



Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program Board Meeting Minutes

Date: July 26, 2013

Location: Lake County Courthouse
513 Center Street
Lakeview, OR 97630

Current Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program (R&E) Board Members

Board Member

John Alto – Representing Commercial Troll Fisheries
Dixie Boley – Representing Fish Processing Industry
Bob Bumstead – Representing Recreational Fisheries
Jack Glass – Representing Recreational Fisheries

Board Member

Lonnie Johnson – Representing Recreational Fisheries
Greg Silbernagel – Representing the Public
Gary Soderstrom – Representing Gillnet Fisheries

Members Absent: John Alto – Representing Commercial Troll Fisheries

Call to Order

Chair Bob Bumstead called the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Program Board meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and introductions were made.

Meeting Minutes Approval

The Board reviewed the April 25-26, 2013 R&E Board meeting minutes.

Motion: D. Boley motioned to approve the April 25-26, 2013 R&E Board meeting minutes as amended. L. Johnson seconded the motion and the board approved 6-0.

Board Member Reports

Board members reported on restoration and enhancement activities in their area.

Meeting Agenda Approval

The Board reviewed the proposed meeting agenda.

Motion: D. Boley motioned to approve the agenda as written. L. Johnson seconded and the board approved 6-0.

Administrative Update

Josie Thompson, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) R&E Coordinator provided an update on program budget and administrative changes.

Thompson noted the ODFW Headquarters is scheduled to move August 16-18, 2013.

David Banks, ODFW Klamath Watershed District Biologist, provided information for the tour Saturday, July 27, 2013.

Thompson distributed a memo subjected “Travel Expenses for STAC and R&E Board Members” and discussed how all board members will now be required to make their own board meeting lodging reservations and pay for their lodging expenses up-front. Lodging expenses will then be reimbursed via Travel Expense Claims, rather than ODFW paying via direct bill. Thompson also questioned how comfortable the board members were with having personal contact information shared. Outside of home addresses, board members approved having their information shared with the public to allow people in their areas with potential R&E projects to contact them directly.

Thompson provided an updated copy of the ODFW Hatchery Maintenance Priority List and the ODFW Lakes and Reservoir Management Team Project List dated June 7, 2013.

The board discussed John Alto’s absences and expressed concern about his appointment to Chair in 2014. D. Boley commented that anyone representing Commercial Troll Fisheries would have to miss meetings due to their line of work. The board recommended Johnson take over as vice chair.

Motion: G. Soderstrom motioned to appoint Lonnie Johnson as Vice Chair for the remainder of 2013. D. Boley seconded the motion and the board approved 5-0. L. Johnson abstained from voting.

Greg Silbernagel proposed a prioritization of projects prior to voting. The board agreed to number projects 1-10 on paper after each presentation, with the plan that Thompson would calculate average scores prior to board recommendations and instead of making recommendations in order of project number, the board would recommend projects by average score, highest to lowest.

2014 Meeting Dates and Locations

The board approved the following tentative dates and locations:

February 7, 2014 – Salem

April 25-26, 2014 – Bend (combined meeting with Salmon and Trout Advisory Committee)

July 25-26, 2014 – Joseph, Enterprise, or Pendleton

October 24, 2014 – Tillamook

Emergency Request

Thompson presented an emergency request from Elise Kelly, ODFW Mid-Willamette District Biologist, for the Green’s Bridge on the North Santiam. The request was to provide Oregon State Police (OSP) Officer patrol, Jersey barriers, and eventually include a gate with signs regarding angler use and trespassing at ODFW’s Green’s Bridge property, which is an access road and boat ramp that becomes a major “party site” during July and August each year, resulting in hundreds of pounds of garbage, safety issues from alcohol and drug use, noise concerns, vandalism, and misuse of land.

Questions/Comments from Board:

G. Soderstrom suggested R&E funds pay for barriers to prevent trucks from ruining the adjacent private property, but not to pay for OSP patrol time.

J. Glass commented that the request is too short of notice to address this year, as the problem will clear up in the next month on its own.

G. Silbernagel noted the problem is an enforcement issue. Silbernagel added that it would not be a good use of angler dollars to put money into monitoring the site for six weeks when the problem has existed for years.

