

Project Committee May 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Attendance		
Committee Members	Staff	
Dave Cummings	Carl Burnham	Tim Greseth
Blaine Dickason	Brad Staples	Zachary Mallavia
Lori Steele	Sara Evans-Peters	Kalei Augustine
Pam Simser	Pat Richardson	Jess Bynum
Andrea Hanson		

Meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM. The members participating constituted a quorum and are listed above.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Committee members were asked if there were corrections to the February 24, 2022, Meeting Minutes. There being no corrections offered, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved with unanimous voice vote.

Project Committee Budget

Approximately \$25,000 is available in unrestricted funds with another \$45,000 expected from OCF in June.

Project 22 - 10 Bonney Butte Raptor Migration and Education Program

HawkWatch International (HWI) requested \$5,000 for its Bonney Butte program. HWI promotes raptor conservation through scientific engagement with the community. HWI’s programs build and shape scientists through education, outreach, internships, volunteer programs, and seasonal employment opportunities. Funding from OWF will be used to accomplish two main goals— improve the visitor experience at Bonnie Butte and invest in the next generation of biologists. After discussion about what to fund in the request a motion was made to approve \$4200 of supplies, including a tablet computer, and passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Project 22 - 11 Keeping Wildlife Wild in Oregon

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) requested \$5,000 for fuel and lodging (camping) during data collection, and to purchase signage and interpretive materials for distribution to project partners. ABC’s goal is to build on the “Keep Wildlife Wild” program that was developed by the United States Forest Service Siuslaw National Forest and incorporate some aspects of the “Crumb Clean” campaign developed by California State Parks to reduce negative human influences on endangered wildlife. After a significant discussion on what amount to fund a motion was made to approve the entire \$5000. The results of the voice vote were unclear.

The committee chair gave the person who made the motion a choice of a recorded vote or revising the motion. A revised motion was made for \$4050 for the educational components of this request. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Project 22 - 12 Study to Support Improved Salmon Management

The Wild Fish Conservancy requested \$5,000 to cover publication of a six-year study of commercial fish traps effect on commercial fishery bycatch mortality reduction techniques in a well-respected peer-reviewed scientific journal. The committee discussed the application and concluded that publication costs were not an appropriate use of OWF funds. A motion was made to decline funding and passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Estacada Lake Habitat Enhancement

Several OFW board members and staff visited Estacada Lake last year to look at the upper end of the reservoir where the Clackamas River flows into the lake. The site is similar to North Fork Reservoir where OWF completed a project to add woody structures that created additional spawning habitat for salmon. McBain and Associates has provided a proposal to do engineering and project management. The initial expense to prepare an application for funding is \$30,000. OWF would pay for the preliminary engineering and grant submittal for funding from the OWEB FIP and the Clackamas Mitigation and Enhancement Fund. The overall project budget is estimated at \$400,000 without contingency. A motion was made to fund the \$30,000 project development costs and approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Two Rivers Side Channel and Mainstream Fish Enhancement

This upper Clackamas River project was originally proposed for funding during the last cycle of the Clackamas Mitigation and Enhancement Fund by the USFS and McBain & Associates. It did not receive funding, but it is a good project and ready to submit again to the next cycle of funding. The purpose of the project is to improve side channel and mainstream habitat by adding woody structures. If the USFS agrees, the project would be submitted with OWF as the project sponsor.

Fiscal Sponsorship for Yakona Nature Preserve

The Yakona Nature Preserve is representative of Oregon's remnant spruce-dominated coastal rainforest. This 340-acre peninsula on Yaquina Bay is imbued with history spanning the millennia. Native Yaqo'n people lived on the peninsula prior to the heyday of shipping and logging in the 19th and 20th centuries. Today the area is at the center of marine science education and research. Yakona is living laboratory for natural and cultural history, sciences, and arts. The goal of the Yakona Nature Preserve is to create educational opportunities that allow people of all ages and abilities to experience Yakona and learn about local cultural history and natural ecosystems. A motion was made to approve the fiscal sponsorship and passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Habitat Priorities

Over the last 5 years OWF has attempted to give priority to projects located in oak prairies and western wetlands. Our success has been somewhat tempered by the actual projects that are submitted to the Project Committee for approval. The Project Committee is considering changing these priorities to reflect the areas where the Foundation is doing the most work. The Project Committee will have a meeting to discuss what changes are appropriate and board members will be invited to participate. Some of the important questions to be answered include how OWF aligns with Oregon Conservation Strategy ecoregions and how we incorporate habitat connectivity into our goals.

Project Management Capacity

The Foundation is looking forward to additional funding being available through the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA). The additional funding makes it feasible for OWF to obtain grants for large projects and manage those projects internally. Currently the Foundation does not have the staff to take on major projects, but by recruiting retired volunteer specialists from organizations like ODFW and the Forest Service the Foundation could add capacity.

Fishhawk Lake Settlement Fund

After funding the mitigation projects required by the Fishhawk Lake settlement, Oregon Wildlife Foundation will have approximately \$2.3 million dollars remaining to fund projects in the Nehalem Watershed. The project committee discussed how to disperse these funds and the conclusion was OWF should manage the funds as an ongoing fund making 4% to 5% a year available for grants in the Nehalem Watershed. It was also recommended that the Project Committee evaluate grant requests once a year, ranking and funding them based on their relative merit. The Project Committee would pass funding recommendations on to Board of Directors for review and approval. Once OWF has adopted a policy for the use of these funds it will be communicated to interested parties in the Nehalem Basin.

Old Business

It was noted that Susan Foster and Marcia Hartman have retired from the committee. They have served for many years and have been consistent contributors to the committee's decision-making processes. The Foundation will determine how best to acknowledge their contributions.

The board approved the plan for multiyear funding of the Beaver Dam Analogue's project and a letter of support was provided for the OWEB funding application.

The board also approved funding for the needed ODFW boat motor and increased the amount to \$10,000. The latest news from ODFW is they are reworking the old motor and buying one new motor and should have adequate funds to outfit the new boat.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.