

**OWF Project Committee February 16, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Attendance

Committee members: Lori Steele, Dave Cummings, Pam Simser, Mo Montgomery, Carl Burnham, Meg Braestrup, Joe Miller, Sarah Evans Peters, Gary Pape, Matt Davis, Bryce..., Andrea Hanson, Pat Richardson, Blaine Dickason

Staff: Tim Greseth, Zach Mallavia, Kalei Augustine, Mo Montgomery, Jess Bynum, Emma Donnelly

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM.

Approval of September and November 2022 Minutes

The November 2022 Project Committee Meeting minutes were reviewed/approved by the Committee. The September 2022 meeting minutes will be distributed for review via email following the meeting.

Motion to approve November 2022 minutes (Pape/Cummings) Motion carried unanimously.

Funds On Hand

The Project Committee Grantmaking budget is \$100,000 per year, or ~\$25,000 per quarter. Current unrestricted project funds available are \$75,170.

Watch for Wildlife Funding Guidelines (Vote)

Tim provided the Committee with an update about the Watch for Wildlife Fund, which currently has approximately \$300,000 from sales of OWF's specialty plate. To establish some provisions for how these funds should be spent, OWF staff recommended a \$50,000 maximum allocation from the fund for a project and maintaining a minimum carrying balance of \$100,000 in the fund.

The Committee discussed possible sideboards for spending the funds but ultimately decided to wait to see what additional projects may arise. In the meantime, the Committee reviewed proposals for two projects to be funded during this meeting – see below.

#22-02 NCLC Shangrila Invasive Species Removal Project (Vote)

North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC) requested \$5,000 in funding support for the Shangrila invasive Species Removal Project. OWF funding will be used for weekly English ivy control work for 12 weeks. Land trust and watershed council staff and volunteers will spend one afternoon each week manually removing Ivy from large old Sitka spruce growing in the forested wetland. This effort will improve habitat health and biodiversity and will also aid in having a regular presence at the site to monitor planting establishment that is scheduled to take place mid-March as part of an OR Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) funded small grant project.

The Project Committee agreed that the proposal needs more clarification regarding how the funds would be spent to determine whether it meets OWF funding guidelines.

A motion was made (Pape/Braestrup) to table the recommendation about this proposal until the Committee receives more information about how the funds would be utilized. The motion carried unanimously.

Following the Project Committee Meeting, NCLC provided additional information about how the funds would be utilized, and the Project Committee unanimously approved \$1,325 for fencing and up to \$3,649 for plant materials, totaling \$4,974 for this project.

#23-03 Wheeler SWCD Butte Creek Riparian Planting (Vote)

Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) requested \$4,974 to cover the costs for: 1) planting crew services to oversee a trained volunteer crew over four days of staging and implementation; 2) additional fencing/caging materials to protect donated riparian plants from wildlife browse; 3) mileage reimbursement for the planting crew leads. 4) Wheeler SWCD project management time for planning planting implementation and completion reporting. The completed project activities of this larger project include riparian fencing (new and repair) and the installation of 257 Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs) and Post Assisted Log Structures (PALS) to help reconnect floodplains along 9 miles of stream in the Butte Creek subbasin, a direct tributary into the John Day River.

The Project Committee generally expressed support for the project but acknowledged that some aspects of the proposal are unclear, particularly those related to funding. In addition, the proposal requests funds for project planning/management, which is not consistent with OWF funding guidelines.

A motion was made (Pape/Braestrup) to fund this project for \$4,095, which is the amount requested minus Wheeler project planning and management costs. The motion carried with two No's (Richardson, Simser) and one abstention (Hanson).

#23-04 Think Wild Beaver Monitoring Project (Vote)

Think Wild/Beaver Works requested \$5,000 for materials, travel costs, hired contractor, and software needed to design and establish a framework and platform for trail camera monitoring of beavers in the high desert. The project will be developed primarily in Bend Oregon, using data gathered around the Deschutes River Basin. This project seeks to create and establish a scientific methodology and database for beaver monitoring efforts in Oregon's high desert.

This project does not meet OWF funding/match requirements. In addition, Project Committee members questioned why a letter of support from ODFW was not provided with the proposal and wondered how this research would benefit beaver conservation.

A motion was made (Dickason/Pape) to not support funding for this project. The motion carried unanimously.

#23-05 OWF UWIN Portland 2023-24 Field Season (Vote)

Oregon Wildlife Foundation staff requested \$4,010 in funding support for UWIN Portland's 2023-2024 field season. Funding will be used for equipment, supplies, fuel, and Coordinator time. UWIN PDX is a wildlife monitoring project designed to collect wildlife occupancy data along an urban-rural gradient spanning 50 km throughout the Portland Metropolitan Area.

The Project Committee noted that this will be the fourth year of funding for this project, yet the information collected is not yet being utilized for policy purposes. The Committee supports this project but hopes the data will be utilized soon.

A motion was made (Pam/Dickason) to approve this project for the full amount requested. The motion carried unanimously.

