



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) program was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1989 to help fund fish restoration and enhancement projects throughout the state. Restoration projects include restoring hatcheries, purchasing fish liberation equipment and modifying existing fish screens and passage structures. Enhancement projects include angler access projects, new fishways and screens, public education, aquatic inventories, habitat projects, and new hatchery equipment and technology. 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. Members of the board are appointed by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. There is typically between \$4 to 6 million available per biennium to allocate to projects that benefit sport and commercial anglers.

The Restoration and Enhancement Board issues four Requests for Proposals per biennium. Project proposals are by reviewed by a 10-person Department review team consisting of representatives from various Division and Region programs. The Board then meets four times each biennium in various communities throughout the state to review applications for project funding, taking account of the ODFW committee reviews, public testimony, and the Boards strategic direction. The Board then makes recommendations to the Commission regarding which projects to fund.

In the most recent biennium, the Board, via the Commission, funded \$5.2 Million in projects focusing on fish passage, angler access, monitoring, and hatchery deferred maintenance (Attachment 2).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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 (Department) website, and distributed via news release to statewide and local media. The public also has opportunity to comment during the Commission meeting.

The Department solicits board recruitments via news release to statewide and local media and outreach to stakeholder groups. The public also has opportunity to comment during the Commission meeting.

ISSUE 1

Approve the recommended R&E projects.

ANALYSIS

On September 22, 2022, the R&E Board recommended five projects totaling \$725,582. This is the fourth of four funding cycles for the 2021-2023 biennium. If the Commission adopts these recommendations, the R&E fund will have a total of \$133,978 of the biennial allocation remaining. These funds will be added to the 2023-2025 biennium budget and will be available for future projects.

A summary of the projects recommended for funding is included in Attachments 3 and 4.

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 of the sport fishing and one of the commercial salmon positions will end their second terms on December 31, 2022. Neither are eligible for reappointment.

During the month-long recruitment period, a total of three candidates applied for the position to represent sport fishing, but no candidates applied for the position to represent commercial salmon interests (Attachments 5 and 6). Attachment 6 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, Department staff reviewed the applications, conducted interviews, 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 the Department and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission;
- Availability for R&E Board duties;
- Commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Interpersonal skills;
- Experience working with or representing the public;
- Experience with public service (boards, committees, etc.); and
- Overall composition of current Board members (e.g., area of expertise, location in state).

Recommendation for Sportfishing Representative:

The interview panel unanimously recommends Tom VanderPlaat to be appointed to fill the vacancy on the R&E Board as a sportfishing representative. Tom is an active and passionate angler and understands fisheries issues across the state. He currently serves as the Co-President of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders. He recently completed serving two terms (8 years)

on the Salmon Trout Advisory Committee has been extensively involved with the Salmon Trout Enhancement Program, worked with the Department, the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and with both federal and state legislative processes. Tom’s extensive history of volunteer and board experience, interpersonal skills, knowledge of statewide fishery issues, ability to work as part of a team and his passionate desire to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the work that he does will serve him well as a member of the R&E Board.

Jim Muck was the second highest ranked candidate. His background as a fish biologist, fishing experience including for warmwater species, and history of working with organizations would give him the skills necessary to be a R&E Board member; however, after discussing the results of the internal panel recommendation he removed himself from further consideration.

Tom Donahue ranked third with his background and participation within his local community and engagement in local issues showcasing his positive attitude and willingness to give back to the community. His geographic location is not currently the best fit as he lives in the same area as another R&E Board member.

Recommendation for Commercial Salmon:

Appointees to the three commercial salmon positions should represent the various commercial segments (gillnet, troll, processing). 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.

Throughout the recruitment process we did not receive any applications from individuals interested in serving as commercial representative on the R&E Board. Staff will continue to recruit for this position and will bring forward a recommendation at a future Commission meeting.

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 recommendation for the R&E Board (Attachment 5).
- Option 2. Reject the staff recommendation for the R&E Board and direct ODFW to continue with an open recruitment to fill the vacant positions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

Issue 2, Option 1: Staff recommend appointment of Tom VanderPlaat as a Sportfishing Representative on the Restoration and Enhancement Board.

DRAFT MOTION

Issue 1

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 16th, 2022

Issue 2

I move to appoint Tom VanderPlaat to a four-year term as a sport fishing representative on the Restoration and Enhancement Board.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2023.