



PROJECT COMMITTEE

In person and teleconference meeting

November 14, 2019

Attendees:		By Phone:	Staff
Dave Cummings	Pat Richardson	Meg Braestrup	Tim Greseth
Susan Foster	Bill Shake	Holly Michael	Pam Simser
Marcia Hartman	Lori Steele		
Gary Pape'	Garth Wyatt		
Tony Pullen			

The meeting was called to order at 11:29 am.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the August 22, 2019, meeting as written and submitted. Motion carried.

PROJECT FUNDS – We have \$79,339 in unrestricted funds available for general grant making purposes.

NEW PROJECT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Project 19-26 Robert Kronberg Natural Area Twinning Project

The Willamette River Rio Laja Twinning Project is requesting \$3,500 to purchase plants and coordinate educational and volunteer events on the restoration site at Robert Kronberg Natural Area and in the Rio Laja basin in Mexico. This is an environmental education project being conducted in collaboration with a conservation group and project in the Rio Laja basin in Guanajuato, Mexico. Total project budget is \$13,500

This application meets our match requirement, funding guidelines (most of the request will cover staff expenses, typical in a project that is focused on environmental education), addresses an OCS species or habitat: Oregon white oak and Chinook salmon, but **did not** include a letter of support.

Motion was made and seconded to approve funding. Motion carried.

Project 19-27 Establishing Vesper Sparrow On Prairie and Conservation Lands

American Bird Conservancy is requesting \$4,550 to purchase equipment and contract with individuals to carve and paint decoys in a study to determine if vesper sparrow can be coaxed into colonizing suitable habitat in areas not currently utilized by vesper sparrow. Three separate sites have been identified for this project. Total project budget is \$9,100.

This application meets our match requirements, funding guidelines, addresses an OCS species or habitat: Oregon vesper sparrow, and includes a letter of support from Jennifer Ringo, ODFW Wildlife Restoration Coordinator.

Motion was made and seconded to approve funding. Motion carried.

Project 19-28 Adopt-a-Lek Program 2020

ODFW is requesting \$10,000 in funding support for the 2020 Adopt-a-Lek program season. Funds will be used for a volunteer coordinator and associated expenses. The Foundation has supported this program since 2007. Total budget is \$99,646.

This application meets our match requirements, funding guidelines, addresses an OCS species or habitat: Greater sage grouse, and includes a letter of support from Lee Foliard, BLM's Acting Deputy State Director for Lands, Minerals, and Fire.

Motion was made and seconded to approve funding. Motion carried.

The committee discussed several aspects of this on-going project and agreed that it would like Mikal Cline to give a project presentation to the board.

Project 19-29 Sooty Grouse Hooting Survey Enhancement

ODFW is requesting \$5,000 in funding support to purchase 16 acoustic recorders, batteries, and SD cards for a project that will help determine when sooty grouse hooting peaks and if birds hoot consistently from day-to-day during the spring at several locations in western Oregon. The information gathered will be used to adjust the timing of the Department's sooty grouse surveys which are used to monitor populations for decline and to manage harvest. The total budget for this project is \$183,669.

This application meets our match requirements, meets our funding guidelines, does **not** address an OCS Strategy habitat or species, and **does not** include letters of support.

Motion was made and seconded to approve funding contingent on project receiving the Pittman-Robertson funding. Motion carried.

Project 19-30 Underwater Camera for Marine Conservation and Research

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is requesting \$8,300 in funding to purchase an underwater camera that will be used to document, using photos and video capture, current and future research projects that Aquarium staff and dive volunteers perform in collaboration with State and Federal agencies and coastal nonprofit organizations. The total budget is \$16,626

This application meets our match requirements (if all in-kind contributions are included), funding guidelines, addresses OCS strategy species and habitat: multiple marine species, marine reserves, and protected areas, and includes general letters of support from Lindsay Aylesworth, ODFW Project Leader for the Marine Reserves Program and Joseph Haxel, Assistant Professor, Oregon State University.

Motion was made and seconded to approve funding. Motion carried.

One voted to decline funding because this request is outside the scope of acceptable projects. The request was written to benefit the Aquarium's marketing, and less about research.

Add to the award letter: the expectation is that the Foundation (@orwildlife) will be tagged on every social media post using video or still images from this camera.

OLD BUSINESS -

18-13 North Fork Reservoir - The Clackamas Habitat Fund Award was made to the Foundation for our proposed project this summer. We have accepted the agreement language PGE provided but still need to contract with McBain & Associates for the construction phase. Planning and permitting work will resume when Funds become available in January. We are scheduled to be in the field next September constructing the woody structures at the head of North Fork Reservoir.

Grant Check Sheet (formerly “scoring guide”) - the check sheet will be made available for the committee on the website. Dave will complete the sheet for each new grant application and share it with the committee prior to the next meeting.

R&E Partnership – Tim discussed the proposed R&E partnership with the committee at their last meeting and also presented the concept to the Board of Directors. All parties like the concept which is for the Foundation to support R&E’s planned redevelopment of the Junction City Fishing Park by adopting elements of the plan and raising money from local residents and companies in a small capital campaign. The goal will be to raise \$50,000 for one or more of the elements planned for the Junction City site. After some discussion, Tim offered to draft a goal and plan for the Project Committee to review, offer comment to, and approve via an email vote.

Committee Budget- the 2019 budget was reviewed and discussed: our three areas of strategic focus are wetlands, oak woodlands, and the Adopt-a-Lek program. These are carryover focus areas from the prior year. The intent is to magnify our impact by narrowing our grant making to eastern/southeastern Oregon for wetlands and the Columbia River Gorge (Oregon side) for oak woodlands.

The 2019 budget was \$132,104. Actual grant making this year totaled just over \$160,345.

The committee agreed to a budget of \$140,000 for the 2020 fiscal year; \$17,500 for wetlands, \$17,500 for oak woodlands, and \$10,000 for the Adopt-a-Lek program. The balance of our available funds will be for regular grant making purposes.

The new budget will be available on the Project Committee’s page of the myowf.org website.

OCRF – Tim talked about the Foundation’s partnership with ODFW to raise \$1 million in private gifts to earn an additional \$1 million in General Fund monies for the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund; a new mechanism through which wildlife conservation is funded in Oregon. The legislation, as written, poses some serious challenges to our ability to raise the funds. The timeline is tight; all funds must be raised and obligated to qualified projects within the next biennium which began July 1st. An advisory committee must be stood up to recommend funding decisions to the Fish & Wildlife Commission. This step must happen concurrently with fundraising efforts. Finally, the “ask” is that the donor make their gift without respect to a specific project. We’re finding that to be a tall order for most people; they want to know how their money will be invested. Tim will keep the committee apprised of our progress.

NEW BUSINESS -

Member feedback regarding the Project Committee- the committee would like the Board to review the grant criteria of what is acceptable and unacceptable and provide feedback.

Williams Prairie Project - was not covered at this meeting

Meeting concluded at 12:56 pm.

2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

ALL THURSDAYS, 11:30-1PM, MOSS ADAMS (12 FLOOR AT THE FOX TOWER)

You’re welcome to bring your own lunch

March 5, June 4, September 10, December 3

