

PFA Mitigation Advisory Committee

Staff Report

Meeting Type: Virtual

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024

The purpose of this report is to inform the Private Forest Accord Mitigation Advisory Committee (MAC) and the public about recent developments in the PFA Grants Program and ongoing staff efforts.

The PFA Mitigation Advisory Committee (Committee) has finalized the following important documents:

- ✓ [Advisory Committee Operating Procedures](#)
- ✓ [Oregon Administrative Rules](#)
- ✓ [Expenditure Framework](#)
- ✓ [Fall 2024 Grant Guidelines](#)

Agenda item: 4. MAC Operating Procedures

Presented by: Chad Washington, PFA MAC Chair

Topics Covered:

1. Review and adoption of the PFA Mitigation Advisory Committee (MAC) Operating Procedures.
 - a. The MAC has welcomed three new members to the Advisory Committee within the last year. The MAC Operating Procedures need to be reviewed, and adopted to reflect the change in the Advisory Committee.
 - b. Please reference, “04_MAC Operating Procedures” to see the changes reflected in the membership tables.

Agenda item: 5. ODFW Staff Update

Presented by: Andy Spyrka, Private Forest Accord Grant Coordinator

Topics Covered:

1. **2024 Open Solicitation Update**
 - The PFA Grant Program is currently accepting project proposals for the 2024 Open Solicitation period, which began on September 11, 2024, and will close on November 13, 2024.
 - As of the time of this report, there have been **32** applications initiated, with **2** fully submitted.
 - Project funding requests range from **\$30,000 to \$1,000,000**.
 - Applicant organizations include a diverse range: non-profits, watershed councils, SWCDs, private companies, tribal entities, and local, state, regional, and federal government agencies.

- Conversations with grantees and prospective applicants have highlighted challenges this year, including the impact of recent Oregon wildfires. Many affected applicants are prioritizing funding sources that address immediate needs, potentially resulting in postponed PFA applications until the 2025 cycle. Additionally, some prospective applicants face limited capacity to pursue multiple funding sources available statewide.

2. Overview of the 2024 Review Cycle and Timelines

- The current solicitation period will close on **November 13, 2024**.
- Since summer, ODFW staff have been coordinating with program partners to organize review teams across Oregon in preparation for the review cycle.
- On **November 12, 2024**, ODFW will host a statewide reviewer kick-off meeting to discuss PFA Grant Program priorities, timelines, and expectations. This meeting will also serve as an open forum for reviewers to raise any questions.
- Reviewing partners expected to participate in this cycle include **USFWS, NOAA, ODF, and ODFW staff**.
- Andy will present further details on review timelines and process to the MAC.

3. Update on Recent Project Cancellations & Program

- The **Beaver Creek Valley-Scale Floodplain Restoration Design project**, initially funded with \$50,000 for planning, has been cancelled due to a shift away from the project's original planning intent and goals. The grantee has been encouraged to reapply with a revised project scope in the current funding cycle.
- Program Development Update
 - Andy Spyrka is actively working behind the scenes to further develop and strengthen the PFA Grant Program. As the program expands its funding opportunities, he is focusing on establishing and refining equitable and transparent processes and procedures, revising agreements and creating other relevant documents in anticipation for future needs.
 - Additionally, Andy is enhancing guidance for grantees and applicants by updating key documents, including template monitoring plans, progress report guidelines, and other related resources.
 - Andy continues to outreach to organizations to garner additional awareness of the grant program.
 - This is a comprehensive process that is expected to continue as there is still much to develop.

4. **December Meeting Break**

- As is customary, the MAC will not meet in December due to holiday schedules and travel.
- ODFW staff will distribute a December staff report to keep the Committee informed of any relevant updates.