008, the Board allocated \$6 million to address channel complexity and floodplain connection to the main stem Willamette River. Staff were clear at the time that working on the mainstem Willamette would take significant effort and more staff attention than the Deschutes SIP. At the time OWEB adopted the Willamette SIP, staff were in discussions with the Meyer Memorial Trust as a funding partner.

Since the adoption of the Willamette SIP, OWEB and Meyer Memorial Trust have been cooperating on joint efforts to engage both public and private landowners in the effort to address common interests. Staff have awarded approximately \$1.3 million to projects to date. It is becoming clear that implementation will be difficult on the mainstem of the Willamette. The effort will involve changing public attitudes and perceptions as well as conducting physical alterations.

While the Willamette SIP is proceeding more slowly, recent activities indicate a concurrence of partner interests. Staff are working with three additional parties on projects that will be considered for awards this spring. Implementation of the tributary strategy of the Meyer Memorial Trust and creating a vision for the mainstem are high priority efforts of staff this spring and summer.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Ken Bierly, at ken.bierly@state.or.us or 503-986-0182.

January 20-21, 2010 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update #D4: Biennial Conference

Background

Every two years, OWEB holds a conference which typically draws approximately 350-400 attendees representing the diversity of those interested and involved in watershed restoration in the state. The conference aims to provide opportunities for both professional development and networking. Based upon feedback from previous events, not only does the conference provide an important opportunity for collaboration and information sharing, but the speakers and presenters inspire and challenge those in attendance to think creatively about their work.

The next biennial conference will be held at the Pendleton Convention Center November 15-17, 2010. Board member Eric Quaempts and staff are brainstorming ways to involve the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Restoration.

Denise Ker, of Viva! Consult, has been hired to assist staff in the coordination and logistics of the conference. A planning team will be created which will work to identify a conference theme and will begin planning speakers and sessions. Staff will report progress at upcoming Board meeting.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Carolyn Devine, Communications Coordinator, at carolyn.devine@state.or.us or 503-986-0195.