

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

In 1993 the Oregon Legislative Assembly created the Access and Habitat (A&H) program to improve habitat and public hunting access in Oregon. The bill created a citizen board to provide recommendations to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) on projects requesting A&H funds. The board is comprised of three landowner representatives, three hunting representatives and the Chair representing the public at large. The Commission appoints members for four year terms and can reappoint members to a second four year term. Responsibilities of the A&H Board, in addition to funding recommendations, include appointment of representatives to Regional Advisory Councils, which provide the first level of review for projects from the six regions. The A&H Board provides the next level of project review, and recommends proposals to the Commission for final consideration and approval.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Board Chair position was open to interested members of the current A&H Board.

ISSUE 1

Access and Habitat Board Chair Appointment

ANALYSIS

The A&H Board currently has a Board Chair vacancy. Current A&H Board Members were polled for interest in the position; James Morrell expressed desire for the Chair position.

Candidate

- Name: James Morrell
- Location: Sisters, OR
- Occupation: Retired Naval Officer
- A&H Experience: Current Board Member (Hunter Rep.)

James served on the Deschutes/Klamath Regional Advisory Council from February 2004 until December 2008, when he was appointed as a Hunter Representative on the A&H State Board. If selected as Board Chair, he would serve in the position until December 31, 2016 and conclude eight years of service on the A&H Board.

James had a long career as a Captain in the Navy, commanding a Destroyer Squadron of seven ships and 2,000 men. He also earned a Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of Puget Sound.

James has been involved with various sporting groups, serving as Oregon State Chair of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Field Administrator of Oregon Hunters Association, and holding memberships with Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Safari Club International, and the National Rifle Association.

During his seven years on the Board, James has exhibited excellent attendance and participation, and has served as an assertive voice for the hunters of Oregon.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to appoint _____ as Chair of the Access and Habitat Board.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

January 15, 2016