Motion: G. Soderstrom motioned to deny the Green's Bridge Emergency Funding Request with the recommendation the project request funding again in the future. L. Johnson seconded the motion and the board approved 6-0.

Project Proposal Presentations

13-045 Grants Management System for R&E Program

Thompson presented the Grants Management System for R&E Program funding request. The proposed project would pay for development of a new online grants management system that is more user-friendly and efficient, providing a benefit for applicants, grantees, and the R&E Program overall.

Questions/Comments from Board:

J. Glass expressed concern that the board had already approved funding for development of the current application website in 2005 and questioned what would be different this time around.

D. Boley discussed technological advances and commented that ten years down the road the proposed system may not work well either.

13-038 Mill-Bear Creek Fish Passage Project

Michelle Long presented the Mill-Bear Creek Fish Passage Project funding request. The project would replace a perched, undersized culvert near Tillamook, providing fish passage to approximately three miles of quality fish habitat.

Questions/Comments from Board:

G. Silbernagel questioned the discrepancy between what Michelle presented to the board as the OWEB match, and what the actual OWEB grant application for this project had stated.

Long replied that US Fish and Wildlife Service originally committed 25k but had to pull 10k due to budget cuts, and to make up the difference the OWEB funding request was altered. Long discussed R&E funds would be used to purchase the culvert ahead of time, and then OWEB funding would be used for design and implementation. Long added if absolutely necessary the stream simulation within the culvert could be eliminated to reduce the cost of the project.

13-044 Merrill Creek Culvert Replacement

Tyler Joki presented the Merrill Creek Culvert Replacement project proposal to the board. The project would replace two culverts over eight miles of stream. By removing the barriers, high quality habitat would be fully accessible to adult and juvenile fish, improving salmonid production within the entire Merrill Creek watershed. Joki added that both culvert designs had been approved by the ODFW Fish Passage Program.

Questions/Comments from Board:

G. Soderstrom expressed concern that the project was not presented to the local watershed council prior to the R&E Board. Soderstrom also discussed knotweed problems in Merrill Creek.

13-042 Jack Horner Creek LWD Enhancement

Christine Smith and Troy Laws, ODFW North Coast Habitat Biologist, presented the Jack Horner Creek Large Woody Debris (LWD) Enhancement project proposal. The project would add large woody debris

to strategic locations within Jack Horner Creek to increase stream complexity, and improve spawning habitat for native salmonids and other species.

Questions/Comments from Board:

G. Silbernagel expressed concern that an OWEB small grant was pursued instead of running through the normal process.

Christine replied that timing was the reason a small grant was pursued, as the offer for the project arose just a few months prior, and small grants from OWEB are much quicker to activate.

13-030 Cedar Creek Hatchery Railing for Pond Five

Bob Hudspeth, ODFW Cedar Creek Hatchery Manager, and Tristan Thiel, local Eagle Scout presented the Cedar Creek Hatchery Railing for Pond Five proposal. The project would involve replacing a very old and insecure safety railing around the public viewing pond, and act as an Eagle Scout project for Thiel. R&E funds would be used to purchase the pre-engineered steel structure. Boy Scouts of America Troop 7288 from Dallas, Oregon would provide labor and supplies to remove the old railing, paint and install the new railing system.

Questions/Comments from Board:

The board expressed concerns about liability for the adolescent volunteers involved.

Hudspeth replied waivers will be signed prior to beginning the project.

13-036 Catching Creek Basin Coho Eyed-Egg Injection

Gary Vonderohe, ODFW Coos-Coquille District Assistant Fish Biologist, presented the Catching Creek Basin Coho Eyed-Egg Injection project to the board. The project is for the second year of a six-year study to determine if egg injection supplementation of eyed out coho salmon eggs in the Catching Slough basin can increase the number of returning adults to the system.

Questions/Comments from Board:

D. Boley questioned survey supplies included in request for R&E funds and asked if the project budget could be reduced.

Vonderohe replied the project could probably find funding for those items elsewhere.

13-032 Alsea River Winter Steelhead Research Project

Derek Wilson, ODFW Mid-Coast District Assistant Fish Biologist, presented information on the Alsea River Winter Steelhead Research Project to the board. The research project would determine hatchery production and release strategies that maximize angler harvest and avoid excess straying.

