



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program Board**  
 Meeting Minutes



**Date:** March 20, 2025

**Location:** Holiday Inn Express – Roseburg, OR

**Fish Restoration & Enhancement Program**

Board Member	Staff/Guests	
Dave Grosjacques – Representing Recreational Fisheries	Marty Olson, ODFW	Julian Gingerich, Clatsop County Fisheries
Tom VanderPlaat – Representing Recreational Fisheries	Sara Hart, ODFW	Crystalyn Bush, CSWD
Fred Cholick – Representing Recreational Fisheries	Mike Gauvin, ODFW	Valerie Berseth, Oregon Sea Grant
Brett Montague – Representing Commercial Troll Fisheries	Brent Hinners, ODFW	Greg Gore, Lane CC
Winter Rhodes – Representing the Public	Bryce Hansen, ODFW	
Susan Chambers - Representing the Fish Processing Industry	Robert Bradley, ODFW	
Troy Laws – Representing Gillnet Fisheries	Chris Kern, ODFW	

**Call to Order & Introductions**

Called to order at 8:30am.

Introductions – All Board member are present and introduced themselves. Guests in the room and online also introduced themselves.

**D. Grosjacques:** We need to take pride in R&E and let people know what we are about. Get the word out there.

**Agenda Approval**

No discussion.

*Motion:* F. Cholick made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. B. Montague seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**September 2024 Meeting Minutes Review and Approval**

*Discussion:* M. Olson described how the action items were accomplished.

D. Grosjacques: On page 3, delete the sentence end of his paragraph, it does not relate to the rest of what is written. The tow sub-committees met in November and December and successfully accomplished their goals. M. Olson will present on those meetings later.

*Motion:* F. Cholick made a motion to approve the September 2024 minutes with changes discussed. T. VanderPlaat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **ACTION ITEM:** S. Hart to fix minor edits to minutes suggested and will post on R&E webpage.

## **Board Member Updates**

**T. VanderPlaats:** Was on a small workgroup for the hatchery resiliency study update. Shaun Clements was at that meeting and was very informative about the status of all the state hatcheries. It was nice to be able to talk to them and help with the hatchery priorities. He volunteers for the Fish Eggs to Fry in the classroom program through STEP. Has helped with delivery and with fish releases. Reached 1,300 kids with fish in hand to release. Just completed trout releases this month.

**B. Montague:** Commercial troll had a salmon season last year. R&E gets \$.04 per pound on landings. This year there will be a lot more people involved with another open season. Season will open either 10<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of April. R&E will see some money for commercial landings and permits. He attended the Hatchbox Workshop at OSU with about 50 people from all over and many different agencies. He was the only one from the commercial fisheries side to attend. Lots of people were very positive about hatchboxes which was nice to see.

**F. Cholick:** Attended the OR AFS conference in February. Would encourage anyone to attend if they get the chance. Steelhead in Deschutes has a record return last year, however the Chinook returns were very low. He mentioned that he is very concerned about the status of federal funding, especially with regards to hatcheries. Reached 2,300 students with Fish Eggs to Fry Program this year. He would like to push to support trout fisheries in Oregon, that is where the majority of our fishing license money comes from.

**W. Rhodes:** New to the Board, this is his first meeting. In the last year he been more active with Tualitin River Keepers. They are doing a wetland and river cleanup this spring. It is a popular kayaking area. They have not come through R&E to ask for funding, but he might bring it up to them to see how R&E can help.

**T. Laws:** Started gill netting for Spring Chinook last month, the fishing is just picking up now. Met with local fishing group which has interest in restoring the yacht club boat ramp, which is the best launch in the area. Would require dredging and new pilings. OSMB has gotten involved but may be possible with R&E funding.

**S. Chambers:** Works mostly with ground fish and in the marine environment. She is worried about salmon bycatch, which was low last year. Just had a PSMFC meeting in the month. Decisions that came out of that was no fishing in California this year again, but Oregon will have a season and might do alright.