#23-06 Wildlife Passage for Coastal Marten in Oregon (Vote)

Oregon Wildlife Foundation staff are requesting \$50,000 in funding support from the Watch for Wildlife Fund for a project to determine the feasibility and cost of modifying road culverts on Highway 101 to provide safe passage for coastal marten in areas demonstrating high vehicle-related

mortality. The goal of this project is to determine the feasibility and cost of modifying road culverts to provide safe passage for coastal marten in areas demonstrating high vehicle-related mortality.

The Project Committee discussed the importance of this project and acknowledged that road/highway mortalities are among the most significant sources of mortality for the marten. The Committee also noted that ODFW is very supportive of this project because it addresses the Agency's conservation plan priorities related to connectivity.

A motion was made (Cummings/Pape) to approve \$50,000 contingent on OWF BOD approval, to be allocated from the Watch for Wildlife Fund to support the feasibility study for this project. The motion carried unanimously.

#23-07 B2S Highway 20 Wildlife Passage Project (Vote)

OWF staff are requesting \$50,000 in funding support from the Watch for Wildlife Fund for a project to secure a contractor to produce a corridor assessment and conceptual design for wildlife crossings along Highway 20, between Bend and Suttle Lake, Oregon. Other funding (OR Conservation and Recreation Fund, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation) is pending. This would be the first of funds needed for this project; OWF will run the RFP process to hire the contractor. Around \$125,000-\$150,000 in total funding is needed to complete the feasibility study.

A motion was made (Pape/Dickason) to approve \$50,000 contingent on OWF BOD approval, to be allocated from the Watch for Wildlife Fund to support this project. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

OWF Project Map Demonstration (Sharing)

OWF BOD member Bryce Gartrell introduced the Committee to a mapping application (that can be viewed at: <http://owf-env-eb.eba-3rpuw23a.us-west-2.elasticbeanstalk.com/>) that highlights OWF project investments. The Gartrell Group uses geospatial technology to improve locational know-how, streamline workflows and practices for its clients. The company has made an extraordinary commitment and gift to OWF in the form of this map, layers, and the database that drives the display of information about 40+ years of project history.

The Project Committee agrees that this application is a great tool for the Foundation and expressed great appreciation to Bryce for putting it together.

23-01 Estacada Lake Habitat Project (Update)

The Foundation is contracting with McBain & Associates to complete the work described in the scope of work for this project that was provided separately. The PGE Clackamas Mitigation Fund is now open for proposals with a deadline of May 1st, at 5:00 pm.

Foundation Fund Guide (Sharing)

OWF staff is working on a Foundation Fund Guide so the Project Committee can really understand our sources of funding and their sideboards. This guide describes the various Funds that OWF can draw on to support projects. Pam is working with OWF staff on this project.

Old Business

Fishhawk Lake Fund Grantmaking (Update)

The Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the Nehalem River Basin has now been released and is available for your review in the Project Committee area of the OWF website. With that list of priority projects

in hand, OWF now needs to decide how to make the best use of the mitigation funds we're managing for the Basin (approximately \$2.6 million).

- ODFW personnel have suggested we use our dollars to cover fisheries planning and engineering design expenses for the highest priority projects within the basin.
- Alternatively, we could invest the funds we have for long-term appreciation and distribute earnings based on a spending policy yet to be determined, far into the future.
- A middle ground would invest a portion of the funds in a handful of priority projects now and the balance of the funds as a quasi-endowment for capital appreciation and earnings distributions on a longer term basis.

The Project Committee should provide a recommendation to the BOD regarding how to expend these funds. This issue will be revisited at the May 2023 Project Committee meeting.

Community Member Nomination Process (Vote)

The OWF charter is silent on the process of community member nomination and selection, is being revised to include those processes. Dave Cummings agreed to send proposed language for a charter revision to the Project Committee via email for approval and forwarding to the BOD.

Following the Project Committee Meeting, the Project Committee unanimously approved language for a charter revision provided via email by Dave Cummings.

Collawash Confluence (Two Rivers) Project (Update)

USFS – Mt. Hood National Forest has a pot of fire recovery funds and is interested in working with OWF on this project. We are early in our conversation with them, but they are looking for a local partner. OWF would need to bring match to the table, as much as 25% of the project cost, but the balance would be covered by funds USFS already has. We are in a holding pattern with them until we can get clarity from USFS. More information to follow.

Port Blakely Fiscal Sponsorship (Update)

Port Blakely's US Forestry operation approached the Foundation in November of last year regarding our interest in serving as the fiscal sponsor of funds they're voluntarily setting aside for watershed restoration as part of a Habitat Conservation Agreement that they have developed for their Clackamas basin forestlands. There has been no additional communication from them as of now.

DYS Environmental Enhancement Fund (Update)

A proposal to establish a new Fund is being assessed by the Department of Environmental Quality. If an agreement with DEQ can be reached, this Fund will receive a total of \$84K in separate contributions of \$42K each over the next six months.

AtB Grant Award: Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network (Update)

OWF will provide fiscal administration services for a grant award to the Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network (KSON) from the new America the Beautiful (AtB) Grant Program. KSON is a consortium of organizations, including Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, working to conserve, protect, and restore oak woodlands in SW Oregon. AtB is a pot of Federal funds administered by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Pacific Birds and OWF are sharing administrative responsibilities for this grant. Currently, we do not have a contract with ODFW, the recipient of the funding award.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm