

Project Committee February 24, 2022

ZOOM Meeting Minutes

Attendance			
Committee Members			Staff
Dave Cummings	Carl Burnham	Pam Simser	Tim Greseth
Marcia Hartman	Doug Nelson	Pat Richardson	Zachary Mallavia
Gary Pape	Blaine Dickason	Andrea Hanson	
Susan Foster	Brad Staples	Lori Steele	

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM. The members participating, constituting a quorum, are listed above.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Committee members were asked if there were corrections to the September December 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Two minor corrections were offered, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved in a unanimous voice vote.

Project Funding Budget and Grants Approved To-Date

The unrestricted funds available for grants is \$65,000. Tim introduced Andrea Hanson from ODFW who will be representing the department on our committee over the next year. Questions came up about total funding for the year and it was explained we should expect another \$45,000 from Oregon Community Foundation in June. A discussion about whether we could fund all the requests for this quarter led to the suggestion we discuss all the projects then make one motion for funding that took into account the relative importance of each project.

Project 22 -01 East Cascades Oak Monitoring Study

East Cascades Oak Partnership (ECOP) recently completed a multi-year strategic planning process funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Two of the highest priority strategies include: 1) conserving and connecting the most intact, functional oak systems; and 2) developing and implementing best management practices specific to East Cascade oak systems. Renewed funding from OWF will allow ECOP to complete field kits that their partners can use to install plots, facilitating broader implementation of the study areas that will provide data on how different events affect the oak forests. ECOP requests \$8,000 to help fund implementation of these studies. Funds from other sources are pending approval. After discussion, funding of \$8,000 was recommended because this is a priority habitat.

Project 22-02 Oregon Vesper Sparrow

The Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) requested \$5,000 to expand their ongoing Oregon Vesper Sparrow work with a tangible conservation focus. KBO proposes to uncover new information about the migratory routes and overwintering areas used by this imperiled sparrow subspecies. KBO will use data from miniaturized GPS tags appropriate for small songbirds (tags ~1g) to

track non-breeding season movements of 15 Oregon Vesper Sparrows at their Rogue Basin study site in southern Oregon, and an additional 10 from a larger population breeding in the Willamette Valley. Funds requested will be used for the purchase of 5 GPS tags, field mileage, and target-netting supplies. Funding of \$5,000 recommended because this is a species in peril.

Project 22-03 Tufted Puffin Field Series – Year 2

In 2021, with support from OWF, Oregon State University (OSU) successfully developed a community science initiative called Birds with Fish designed to encourage and engage experienced nature photographers to submit photographs of birds with fish in their bills or talons. Birds with Fish has placed a special emphasis on collecting photographic data regarding Oregon's tufted puffins at Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach. The unique intertidal location of Haystack Rock makes photography a practical and noninvasive method to study tufted puffin diets. Based on the work already completed there is a clear need for photographic equipment that improves zoom capabilities to allow accurate prey identification. OSU requested \$4,000 to help with this purchase. Other funds are pending. The committee discussed the need for this equipment and whether they could manage without it, ultimately leaving the amount granted at \$4,000.

Project 22-04 Gearhart Ridge Pollinator Project

The Gearhart Ridge Path is a cherished community trail running through the center of town and a prime location for pollinator habitat. However, the trail currently has patches of English Holly and English Ivy that dominate an already limited space for plants. The Necanicum Watershed Council, in collaboration with the City of Gearhart, is designing a two-part restoration project aimed at improving the Gearhart Ridge Trail's pollinator habitats. First, volunteers will remove invasive species on prioritized portions of the 1.4-mile trail. Second, the Council will oversee the planting of ~1500 native pollinator-friendly plants e.g., Lupine, Oregon Gumweed, Lavenders, Ocean Spray, Milkweed - depending on what is available from local growers. At the conclusion of the project, portions of the Gearhart Ridge Path will be greatly improved as year-round pollinator habitats supporting both pollinating insects e.g., bees and butterflies, and pollinating avian species such as Rufous and Anna's hummingbirds. The Necanicum Watershed Council requested \$5,000 to fund implementation of this project. Other funds are pending approval. The committee approved this project funding request.

Project 22-05 Coho Response to Beaver Analogs

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council request \$25,500 as match funds to complete a long-term effectiveness monitoring project to evaluate the use of beaver dam analogues as a cost-effective restoration tool for recovery of Oregon Coast Coho. In consultation with OWEB staff, it was determined that this match can be distributed out over the life of the study; it does not need to be allocated in a lump sum. No 2022 funds will be committed to this project. It was decided that this project would be recommended to the Board of Directors for funding pending their approval, given the total amount and length of the funding commitment.

Project 22-06 ODFW Work Boat Motors Purchase

ODFW is requesting \$26,543 to purchase motors for its research boat in NE Oregon. They understand that our upper limit is \$10,000. We would need to find additional donors who can help us increase the total support we can provide. The committee discussed whether the funding was needed now or if ODFW could wait for the next budget cycle. Some members questioned whether the motors requested were necessary or if they could just use one motor. The questions

were answered and the committee decided to allocate \$5,000 and let the Board make a final determination about the amount of funding to provide to the project.

Motion to Approve

After discussing the projects, a motion was made and seconded to fund Project 22-01 East Cascades Oak Monitoring for \$8,000; Project 22-02 Oregon Vesper Sparrow for \$5,000; Project 22-03 Tufted Puffin Field Study for \$4,000; Project 22-04 Gearhart Ridge Pollinator Project for \$5,000; and Project 22-06 ODFW Work Boat Motors for \$5,000 (a total of \$27,000). The motion included the proviso that other pending funding must be approved before funding. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Project 22-07 Warner Creek LWD, Project 22-08 Tweedle Creek Channel, and Project 22-09 Fish Hawk Riparian Restoration

These are supplemental environmental projects (SEP) that must be implemented to comply with the settlement agreement between ODFW, Fishhawk Lake Homeowner's Association, and Oregon DEQ. As ODFW is holding and managing the settlement funds, the total amount of \$193,920 will be allocated to these projects from our Fishhawk Lake Habitat Fund.

Fiscal Sponsorship Application from K Media Films

This fiscal sponsorship application is specifically for a filmmaking project by Kyle Miller called "Follow the Beaten Path." Kyle has been providing pro bono videography services to the Foundation for the past couple of years through his for-profit company Timber Reel Productions. K Media Films is an Oregon nonprofit corporation organized to produce conservation films. Kyle and his filmmaking partner, Cara, have developed a treatment that looks at the impact that non-motorized recreation has on wildlife and wildlife habitat. One of the consequences of public health restrictions during the pandemic was an unprecedented number of people recreating on our public lands. This has led to increased demand for new trails and an explosion in unauthorized "user-created" trail construction. Kyle and Cara's film will illuminate increased recreation on our publicly managed forests and its impact on wildlife and their habitat. Still further the film will show the process used to determine where trails are built and the trade-offs that must be made. A motion was made and seconded to approve the fiscal sponsorship of K Media Films. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Final approval is pending a vote by our Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.