

**OWF Project Committee May 25, 2023  
Meeting Minutes**

OnPoint CCU Corporate Offices  
Broadway Conference Room

**Attendance**

Tim, Kalei, Zach, Jess, Mo  
Lori, Carl, Strawn, Blaine, Joe Miller, Bryce

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

**Approval of February 2023 Meeting Minutes**

The February 2023 Project Committee Meeting minutes were reviewed/approved by the Committee.

*Motion to approve February 2023 minutes (Pape/Blaine)*  
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 about \$46,544.28.

**22-08 Cascadia Wild Wolverine Monitoring Project**

Cascadia Wild is requesting \$5,000 in funding to help hire a contract volunteer coordinator for the Wolverine Tracking Project; a community science initiative that conducts long-term monitoring of rare carnivores in the Mt. Hood area. The project collects data on five Oregon Conservation Strategy species, Sierra Nevada red fox, gray wolf, wolverine, Pacific marten, and fisher. The project trains volunteers in animal tracking and leads them on surveys to collect data.

This project meets OWF match requirements (although all other funding is also shown as pending). It is unclear from the application if this meets OWF funding guidelines. OWF has not previously funded this project. The Committee expressed support for funding but noted that it is not anticipated the project would be funded for multiple years.

*Motion to approve requested funding for this project (Pape/Blaine)*  
Motion carried unanimously.

**23-09 KBO Oregon Vesper Sparrow Pop. Monitoring**

Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) is requesting \$3,420 in funding to purchase equipment, materials, supplies, and help underwrite mileage expenses to conduct a population assessment of the Oregon vesper sparrow. The project meets OWF match requirements and funding guidelines, and it addresses an Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) species. This project also qualifies for funding through the OCS Implementation Fund.

*Motion to approve requested funding for this project through the OCS Implementation Fund (Pape/Blaine)*

Motion carried unanimously.

### **23-10 Wildlife Safari ZooSchool Funding Proposal**

Wildlife Safari is requesting \$5,000 in funding to support attendance by students from low-income schools in the Winston, Oregon area. This project meets OWF match requirements but does not meet OWF funding guidelines, and it does not address an OCS habitat or species.

Project Committee members noted that this application has been reviewed previously, and the project was denied funding. As it is currently proposed (which is exactly the same as it was previously submitted), the application is not consistent with OWF funding guidelines because it essentially represents program funding/underwriting. Tim identified some other approaches for to support this program for the Committee if there is interest.

*Motion to not approve requested funding for this project (Blaine/Carl)*

Motion carried unanimously.

### **23-11 ODFW Walker Point Montane Grassland Project**

ODFW is requesting \$12,000 to underwrite costs associated with the creation of 4.3 acres of montane grassland habitat in the Oregon Coast Range. The created meadow will be maintained throughout the foreseeable future, establishing stable and important grassland habitat. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has committed to long-term monitoring of the habitat.

This proposal meets OWF match requirements and funding guidelines, and it addresses many OCS species. It also qualifies for funding through the OCS Implementation Fund. Project Committee members noted that because the proposal is for more than \$10,000, it should be approved by the entire BOD.

*Motion to recommend approval to the BOD of the requested funding for this project through the OCS Implementation Fund (Pape/Blaine)*

Motion carried unanimously.

### **23-12 Suter Creek Habitat Restoration Phase 5**

Bugni Forest & Tree Farm is requesting \$8,875 to assist in the construction of four engineered log jams utilizing 22 logs (11 logs with root wads and 11 saw logs) on their property along Suter Creek in the Clackamas River basin. This project meets OWF match requirements and addresses an OCS species (coho salmon). Although the project is based on private lands, the owner has and continues to manage his property for fish and wildlife values. ODFW is a partner in this project.

*Motion to approve requested funding for this project (Burnham/Miller)*

Motion carried unanimously.

## **OCS Implementation Fund**

Tim provided the Project Committee with an overview of the Oregon Conservation Strategy Implementation Fund. Jane Hartline has created this Fund to support projects that benefit *non-game, non-fish* species in Oregon, including insects, other invertebrates, and their habitats. Priority will be given to strategy species identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy; species listed or considered for listing as endangered or threatened at the Federal or State level; and keystone species (which currently include beaver, coyote, wolves, brown bear, California lynx, wolverine, and condor). Monies from this Fund may not be used for human-centric projects although the projects receiving funding may incidentally benefit humans in one way or another.

## **Foundation Fund Guide**

This OWF Foundation Fund Guide describes the various Funds that OWF can draw on to support projects. Both unrestricted and restricted sources are described. This is intended to be a resource document for OWF Board and committee members. The Project Committee expressed gratitude to the OWF staff for creating this very useful reference document.

## **Fishhawk Lake Fund Grantmaking – Update**

Since the last Committee meeting, Tim was contacted by Will Russell, a Board member with the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council, regarding the approach for utilizing these funds. Will expressed concerns about selecting projects without looking at the bigger picture within the basin. In his estimation, the riparian zone, particularly on industrial land, is at further risk as adoption of the Private Forest Accord (PFA) may encourage landowners to take additional streamside trees before PFA goes into effect.

Will's idea is to conduct a more thorough assessment of riparian zone conditions throughout the basin, including temperature, prior to making any decision about on-the-ground project investments. He also suggested that we consider protecting select mature trees within the riparian zone through conservation easements with landowners. Under this scenario, OWF would underwrite the additional data collection and set aside a fund to purchase and maintain conservation easements within the basin.

Will is in discussions with Nehalem River Partnership (NRP) members about this alternative approach and, in his estimation, it's gaining traction. He has asked for additional time to formalize a proposal that he'd bring to us on behalf of the NRP. The timeline for Will's proposal to be completed is unclear, but Tim anticipates the Committee may be able to review it by Q3.

## **Two Rivers Side Channel and Mainstem Channel Fish – Update**

The Two Rivers Side Channel and Mainstem Fish Habitat Enhancement Project is a multi-partner effort to improve critical habitat conditions in a Wild and Scenic River that supports the recovery of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmon and steelhead. Lack of habitat complexity and connectivity of side channels to the mainstem are prevalent issues limiting salmonid productivity in the Clackamas River Basin.

Project actions include construction of large wood jams along the point bar and banks to restore side channel and floodplain connectivity, restoring flows to two additional side channels through the regrading of the floodplain and addition of large wood, redistribution of floodplain alluvium to fill

zones behind the wood jams to provide ballast and stability, and tipping trees killed by the 2020 Riverside Fire along the left bank of the mainstem and right bank of the side channel.

This project has been submitted by OWF to the PGE Clackamas Fund for funding consideration.

### **Estacada Lake Large Wood Fish Habitat Project - Update**

The Oregon Wildlife Foundation, in partnership with McBain Associates and Aquatic Contracting, has proposed to the PGE Clackamas Mitigation Fund, to design and construct a series of large wood fish habitat structures at the upstream end of Estacada Lake. While fish use through the project reach is high, available cover habitat at the project site is limited, being primarily concentrated along banks and shorelines where velocities are slower and where vegetation provides cover and organic material. The project site is located on a shallow gravel bar that lies within the river-to-reservoir transitional zone. A series of five large wood habitat structures are proposed for the Estacada Lake project site to provide cover habitat and high flow velocity refugia. These structures will be modeled after a specific group of habitat structures our team designed and constructed in North Fork Reservoir built in 2017. Based on the success of the North Fork reservoir structures, we expect the habitat structures built at Estacada Lake will have a similar physical and biological response, and will benefit both salmonid (e.g., adult holding) and lamprey (e.g., pre-spawn adult holding, spawning, and larval) life stages.

If this project doesn't get funded, OWF may have to try to recoup funds already spent through other sources.

### **DYS Environmental Enhancement Fund**

The DYS Environmental Enhancement Fund has received the first of two \$42K disbursements. This new Fund agreement expands our eligible project types to include pollution reduction, pollution prevention, and environmental research. These are in addition to environmental restoration.

### **AtB Grant Award: Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network**

For unknown reasons, there has been a significant delay in getting an agreement established between the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and ODFW for the America the Beautiful (AtB) grant award to the Department for the Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network (KSON) project. 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.

### **Other Business**

Tim and Lori briefed the Project Committee about inquiries received from a Corvallis HOA looking to submit an application for maintenance of natural areas on private property. The grant proposal would be for removal of invasive plants, mastication, and the creation of fire breaks. The HOA claims to need funding to address the growing problems with the non-native species issues in their natural areas. This may be the first of many applications from HOAs that OWF may receive asking for funds to address natural areas on private property, so the Project Committee may want to consider if/how it will support these kinds of projects in the future. In general, the Committee is not supportive of

funding HOA maintenance projects. Carl suggested the HOA contact the local Soil Conservation District to inquire about funds available for these purposes.

Tim informed the Project Committee of the fantastic news that Gordon King will be rejoining the Committee and the BOD following this meeting.