**D. Grosjacques:** In his area the big deal right now is on the Klamath River dam removal. With larger winter flows hopefully will reduce silt levels. Very large planting efforts to stabilize the banks along the river of the old lakes, tribes and other groups working together. Fishing in the Klamath may be delayed a year or so because of those silt loads. Rogue River has a few new regulations. Umpqua winter steelhead was a low run. Tour tomorrow we will visit the acclimation ponds on the South Umpqua. Was helped built with donations. Rock Creek hatchery burned down a few years ago, he has been talking with ODFW staff. Hatchery resiliency showed it as a low priority with warm water and expensive rebuilt. A town hall meeting held last week had 200+ people, Shaun Clements came and explained solutions for the hatchery program in the Umpqua basin. The message was very well received. Winchester Dam is a privately owned by landowners, most who live right at the lake. Drawdown in 2023 that killed a large amount a lamprey, which triggered a lawsuit from ODFW. Not a lot of information coming out of that because they are in the middle of the lawsuit. A lot of people want to see that dam removed, it is hard on fish moving up and down stream.

## **Sub-Committee Action Item Follow Up**

### *Allocation of funding per cycle:*

**M. Olson:** If we allocate too much money upfront and then the projection of funds is reduced, like what happened in 2024, we will have to pull back money from projects that were already awarded. This is not a good solution. Sub-committee recommends we should allocate no more than 80% of funds in Cycle 1, 5% in Cycles 2 and 3, and 3% in Cycle 4. That leaves 7% as reserve funds. Must maintain 50/50 split with R and E. Brent Hinnens was part of the sub-committee meeting and we had good

discussions on how we can split the large money hatchery applications between multiple Cycles. This year there was no hatchery bundle for Cycle 1 but it will be coming in Cycle 2. Right now, the R % is very low, and E % is very high, we need to be careful if more of the E projects are passed today. Will only have about 5% for E for the rest of the cycles. If all projects are recommended today, then we will allocate 70% of our projected funds.

**F. Cholick:** We played with the numbers a lot in our meeting, and this was the best recommendation we could come up with. It also depends on what the projects are and how much the cost of projects are coming in Cycle 2. Cycle 1 should focus on projects that are going to take the full two years to complete.

**T. Laws:** How many of the projects we are voting on today will require two years? **M. Olson:** Almost all of them, a couple may not.

**T. VanderPlaat:** He would like to understand the logic of the projection better. **M. Gauvin:** The projection comes from the ODFW fiscal office, they have a long-standing equation used by the agency that takes a lot into account. Last biennium we overspent in Cycle 1, that was the main issue that caused the deficit at the end.

#### Board Operating Guidelines:

**M. Olson:** Reviewed the Board Operating Guidelines, which had not been updated since about 2015. Draft guidelines had a lot of minor changes that needed clarifications. We took out an old letter written by a previous R&E Board Chair. We also added the new revised Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) pertaining to R&E.

**T. VanderPlaat:** Page 15 of the Board Operating Guidelines has a reference to the “reservoir dogs”, what is that?

**M. Olson:** That group no longer exists, lost a lot of the support from the district staff. We have developed a new process for internal projects. **M. Gauvin:** This group is how we decide what goes into the bundled projects.

*Motion:* F. Cholick makes a motion to approve the updates Board Operating Guidelines as written. T. Laws seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Project Update, Emergency Grants, 25/27 Budget Projection Update – M. Olson**

#### *Closing out Biennium 23/25:*

##### Carryover Projects:

- 21/23 Hatchery Bundle closed and returned \$35,029.
- 19/21 Fishing Facility closed and no return funds.
- 21/23 Fishing Facility nearing closing – Yellowjacket Lake burned in wildfire, but local biologist said none of our structures were damaged. Should close by end of June. Will return about \$80,000 from Empire Lake that was moved to 23/25 biennium.
- 21/23 Construction Manager will close out soon.

#### *23/25 Project Carry Over: Brent Hinners*

Had to focus in on a couple of the projects from the long list that was on the application. The Big Creek hatchery pipeline was a success. The Elk River hatchery ponds came in way over budget from bids, next construction window is summer 2026. Asking Board to carry over this project for \$690,000 into the 25/27 biennium.

The Oregon Legislature is asking for a bond to see if funding comes through for hatcheries, so if we get that then we can prioritize projects from there. That is why the big hatchery bundle is going to come in Cycle 2.

