

## March 16-17, 2010 OWEB Board Meeting

### Executive Director Update #C-8: Watershed Council Listening Sessions

#### Background

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board began a strategic planning process in June 2009 and the Board approved the Final Strategic Plan at its January 2010 meeting.

Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan is to “Support an enduring, high capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed restoration and conservation.” Strategy 2 under Goal 2 is to “Evaluate and adjust watershed council support grant review and funding processes to build local capacity, provide base funding and promote strategic partnerships.”

In October 2009, OWEB’s Director and the Board of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils discussed the importance of engaging watershed councils in a deeper dialogue about what makes watershed councils successful and how OWEB watershed council funding, and processes might be changed in order to build local capacity, provide base funding and promote strategic partnerships. OWEB staff coordinated with the Network Board to develop a list of questions to be discussed with watershed councils in order to have this deeper dialogue. In early January, OWEB hired Jim Owens to facilitate the listening sessions and to provide OWEB with a final report. The schedule for the Listening Sessions is below and the agenda can be found in Attachment A. A summary of the listening sessions and a participant list will be available at the Board meeting.

#### Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
Monday, Feb. 22	Clean Water Services, Hillsboro	1-5pm
Wednesday, Feb. 24	Douglas County Library, Roseburg	1-5pm
Thursday, Feb. 25	OSU Guin Library, Newport	9am-1pm
Monday, Mar. 1	Marion County Fire District Office, Salem	1-5pm
Tuesday, Mar. 2	Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, Redmond	1-5pm
Thursday, Mar. 4	Union County Extension Services, LaGrande	1-5pm

#### Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Courtney Shaff, at [Courtney.Shaff@state.or.us](mailto:Courtney.Shaff@state.or.us) or 503-986-0046.

Attachment

- A. Listening Sessions Agenda

**WATERSHED COUNCIL SUPPORT LISTENING SESSIONS  
AGENDA**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
1:00 pm	Welcome and Introductions – Tom Byler and Jim Owens <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Background and Purpose</li><li>▪ Listening Session Approach</li></ul>
1:10	Expectations/Desired Outcomes -- Group Discussion
1:20	What is Success: What does it mean to be a successful watershed council and how can OWEB help you be successful? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ What does it take financially to be successful as an organization?</li><li>▪ What do you need/desire from OWEB to help you be a success?</li><li>▪ Are we accomplishing what we need to with the available funding? How can OWEB funding be better focused to meet those needs?</li></ul>
2:00	Building Local Capacity: What should OWEB do to help build capacity? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Should OWEB limit the number of councils that it funds to order to provide more adequate levels of funding to councils?</li><li>▪ Should OWEB continue to provide additional financial support to umbrella councils? If so what amount of financial support would be an incentive to keep umbrella councils together?</li><li>▪ Are there functions where contracted services or technical assistance would help build WC capacity?</li><li>▪ Should there be incentives for establishing and maintaining effective partnerships?</li></ul>
2:30	Break
2:40	Improving the Funding Program: How can OWEB make more effective use of the limited funding that is available? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Is there a better model that should be explored? Examples: Regional basis, flat funding, RFPs issued by OWEB to address defined restoration priorities, more funding for areas with ESA compliance issues.</li><li>▪ Are there modifications to the existing funding program that would make it more equitable?</li><li>▪ Should OWEB continue to fund low performing councils?</li></ul>
3:10	Application Process: What works/doesn't work?
3:30	Setting Priorities: How do we best move forward? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ What is the single highest priority for change in OWEB's council support funding program?</li><li>▪ What are the 2-3 most important actions that OWEB can take to respond to what we've heard today?</li></ul>
3:50	Break
4:00	Open Conversation (any topic)
4:50	Summary and Next Steps -- Tom Byler/Lauri Aunan
5:00	Adjourn