

## **Project Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **Zoom Meeting May 6, 2021**

#### **Attending:**

Dave Cummings	Brad Staples	Bill Shake
Jim Bittle	Sara Evans-Peters	Garth Wyatt
Carl Burnham	Lori Steele	Gary Pape
Doug Nelson	Marcia Hartman	Pat Richardson
Meg Braestrup	Susan Foster	Tim Greseth
Nicole Nordin		

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

#### **Meeting Minutes Review**

Committee members were asked for corrections to the February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes. No corrections being offered, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved as provided.

#### **Project Budget**

Nicole was asked for the amount funds available for the project committee. Nicole offered the funds on hand were approximately \$69,000. Dave asked to have the project funds spread sheet put on the Projects Committee site. Nicole was concerned about security and suggested she would resend the link to committee members.

#### **Project 21-06 Beaver Habitat Assessment**

The Luckimute Watershed Council requested \$5,000 in funding to assess Beaver Habitat, in cooperation with a number of watershed councils, and determine locations in mid-Willamette Valley streams where Beaver can be successful. The results of this work will be used to reach out to landowners and the public to aid in restoration of beaver numbers with the resulting environmental benefits to fish and wildlife.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses an OCS species – Beaver and Chinook Salmon
- Includes a letters of support from Karin Hans at ODFW and Paul Henson at the National Fish and Wildlife Service

A motion was made and seconded to approve the request. A discussion was held because not all the other funding was approved. Because the majority of the funding was already approved the motion was not amended to include a provision requiring the other funding be approved. The motion was approved.

### **Project 21-07 Western Bluebird Trail**

The Queen of Peace School requested \$1,002 in funding for bluebird nest boxes, mounting poles, a feeding station and feed along a trail with signage to educate the students and public. This would be a student project with the students learning about Western Bluebirds. The Audubon Society will evaluate the project and make suggestions to help it be successful.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses and OCS species – Western Bluebirds
- Does not include a letter of support

A motion was made and seconded to approve the requested funding. The motion was approved.

### **Project 21-08 Study Effects of Wildfires on Sagegrouse**

Oregon State University requested \$10,000 to study the effects of Wildfires on Sage Grouse ecology in south eastern Oregon. The majority of the budget for this project is coming from Pittman Robertson funding, however in order to obtain the Pittman Robertson funding the project must have a 25% non-Federal match. Funds from Oregon Wildlife will be used to purchase 3 GPS collars for seasons 2022-2023. Knowledge gained from this study will be used to understand the Sage Grouse response to wildfires and prioritize areas for pre-fire treatments to reduce fire risk to Sage Grouse.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses and OCS species – Greater Sage Grouse
- Includes a letter of support from ODFW

A motion was made and seconded to approve this funding. The motion was approved.

### **Project 21-09 Camp Creek Planting and Fencing**

The North Fork of the John Day Watershed Council requested \$3,777 dollars to provide materials and protective equipment for habitat restoration along Camp Creek, at tributary of the North Fork of the John Day River. The work will be accomplished during the summer and fall of this year by the Wilderness Veterans Trail Crew (WVTC) program which provides military veterans serviceable skills and a career pathway into natural resource management. (Additional work not funded by this request will be performed by contractors). Funds requested will be used to pay for mileage costs, personal protective equipment and fencing materials.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses multiple OCS species
- Includes a letter of support from the US Forest

A motion was made and seconded to approve this funding. The motion was approved.

### **Project 21-10 Holcomb Habitat Project**

The Greater Oregon City Watershed Council is requested \$5,000 for transportation of logs that will be strategically placed in the channel of Holcomb Creek, a tributary of the Clackamas River, to help create and maintain complex instream habitat. The wood habitat is part of a larger project to restore Holcomb Creek habitat being primarily funded by the OWEB focused investment partnership with the Clackamas Watershed Council.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses multiple OCS species
- Does not includes a letter of support from ODFW

Garth Wyatt explained that Holcomb Creek provided thermal refuse for Abernathy Creek which was an important steelhead and coho salmon spawning site. Meg Townsend expressed a concern about the methods used for blackberry control. Garth explained that an experienced contractor would be doing the work, but offered to get additional information. The committee agreed to do an email vote on this request after additional information was obtained and reviewed.\*

### **Project 21-11 Removing Invasive Bull Thistle**

The Wildlife Safari request \$5,000 to purchase chemicals and equipment for the eradication of bull thistles, tansy ragwort, teasle and foxtail on their property.

- Meets our match requirements
- Does not meet our funding guidelines
- Does not addresses OCS species
- Includes a letter of support from ODFW

A motion was offered and seconded to decline funding. The motion was approved.

### **K-9 Program**

Tim updated the committee on the potential expansion of the State Police Game Enforcement K-9 program. The cost of getting another K-9 on the force is about \$50,000. Tim asked if the committee would support a \$10,000 commitment to be approved in future vote. Committee members voiced their support for the program and agreed they would vote to approve a future funding request.

### **Beaver Dam Analog Project**

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council is in the third year of a project to evaluate the effect of beaver dam analogs on the North Coast. ODFW is interested in joining the study and would like OWF to provide \$25,000 of funding required to obtain an OWEB grant to complete the work. Tim explained that a beaver dam analog is a man-made beaver dam. Tim would like the foundation to offer funding of \$3,500 per year for the seven

remaining years of the project. The committee was generally supportive of this request and will wait to see if we get a formal grant request.

### **Old Business**

Tim provided an update on a number of ongoing Oregon Wildlife Projects using the PDF attached to these minutes.

Tim also provided an update on the Conservation Recreation Fund. There is legislative support to remove the sunset provision in the previous bill and discussions about providing additional funding in the future.

The meeting was adjourned around 1:00 PM.

\*Note: The Greater Oregon City Watershed Council responded to Garth Wyatt's request for information via email. They stated that in accordance with EPA rules they would use triclopyr in the fall not closer than 60 feet from the stream. Meg Townsend provided some information from a coworker/scientist who recommended mowing and using goats for several years because herbicides were not effective and not approved by NOAA for NW streams. An email vote on the request that included a provision to recommend they use goats instead of herbicides to eliminate blackberries. The email vote approved the funding request.