#### *Return Funds:*

- Four projects that we know are returning funds: Internships Invasive Removal, Cape Meares Lake Weed Removal, Poison Creek Aerator System, and St. Paul Ponds Security. Total amount = \$17,492
- Possible return funds: Coquille Predatory Fish Reduction, R&E Admin, Grant Management System, R&E Publicity, Emergency Account, STEP Education, Fishing Facilities Bundle 21/23 (Empire Lake)
- Both these total \$279,492.00 returned. Recommend holding back this money and adding to our 7% reserve fund for a total of about \$500,000 in reserve funds for 25/27.

### *Emergency Grants:*

6 applications came in so far. All were less than \$5,000, so Marty, along with Dave, approved all of these.

- Nehalem Hatchery Generator \$2,111.47
- Cedar Creek Hatch House Heater \$3,197.00
- Sandy Hatchery Intake Flush Gate \$5,000.00
- Waterhouse Falls Tree Removal \$3,200.00
- St Paul Warmwater Hatchery Pump \$5,000.00
- Indian Creek STEP Hatchery \$5,000.00

About \$60,000 in account right now.

**D. Grosjacques:** If projects are more than \$5,000 then they need a full Board approval. It is possible we would have to pull together an emergency meeting to approve.

**F. Cholick:** Do these projects effect the R vs E percentages? **M. Olson:** No, all emergency grant money is split 50/50.

**T. Laws:** If they want the \$5,000 up front then they can get it, but can they come back and ask for more money later? **M. Olson:** Yes, but we would need to do an emergency meeting to vote to approve those extra funds.

### *25/27 Revenue Projection:*

\$3.5 million.

ODFW is asking for a license fee increase this coming biennium. R&E receives \$4 per license sold, regardless of the cost of the license. We need to maintain a reserve balance in case out projection comes in low. With returned funds and holding 7% for the allocation, we would have about \$550,000 in reserves.

## **Cycle 1 Project Review**

**F. Cholick:** A lot of the grants have money pending from other sources. Should we be concerned about that?

**D. Grosjacques:** That has happened before. Sometimes if they do not get other funding sources approved then they will withdraw their applications. If they do not willingly withdraw, we need to approve with a condition that they get their other funding.

**T. Laws:** How long will be hold that money before forcing a withdraw. **M. Olson:** Until that other funding decision has been made.

**F. Cholick:** What is OWEB? **Dave:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board - funds a lot of the watershed districts. Get their money from lottery dollars.

**F. Cholick:** There is a question in the application that asks if the project is a priority. Should we be looking at that?

**M. Olson:** That is where it is important to look at the IRT scores, they are the ones that know whether those projects are a priority. Outside projects may not know what ODFW priorities are so they may check "No" on that question but that doesn't mean it shouldn't get funded. **M. Gauvin:** This is a valid question, and it is good feedback to know whether those questions are important to have in the application process or not.

**F. Cholick:** Given the cost of inflation on materials, it is concerning on some of these projects that they may not have budgeted for that? **M. Olson:** Hopefully they have accounted for that. Once we approve the money, they cannot come back and ask for more.

### ***25-001 North Coast Access Site Maintenance***

**F. Cholick:** Do you have funds for maintenance? **Robert Bradley:** There is no money set aside for maintenance with the agency. Him and his crews spend some time and money doing what they can on their own, but with a bigger project like this we need outside help.

**T. Laws:** A lot of the damage may be from people playing at the site. Is anything ever done to catch those people?

**Robert Bradley:** A lot of those people are hard to catch but some effort has been made. We may be putting up cameras. Most of this damage is just from wear and tear.

**T. VanderPlaat:** He uses these sites a lot and the damage really are just wear and tear. Tillamook County has a user fee at some of these sites, we should be pushing on them to help pay for some of these costs. They are all very important Angler Access sites. **Robert Bradley:** We have a maintenance agreement with county parks, they

take care of the restrooms, trash pickup, and ramp cleanup. Trying to maintain a good relationship with them and they have offered match money.

#### **25-002 Conyers Creek Habitat Enhancement**

This is the OWEB funding dependent application.

