

# PFA August MAC Meeting

September 6, 2023

12:00 pm

Virtual

**Meeting called by:** Andy Spyrka (Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife)    **Type of meeting:** General PFA Mitigation Advisory Committee Meeting

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**Facilitator:** Bob Van Dyk (Chair)    **Note taker:** Andy Spyrka

**Attendees:** Chad Washington, Bob Van Dyk, Chrysten Rivard, Andrew Purkey, Mark Stern, Heath Curtiss, Chris Allen, Kate Wells, Sara Gregory, Jason Meiner (in-place of Jennifer Weikel)

**Acronyms:** PFA Mitigation Advisory Committee ("Committee" or "Advisory Committee")

## Minutes

**Agenda item:** 1. Call to Order, Roll Call, & Approval of Agenda    **Presenter:** Bob Van Dyk

**Discussion:**

- General call to order, roll call, and approval of agenda.
- Mark Stern requested that acquisition be discussed in the meeting.
  - Bob modified the agenda to include discussion after public comment.

**Conclusions:**

No objections to the agenda, unanimous consent, and adopted as modified without objections.

**Agenda item:** 2. Consent Agenda    **Presenter:** Bob Van Dyk

**Discussion:**

None.

**Conclusions:**

No objections, consent agenda approved.

**Agenda item:** 3. Public Comment    **Presenter:** Bob Van Dyk

**Discussion:**

- Kelley Beamer with the Oregon Coalition of Land Trust provided public testimony concerning acquisition.
- Public comment was also submitted via memo and distributed to the Advisory Committee before the meeting.
- No additional public comment.

**Agenda item:** 4. Land Acquisition    **Presenter:** Bob Van Dyk

**Discussion:**

- Bob opened the discussion on acquisition
  - Noted that ODFW has administrative concerns

- Various discussions amongst the Advisory Committee
  - Heath Curtiss
    - Discussed the incorporation of PFA funds and acquisition if not the primary funding source
    - Concern about this fund being used to retire timberland acreage
  - Chad Washington
    - Agreed with Heath's concern
    - Discussed title acquisition and deed restrictions if funding such projects
  - Mark Stern
    - Discussed that we don't want to take lands out of production, and that it's the applicants responsibility to prove conservation benefit
    - Discussed administrative burden for ODFW and how that could be reduced
  - Chrysten Rivard
    - Echoed Mark's comments but was reluctant to defer to other agency reviews since the PFA program has different priorities.
      - Discussed willingness to wait to accept acquisition until we establish our own protocols
      - Wants to wait until staff support exists
  - Chad Washington
    - Agreed with Chrysten's comments about other program goals and objectives not aligning with PFA
  - Sarah Reif
    - Agreed with Chrysten that we just are not yet clear as to what we need for our protocols and what aligns with the goals of the PFA as opposed to just funding matched projects by other agencies
  - Bob
    - Felt another agency could cover the due diligence.
  - Andrew Purkey
    - Asked if we needed to decide today on acquisition
      - Andy responded no and that we could continue the discussion and final decision in the October meeting.
  - Mark - noted that urgent grants are an option for future acquisition.
  - Discussion concluded.

### Conclusions:

Continue acquisition discussions in the October Committee meeting.

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**Agenda item:** 5. Staff Report

**Presenter:** Andy Spyrka

### Discussion:

- Andy presented on the staff report that was delivered to the Advisory Committee members prior to the meeting.
  - Andy requested that Committee members discuss anything flagged in the staff report.
- Committee Discussion
  - Mark Stern
    - Noted minor edits in the Expenditure Framework that must be corrected before adoption.
    - Discussed the new PFA Grant Program webpage
    - Recommend a higher funding minimum for projects to reduce administrative burden and create more significant projects at scale, and those that have a smaller amount go to OWEB

- Various discussions amongst Committee regarding funding limits
  - Heath Curtiss
    - Doesn't want to preclude small or large projects
    - Vocalized agreements with Mark on administrative burden of small grants.
  - Chad Washington
    - Doesn't want to see a culvert or bridge replacement go unfunded due to small funding ask
  - Mark Stern
    - Understands valuable projects can be low cost and we don't want to defer them
    - Defers to ODFW on capacity and what would work best
  - Chris Allen
    - Agreed with the conversation but noted cost-share projects, which could be low-cost match requests for large projects
  - Bob
    - Noted that we are only just trialing this program, and limits can be modified in the future.
  - Andrew Purkey recommended to the Committee to modify language in Grant Guidelines to read, "Committee anticipates grants to be in the range of \$50,000 and \$2 million."
    - Andrew Purkey move to adopt new language on funding floor and ceiling
    - Heath Curtiss second
      - Motion is the GG will state "Committee Anticipated grants to be in the range of \$50K and \$2 million."
      - No objections or comments, and so adopted by unanimous consent as deemed by the Chair Bob Van Dyk.
- Sarah Reif
  - Requested that the Committee discuss reporting requirements for grant in October as it's still a very active area of the Grant Program and subject to change
  - Committee agreed.

**Conclusions:**

Continue discussion in October about reporting requirements for funded projects.

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**Agenda item:** 7. Expenditure Framework Adoption

**Presenter:** Bob Van Dyk

**Discussion:**

- Discussion amongst Advisory Committee regarding the Expenditure Framework
  - Various edits requested by Committee
  - Committee agrees with edits
- Chad motioned to adopt the Expenditure Framework with the amended edits as discussed
  - Mark Stern seconds adoption
  - No objections, Expenditure Framework is adopted as so deemed by the Chair Bob Van Dyk.

**Conclusions:**

The Committee adopts the Expenditure Framework.

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<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None.</li></ul>		

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**Agenda item:** 8. ODFW Priority Presentations **Presenter:** ODFW Staff

**Discussion:**

- ODFW staff presented to the Committee on various ODFW priorities relating to the PFA Grant Program
  - Staff presenting:
    - Debbie Colbert, ODFW Deputy Director
    - Thomas Stahl
    - Emily Vanwyk
    - Shaun Clements
    - Spencer Sawaske
    - Adrienne Averett
- The Committee continued with discussion following the presentation.

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**Agenda item:** 9. Committee Membership **Presenter:** Bob Van Dyk

**Discussion:**

- Bob has decided not renew his year long term on the Committee and also retire as the Committee Chair.
  - Discussed next steps for replacement of his Conservation seat, and for the Chair position
  - Noted that the Governor must appoint a new member to the Committee.
- There is a brief discussion amongst Committee regarding replacements and the requirements to be a conservation seat.

**Conclusions:**

ODFW will work with the conservation community to recommend a replacement to the Governor.

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<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>		

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***Other Information***

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This meeting was recorded, transcribed, and posted on the ODFW webpage <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/habitat/PFA/meetings/index.html>.