13-033 Eckman Lake Angling Dock Replacement Project

Wilson presented the Eckman Lake Angling Dock Replacement project to the board. The project objective is to restore safe fishing access to the deepest fish habitat of Eckman Lake by replacing the existing deteriorating fishing platform.

Questions/Comments from Board:

J. Glass suggested that if handrails are needed, the requested funds should be used for rails instead of installation of the rubber bumper.

13-040 Triangle Lake Ladder Evaluation

Wilson presented the Triangle Lake Ladder Evaluation project proposal. The project would use an underwater camera to evaluate the ability of adult salmonids to pass through the deniel fish ladder installed in 1989 at Triangle Lake Falls.

13-039 Stream Nutrient Enrichment Expansion

Russell Bassett presented the Stream Nutrient Enrichment Expansion project request. R&E funds would be used to purchase a 28 ft. freezer trailer, 20 ft. flatbed trailer, and other necessary accessories to increase the placement of salmon carcasses in the streams in and around Portland and Salem to provide nutrient enrichment thus providing numerous benefits.

Questions/Comments from Board:

G. Silbernagel questioned whether an ODFW facility would have freezer space available, and why this was a less viable option.

Laws and Hudspeth replied most ODFW freezers have been shut down to reduce costs since the fish food program went to all dry food and no longer needs the freezers for moist pellets.

Bassett added the project will likely come in under budget by 5-10k, as the trailers were less expensive than planned.

13-028 Hartman Pond Access

Gary Galovich, ODFW Western Oregon Warmwater Fish Biologist, presented the Hartman Pond Access project proposal. The project would replace the rails and deck materials on an existing angling pier, and repair a 40 ft. floating dock to allow use by ADA anglers.

Thompson commented that the original proposal included two new docks, and that the current proposal is scaled down.

Questions/Comments from Board:

G. Silbernagel questioned why Parks and Recreation was not involved.

Galovich replied ODFW owns the pond and both existing fishing structures.

13-035 Willamette Hatchery Disease Risks

Jerri Bartholomew and Michelle Jakaitis presented the Willamette Hatchery Disease Risks project proposal. The study would inform hatchery operations by determining if disease risks support the use of water disinfection of hatchery influent or effluent and inform timing of prophylactic treatments during disease outbreaks.

Questions/Comments from Board:

J. Glass questioned the amount of research already done on this subject.

Bartholomew replied hatcheries monitor what comes in but not what is going out or the diseases that wild fish carry.

13-037 McKenzie Hatchery Emergency Generator

Kurt Kremers, ODFW McKenzie Hatchery Manager, presented a request for an emergency generator for McKenzie Hatchery. The generator would primarily be used to provide emergency power to the hatch house incubation system.

13-043 Mckenzie Watershed Council Education and Outreach

B. Bumstead apologized to the board that he had told the project applicant that she did not need to attend the meeting to present the request for the McKenzie Watershed Council Education and Outreach project. The request would use R&E funds to replace failing equipment and supplement existing equipment currently used by students and volunteers.

13-041 GHID Fish Passage Improvement Project

Bob Hunter presented the Gold Hill Irrigation District Fish Passage Improvement Project request. The project proposes to eliminate and/or reduce harmful fish passage impacts to salmon and steelhead and other native fish species caused by the Gold Hill Irrigations District's existing irrigation diversion system on the mainstem of the Rogue River by constructing a new headgate, headwall, and trash rack at the top of the diversion canal.

Questions/Comments from Board:

L. Johnson commented this project would help reduce the poaching opportunities in the area.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board Recommendations

13-030 Cedar Creek Hatchery Railing for Pond Five

Motion: Lonnie Johnson motioned to recommend project 13-030 in the amount of \$4,549.00 as a sport/restoration project. Greg Silbernagel seconded the motion and the board approved 6-0.

13-038 Mill-Bear Creek Fish Passage Project

Motion: Greg Silbernagel motioned to recommend funding for project 13-038 in the amount of \$12,600.00 as a sport/restoration project, with the contingency that funds not be release until the OWEB contract is signed. Lonnie Johnson seconded the motion and the board approved 4-0. Bob Bumstead and Gary Soderstrom opposed.