**F. Cholick:** On private land and the landowners have responsibility for maintenance of the site after 3 years, which is concerning. There is an outreach benefit mentioned, please clarify that. What is the cost benefit for the size of the restoration area?

**Crystalyn Bush:** Longterm maintenance, must rely on private landowners to be willing to do that. Will keep working for funding on plantings, etc. There is no binding contract with landowners, but these landowners are very conservation minded and very invested, they are also contributing match funds. For outreach we are planning to do a video to show the entire restoration process, pre-during-and post- restoration, interviews with landowners, social media, etc. Landowners involved with the agriculture community and willing to outreach to other landowners. For cost benefit, what we are doing has good long-term reliability for restoration projects. This is a large tributary off the Klaskanine river, which is a high priority basin for ODFW.

**T. Laws:** Do you really need to purchase willow sticks? Could this be done with volunteer base? **Crystalyn Bush:** We only have 4 people on staff and do not have a large volunteer base. We would still need someone to care for and plant the stakes and do a good job that will last into the future.

**T. VanderPlaat:** What is the outlook for OWEB funding? **Crystalyn Bush:** Likely will not receive this funding, they are at the bottom of the priority list but will know for sure next month.

#### **25-003 Clyde Holliday and 7<sup>th</sup> Street Ponds Aerators**

**Bryce Hansen:** These are the ponds that R&E paid to dredge last year. These aerators have been shown to slow down growth of vegetation that contributes to the buildup of sediment in the ponds.

**F. Cholick:** Is there sufficient water to maintain the level of the ponds. **Bryce Hansen:** Yes, lots of ground water to refill the ponds.

**T. VanderPlaat:** Are the goals to help fish? **Bryce Hansen:** It will help with the vegetation and mud layer but in turn will provide more habitat for fish.

**B. Montague:** Is there evidence of these working? **Bryce Hansen:** Not with ODFW but he has talked to people in other states that use them, and they work well for them.

**W. Rhodes:** If these aerators were not funded how long would it take to need to re-dredge? **Bryce Hansen:** Not exactly sure but these ponds should have been dredged at least a few times in the 30 years since they were built.

#### **25-004 Silverton Reservoir Recreation Enhancement**

**F. Cholick:** 50% of the money is to be used for a picnic area, other half used for access and ramp. Is that a ratio that we are OK with? Should R&E be paying for a picnic area?

**T. VanderPlaat:** Do people who buy fishing license want to pay for picnic tables? Yes, but agrees that the 50% split is troublesome.

**M. Gauvin:** This is multiphase project in the City of Silverton to increase recreation. We met with them and told them to apply, but they did not rely to IRT comments and did not adjust their application to showcase the angler benefit.

**F. Cholick:** Can we only give them some of the money? **M. Olson:** Not without the applicant present to respond.

**T. VanderPlaat:** The design costs and staff time costs are very high.

#### **25-005 25/27 Fishing Facilities Access Bundle**

**F. Cholick:** Where is funding coming from to maintain these facilities? **M. Olson:** Local ODFW staff knows about these projects and has agreed to maintenance.

**M. Olson:** The proposal shows an archery range is being put in as well, however R&E will not be spending money on that.

**T. VanderPlaat:** How many fish and anglers use these areas? **M. Olson:** The use at Hwy 203 and Bakers Pond is very high, but we do not have fish and angler numbers. **F. Cholick:** Yes, Bakers Pond is very popular.

**D. Grosjacques:** Like to see money spent on the east side of the state.

**M. Olson:** These projects came through out internal prioritization process – these two projects rose to the top of

the pack as far as priorities for ODFW.

**T. VanderPlaat:** Bryce's funding "comes for other sources" but those are still R&E? **M. Gauvin:** Bryce's other funds are administrative; this fund is for the actual projects themselves.

**T. Laws:** Are all the listed amenities necessary? **M. Olson:** From experience we have seen that these amenities are a big deal to a lot of people, makes the overall experience better for a wider array of people.

**B. Hansen:** Hwy 203 Pond will be even bigger than JCP, with a kayak launch. A lot of these people in these rural areas are needing this kind of recreational access.

