



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

This exhibit includes information on two issues that require Commission action: 1) consideration of funding for projects recommended by the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Board and 2) appointment of two R&E Board members.

The R&E program was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1989 to help fund fish restoration and enhancement projects throughout the state. The program is funded by a surcharge on sport and commercial fishing licenses and commercial poundage fees and is overseen by a seven-member citizen board made up of three sport fishing representatives, three representatives of the commercial salmon industry and one representative of the public. The R&E Board meets four times each biennium in various communities throughout the state to review applications for project funding, hear public testimony, act as liaisons between the program and the public and to conduct other program business.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Issue 1: Public comment on applications for funding is taken at R&E board meetings, which are open to the public and considered “public meetings” under the Oregon Public Meetings laws. Notice of upcoming meetings and the proposed agenda is provided on request, listed on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) website, and distributed via news release to statewide and local media.

Issue 2: ODFW solicits board recruitments via news release to statewide and local media and outreach to stakeholder groups.

ISSUE 1

Approve the recommended R&E projects.

ANALYSIS

On September 24, 2021, the R&E Board recommended five projects totaling \$1,415,850. This is the second of four funding cycles for the 2021-2023 biennium. If the Commission adopts these recommendations, \$953,530 of the biennium allocation will remain.

A summary of the projects recommended for funding is presented in the Attachments 2 and 3.

ISSUE 2

Appointment of Representatives to the R&E Board

ANALYSIS

R&E board members are appointed to four-year terms by the Commission. The current representatives for one sport fishing and one commercial salmon (preference for salmon processor) position will end their first terms on December 31, 2021. Both are eligible for reappointment.

During the month-long recruitment period, a total of two candidates applied for the position to represent sport fishing and one candidate applied for the position to represent commercial salmon interests (Attachments 4 and 5). Attachment 5 identifies current R&E Board members with their locations.

While the Commission makes the appointment, ORS 496.286 states “In making appointments ... the commission shall consider recommendations from the State Fish and Wildlife Director.” To inform that recommendation several ODFW staff reviewed the applications and ranked candidates based on their qualifications and the following criteria:

- Angling interests;
- Participation in fishing organizations;
- Familiarity with Oregon’s fish management programs;
- Understanding of ODFW and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission;
- Availability for R&E Board duties;
- Interpersonal skills;
- Experience working with or representing the public;
- Experience with public service (boards, committees, etc.);
- General “fit” with current Board members (e.g., area of expertise, location in state).

Recommendation for Commercial Salmon (preference for processor)

Appointees to the three commercial salmon positions should represent the various commercial segments (gillnet, troll, processing). The current recruitment is for the position that has been representing the processing interest. Historically, it has been difficult to locate interested or willing candidates for the commercial salmon positions. Because of this, applicants are solicited from any commercial salmon background with preference given to candidates that maintain the diversity of commercial interests on the board.

Susan Chamber from Coos Bay was the only applicant for this position. ODFW recommends that she be reappointed to represent commercial salmon fisheries. Ms. Chambers has been a valuable R&E Board member during the past four years and her position as Deputy Director of the West Coast Seafood Processors Association makes her well qualified to represent commercial fishery and salmon processing interests on the board.

Recommendation for Sport Fishing Representative:

ODFW recommends Dave Grosjacques be reappointed to continue to represent the sport anglers of Oregon. Mr. Grosjacques is a retired teacher from southern Oregon, a passionate angler, and has been extensively involved with STEP, fisheries issues, and organizations in both the Umpqua and Rogue basins. His extensive history of volunteer and board experience, knowledge of fishery issues, and leadership has been a benefit to the R&E Board over the past four years. His continuation on the board will also ensure that southern Oregon area angling interests continue to be represented on the R&E Board.

Alternate Choice for Sport Fishing Representative:

If the Commission does not concur with the above recommendation, staff recommends Aaron Gann from Otter Rock as an alternate. While his experience and service are not as extensive as the other candidate, the review panel felt Mr. Gann’s prior experience as a fish biologist and understanding of fishery science could be an asset to the R&E Board. His geographic location is similar to other existing members and would not provide the geographic diversity of membership that the Commission has requested in the past.

OPTIONS

Issue 1:

- Option 1. Approve the R&E Board recommended projects (Attachments 2 and 3).
- Option 2. Reject all projects.
- Option 3. Reject individual projects

Issue 2:

- Option 1. Approve staff recommendations for the R&E Board (Attachment 5).
- Option 2. Reject the staff recommendations for the R&E Board and select another candidate.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Issue 1, Option 1: Staff recommend approving the recommended projects.

Issue 2, Option 1: Staff recommend reappointment of Susan Chambers as Commercial Salmon Representative and Dave Grosjacques as Sport Fishing Representative on the R&E Board.

DRAFT MOTION

Issue 1: I move to approve the projects recommended by the Restoration and Enhancement Board as set forth in Attachments 2 and 3.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 14, 2022

Issue 2: I move to reappoint Susan Chambers to a four-year term as a Commercial Salmon Representative and reappoint Dave Grosjacques to a four-year term as a Sport Fishing Representative on the Restoration and Enhancement Board.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2022.