G. Silbernagel and L. Johnson commented on the need to be very clear about match funding and able to answer all questions when presenting funding requests to the board.

13-028 Hartman Pond Access

Motion: Jack Glass motioned to recommend funding for project 13-028 in the amount of \$27,200.00 as a sport/enhancement project. Dixie Boley seconded the motion and the board approved 6-0.

13-045 R&E Grants Management System Development

Motion: Gary Soderstrom motioned to recommend funding for project 13-045 in the amount of \$40,670.00 as a sport/enhancement project. Lonnie Johnson seconded the motion and the board approved 6-0.

D. Boley commented she would like to see how much money was spent on the development of the current application website system.

13-043 McKenzie Watershed Council Education and Outreach

Motion: Greg Silbernagel motioned to recommend funding for project 13-043 in the amount of \$4,590.00 as a sport/enhancement project. Jack Glass seconded the motion and the board approved 5-0. Bob Bumstead abstained from voting.

13-037 McKenzie Hatchery Emergency Generator

Motion: Jack Glass motioned to recommend funding for project 13-037 in the amount of \$45,000.00 as a sport/restoration project. Gary Soderstrom seconded the motion and the board approved 6-0.

13-033 Eckman Lake Angling Dock Replacement Project

Motion: Lonnie Johnson motioned to recommend funding for project 13-033 in the amount of \$68,801.00 as a sport/enhancement project. Dixie Boley seconded the motion and the board approved 6-0.

13-040 Triangle Lake Ladder Evaluation

Motion: Gary Soderstrom motioned to recommend funding for project 13-040 in the amount of \$6,750.00 as a sport/enhancement project. Lonnie Johnson seconded the motion and the board approved 6-0.

13-041 GHID Fish Passage Improvement Project

Motion: Greg Silbernagel motioned to recommend funding for project 13-041 in the amount of \$30,000.00 as a sport/restoration project, contingent upon OWEB grant approval. Lonnie Johnson seconded the motion and the board approved 6-0.

13-035 Willamette Hatchery Disease Risks

Motion: Greg Silbernagel motioned to recommend funding for project 13-035 in the amount of \$39,946.00 as a sport/enhancement project. Dixie Boley seconded the motion and the board approved 6-0.

13-039 Stream Nutrient Enrichment Expansion

Motion: Jack Glass motioned to recommend funding for project 13-039 in the amount of \$25,800.00 as a sport/enhancement project. Lonnie Johnson seconded the motion and the board approved 5-1. Dixie Boley did not approve.

13-042 Jack Horner Creek LWD Enhancement

Motion: Gary Soderstrom motioned to recommend funding for project 13-042 in the amount of \$70,000.00 as a sport/enhancement project. Dixie seconded the motion and the board approved 4-2. Lonnie Johnson and Jack Glass did not approve.

Greg Silbernagel expressed concern about lack of designs submitted with the project request which would have provided more assurance that placed logs will not get flushed down the river.

13-032 Alsea River Winter Steelhead Research Project

Motion: Jack Glass motioned to recommend funding for project 13-032 in the amount of \$89,000.00 as a sport/restoration project. Greg Silbernagel seconded the motion and the board approved 5-1. Lonnie Johnson did not approve.

13-036 Catching Creek Basin Coho Eyed Egg Injection

Motion: Dixie Boley motioned to recommend funding for project 13-036 in the amount of \$12,684.00 as a sport/enhancement project. Lonnie Johnson seconded the motion and the board approved 4-2. Jack Glass and Greg Silbernagel did not approve.

13-044 Merrill Creek Culvert Replacement

Motion: Greg Silbernagel motioned not to recommend funding for project 13-044. Jack Glass seconded the motion and the board approved 4-2. Lonnie Johnson and Gary Soderstrom opposed.

Adjourn

Johnson commented on the rating system used for projects during the meeting, and suggested rating each project immediately following the proposal presentation and group discussion.

Action: Thompson will make the first agenda item for the November, 2013 R&E Board meeting a discussion on how to improve the process for rating projects.

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Other Business

On Saturday board members visited potential, in-progress, and completed projects in the area.