### **25-006 NCWD Stream Enrichment Totes**

**F. Cholick:** Application says you need 60-80 totes to do the project, you are asking for 20 new ones. **Robert**

**Bradley:** Number of totes we use depends on how many fish we get each year. On years that we have a lot of fish we are forced use the very old totes; those are the ones we are trying to replace.

**B. Montague:** Have you ever asked Pac Choice to donate them? They have a lot of these totes floating around and would likely donate. **Robert Bradley:** Did not know about that, will look into it.

**T. VanderPlaat:** Has helped with this stream enrichment project before, and good totes are a must. When you have a bad tote, it makes the job a lot harder and a lot messier.

**Robert Bradley:** The reason for having to put them in the freezer is because we a lot of the fish come in early and we have to wait for the water to come up so that they can spread out more with higher flows and we have to wait for until spawning surveys are done in the area.

### **25-007 Unmanned Aircraft Systems Fish Stocking Project**

**B. Montague:** This seems to take the human aspect out of the program, there are a lot of volunteers that love this stocking program to hike and stock fish in high lakes. **Greg Gore:** This is to help eliminate the use of helicopters, not volunteers. The lakes were identified by ODFW staff.

**W. Rhodes:** Where is the tank design being done? **Greg Gore:** He is designing the tank and will be the one that tests and approves the design. Also has already applied for an FAA permit to fly in the area and for long distances.

**W. Rhodes:** Who will be responsible for maintenance of the drone? **Greg Gore:** Depends on the issues, could be under warranty, otherwise it would be students.

**W. Rhodes:** Battery life – the application says 50 mins, is that for each battery or all three? **Greg Gore:** Battery life would depend on distance and weight carried. Should be able to go 20-30 minutes on a battery at least, but every situation would be different.

**F. Cholick:** How close can you get to these high mountain lakes? How long will the fish have to be in the tank?

**Greg Gore:** The tank will have an aerator for getting oxygen to fish. Time flight could only be 10 minutes, but it depends on the distance to the lake.

**T. Laws:** Do the drones always make it back? Are there provisions for recovery and replacement? **Greg Gore:** Return flights will have minimal risk because of the lighter load. Will be doing a lot of test flights with weight to make sure we can fly properly. Fault would land on pilot and command. Most of the parts can be replaced and fixed if damage occurs.

**T. Laws:** Is there a budget from the school for replacement parts and repairs? **Greg Gore:** Not that I am aware of.

**T. VanderPlaat:** This is a proof of concept. What is the ODFW investment into the helicopter program that this might be more cost effective? **M. Gauvin:** He oversees the helicopter stocking program. We have been stocking with helicopters since the 1970s. We stock 400 lakes in a week in the Cascades, and 50 lakes in the in the Eagle Caps. There is a \$80k budget for that every 2 years that is not in danger. Odd numbered years (like 2025) is done my chopper, even numbered years are done by backpackers.

**D. Grosjacques:** What is the efficiency and cost of the helicopter stocking? **M. Gauvin:** The stocking device has 30 canisters; number of fish depends on the lake. \$80k is just for contracting a helicopter, all the staff time is paid in other ways. We have come in under budget for the last several years it's been done.

**T. VanderPlaat:** Does ODFW have any drones currently? **M. Gauvin:** Yes, they are small and used for surveys, hazing birds, and other arial photo work.

**Greg Gore:** During fire season there is questions of if the helicopter will be available or if the contract is going to renew at a higher price. This project is meant to help support current program. **M. Gauvin:** Yes, the contract is coming up for renegotiation, cost could possibly go up. There is no threat to the program going away.

**T. Laws:** The size of the drone and the number of trips, compared to helicopter? **Greg Gore:** Can carry 22lbs, so there would be a lot of trips depending on the lake.

#### ***25-008 Internships: Invasive Fish Removal and Monitoring***

**F. Cholick:** Fully admits that he has a conflict of interest with this project, knows that R&E does not prefer to fund long term projects, but this is a destination location and an important fishery in the area.

**D. Grosjacques:** This is a very long-term funded project which is against R&E policy, so he believes it should not be funded.

**T. VanderPlaat:** Should we be giving a break to a project like this that supports an important fishery? **Jen Luke:** There have been several seasons within those biennia that we have skipped. We haven't been doing it for all those summers continuously.

**T. VanderPlaat:** Is there other alternatives? **Jen Luke:** Rotenone, but these lakes are national monuments and very deep, that would not be an option for these lakes. **T. Laws:** Are there any other techniques? **D. Grosjacques:** Physical removal with nets can work in some places.

#### ***25-009 Hatchery Maintenance – Klamath Hatch House Rebuilt***

**D. Grosjacques:** This hatchery was toured by R&E a few years ago. Great hatchery, 100% trout raised. Have they been able to do anything there since the fire? **Brent Hinners:** They have been able to move fish around and keep production at the same rate. Hatch house construction has already begun, we are trying to use this money as match to receive FEMA funds. This money would be put to good use for equipment/tanks, whether the FEMA funds are denied or not.

**T. VanderPlaat:** Do you feel comfortable on cost estimates? **Brent Hinners:** Yes, for both FEMA funds and binds with contractors and equipment quotes.

#### ***25-010 Stabilization of new water intake Bandon Hatchery***

**F. Cholick:** City of Bandon created the problem when they dredged the area? **Chris Kern:** Yes, some damage was caused by equipment. The intake was already in poor shape. He has another \$10k promised from the city that came through after the application deadline.

**T. VanderPlaat:** Does this impact city operations at all? **Chris Kern:** This is a shared intake with hatchery and city water.

#### ***25-011 Tongue Point Pile Replacement***

**D. Grosjacques:** Why so high in Commercial benefit? **Julian Gingerich:** These net pens are intended to hold fish that are meant for commercial fisherman. Some sport fishermen do benefit.

**F. Cholick:** Have you approached the Columbia River Endorsement for funding? **Julian Gingerich:** Have not yet.

#### ***25-A0 R&E Program Administration***

**D. Grosjacques:** Does not think that these costs should be considered a grant application. Would like to see that as a different format, maybe something shorter. **T. VanderPlaat:** We need some form to communicate how we are administering the program. It is nice to have this format to show that. **M. Olson:** Part of the reason is the application is done is for transparency. **M. Gauvin:** We did recently find a way to split out administrative cost versus program operation costs, however we need to show transparency to the Commission and the public.

**D. Grosjacques:** Splitting these between R and E can be difficult to justify, right now they are just split 50/50.

#### ***25-A1 R&E Grant Management System***

**M. Olson:** Asking \$5,000 less than last biennium. We made a lot of upgrading and adjustments to the system in the last two years and think there should be less in the coming years.

#### ***25-A2 STEP Education***

**M. Olson:** Asking \$10,000 less than last biennium. This is mostly used for Eggs to Fry in the classroom materials.

#### ***25-A3 STEP Fish Food***

**M. Olson:** Reduced budget by \$1,000. Talked with hatcheries and fish food prices are stable.

**T. VanderPlaat:** There is not enough information on this application to tell people how this money is being used. Would like to see the number of fish and number of hatcheries and where the money is being spent.

#### **25-A4 STAC Mini Grant Program**

**M. Olson:** STAC had previously asked for more money a few years ago, did not ask for it this biennium. Mini grants are \$2,000 each.

**D. Grosjacques:** If they want more money, they need to find it from somewhere else, not from R&E.

**T. VanderPlaat:** Possibly STAC should increase their max amount they give out to attract more applicants. They need to bring us justification for why they need the fund to increase in the future.

#### **25-A5 R&E Emergency Account**

**D. Grosjacques:** Can we spend money out of emergency account if we fall short like we almost did this year?

**M. Olson:** No, because this money has already been awarded to the emergency account and should only be used for emergency situations. That situation is what our reserve funds are for.

#### **25-A6 R&E Construction Project Manager**

**D. Grosjacques:** Costs so high because of salary, travel, fuel, but they are also asking to fund shipping containers for equipment storage. **B. Hansen:** We have an area to store equipment and materials at EE Wilson Wildlife Area. But need some place to store it undercover and protected. Need places to store overstock materials. Will be very secure in fenced and locked area.

**T. VanderPlaat:** Would like to see the data for the benefits of these projects on the applications.

### **Board Discussion, Scoring, and Voting**

*(Note: Projects were discussed one by one in number order, then the Board scored each project anonymously. Once all scores were submitted the projects were voted on from highest average score to lowest average score. Discussion, scores and votes were condensed in the minutes for clarity.)*

#### **Admin Packet A0-A6**

**T. Laws:** Are there are other pots of money to get administrative money from? Admin costs are getting so high, we are not able to do as many projects. **M. Olson:** No, ODFW Fish Division budgets are very tight. **M. Gauvin:** We need an adjustment to the amount R&E gets from license dollars, moving to an indexing method would be much more beneficial. Would also like to add R&E to list of places to donate money when you buy a license.

**F. Cholick:** Admin budgets is money well spent. Understand that fish budgets are under a lot of pressure.

**Motion:** F. Cholick made a motion to approve projects 25-A0 through 25-A6 for their full amounts. B. Montague seconded the motion.

**Votes:** Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **25-001 North Coast Access Site Maintenance**

**B. Montague:** Cannot undervalue how much the Portland metro area fishes that North Coast area.

**T. VanderPlaat:** Usage at those facilities is very high, they are very valuable angler access areas.

**Board Score:** 4.3/5

**Motion:** F. Cholick made a motion to approve for the full amount of \$89,175. B. Montague seconded the motion.

**Votes:** Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **25-002 Conyers Creek Habitat Enhancement**

**D. Grosjacques:** Would like to see a vote of no on this project. It does not see the fit with what R&E does. They seem to have plenty of other money to do the project. **T. Laws:** R&E is only being asked to pay for the plants, buying willow sticks doesn't seem like a good investment.

**Board Score:** 1.6/5

**Motion:** T. Laws made a motion to approve funds for this project to the reduced amount of \$32,220 and under the condition that OWEB funding is secured. B. Montague seconded the motion.

**Votes:** Yes – 6 : Grosjacques, VanderPlaat, Montague, Laws, Chambers, Rhodes. No – 1: Cholick. Motions passes

with conditions.

*Reason for conditions:* Covers cost of potted plant material and installation, but not the willow stakes which should be able to be found cheaper. Too many questions to the amount of impact it will have on the fishery.

**Crystalyn Bush:** Agrees that they can make the reduced amount work and are okay with conditions.

#### **25-003 Clyde Holliday and 7<sup>th</sup> Street Ponds Aerators**

**T. VanderPlaat:** Wish we had more information and data on the benefits of the aerators. **B. Montague:** The lifespan of the aerators is also unknown.

*Board Score:* 4.3/5

*Motion:* F. Cholick made a motion to approve for full amount of \$33,000. T. Laws seconded the motion.

*Votes:* Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **25-004 Silverton Reservoir Recreation Enhancement**

**D. Grosjacques:** Doesn't think that enough of the money is going to improving the fishing facilities, a lot of the money for non-angler related amenities.

*Board Score:* 2.4/5

*Motion:* W. Rhodes made a motion to table this project. T. VanderPlaat: We need some kind of timeline for tabling. W. Rhodes withdraws his motion. B. Montague made a motion to deny this project. F. Cholick seconded the motion.

*Votes:* Yes – 4: Grosjacques, Montague, Cholick, Laws. No – 3: Chambers, VanderPlaat, Rhodes. Motion passes.

*Reasons for denial:* This is a fairly low funding request; this money could be coming from city. Did not prove enough direct benefit to anglers.

#### **25-005 25/27 Fishing Facilities Access Bundle**

No discussion.

*Board Score:* 4.3/5

*Motion:* B. Montague made a motion to approve for the full amount of \$367,135. S. Chambers seconded the motion.

*Votes:* Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **25-006 NCWD Stream Enrichment Totes**

**B. Montague:** If we can get those donated and we can get that money back. **S. Chambers:** Can help get the contact information for donations to the applicant.

*Board Score:* 4.3/5

*Motion:* T. VanderPlaat made a motion to approve for the full amount of \$7,600. W. Rhodes seconded the motion.

*Votes:* Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **25-007 Unmanned Aircraft Systems Fish Stocking Project**

**F. Cholick:** Cannot support this project, even though it benefits trout. **T. VanderPlaat:** If they solved the ownership issue maybe that would solve some of the worries around it. We like the idea but logistically it just isn't there yet.

**D. Grosjacques:** If they come back with changes to the application maybe we will reconsider. **W. Rhodes:** The design of the apparatus isn't getting done until the money comes, most of this money is asking to pay for the design, not even the build.

*Board Score:* 1.3/5

*Motion:* B. Montague made a motion to deny this project. T. Laws seconded the motion.

*Votes:* Yes – 7 No – 0. Motion passed unanimously.

*Reasons for denial:* There are far too many unknowns and what-ifs. Cannot carry enough fish to make it an efficient stocking method. Questions around the ownership of the device.

#### **25-008 Internships: Invasive Fish Removal and Monitoring**

**S. Chambers:** She appreciated the comments about the perpetual funding of this project. Would it be possible to reduce the amount. **D. Grosjacques:** Feels that the amount doesn't matter, they have been using R&E funds for too long.

*Board Score: 2.3/5*

*Motion:* W. Rhodes made a motion to deny this project. D. Grosjacques seconded the motion.

*Votes:* Yes – 5: Grosjacques, Rhodes, Chambers, Montague, Laws. No – 2: VanderPlaat, Cholick. Motion passes.

*Reasons for denial:* R&E should not fund perpetual projects.

### **25-009 Hatchery Maintenance – Klamath Hatch House Rebuilt**

**D. Grosjacques:** He has been to this hatchery and is for what they do there, it is an important trout hatchery.

*Board Score: 4.4/5*

*Motion:* F. Cholick made a motion to approve for the full amount of \$200,000. T. VanderPlaat seconded the motion.

*Vote:* Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion passed unanimously.

### **25-010 Stabilization of new water intake Bandon Hatchery**

**T. VanderPlaat:** Give credit to ODFW with working with the city and maintaining a well working relationship.

**T. Laws:** This project is important and needs to happen.

*Board Score: 4.3/5*

*Motion:* W. Rhodes made a motion to approve for the full amount of \$135,000. B. Montague seconded the motion.

*Vote:* Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion passed unanimously.

### **25-011 Tongue Point Pile Replacement**

**B. Montague:** The return on investment is huge for this project; it definitely needs to be funded.

*Board Score: 4.9/5*

*Motion:* B. Montague made a motion to approve for the full amount of \$64,400. S. Chambers seconded the motion.

*Vote:* Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion passed unanimously.

- **ACTION ITEM:** M. Olson and S. Hart will inform the applicants of their project status and update the Grant Management System

## **Administration Discussion**

*ORS 496.289:*

**M. Olson:** In the revised statute there are guidelines on how the Board is supposed to operate.

**D. Grosjacques:** Wanted the group to consider the question: Are we still doing what R&E was meant to be doing when it started?

**M. Olson:** Read through the OARs carefully. D. Grosjacques and the administrative staff agree that we are following the OARs well.

*Calendar and Next Meeting:*

September 29-30, 2025. Drive in and tour Monday afternoon, meeting on Tuesday.

Location: It's been a while since the Board visited Central or Eastern Oregon.

Board agrees for the next meeting to be held in Sister; we can go to Metolius Pond and Wizard Falls Hatchery for a tour.

**F. Cholick:** Will you have a new balance sheet, so we know where we are at for Cycle 2 and amount of money we approved? **M. Olson:** Yes, we will get that to the Board.

**D. Grosjacques:** Please provide updates on Conyers Creek project, on whether those conditions come through.

**T. VanderPlaat:** Would like to make a commitment to get the word out about R&E. Would like an information PowerPoint, or other materials to help get that word out to his local groups.

**M. Olson:** R&E has money set aside for publicity that we can use to put out new videos, paper and/or internet materials.

**T. VanderPlaat:** He should be getting information updates on the hatchery resiliency project, get those updates to the Board.

- **ACTION ITEM:** After ODFW commission approves projects at June meeting, M. Olson will update the Board with a new balance sheet and updated projection for Cycle 2.

**Public Comment**

None.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:02pm.