



PROJECT COMMITTEE

In person and teleconference meeting

February 14, 2019

Attendees:		By Phone:	Staff
Carl Burnham	Brad Staples	Meg Braestrup	Tim Greseth
Dave Cummings	Lori Steele	Susan Foster	Pam Simser
Davia Palmeri		Marcia Hartman	Elisa Ford
Gary Pape'		EK MacColl	Guest
Pat Richardson		Holly Michael	Blaine Dickason

The meeting was called to order at 11:33 am

Brad introduced his guest, Blaine Dickason. Blaine is a customer and friend of Brad's, who Brad invited to observe the business of the committee.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the November 29, 2018, meeting as written. Motion carried.

PROJECT FUNDS - \$133,954 in unrestricted funds is available for grant making purposes.

Pat asked that our funds-on-hand statement include a budget to actual line item for future meeting reports.

NEW BUSINESS -

Revisiting our habitat priorities

Our habitat priorities, selected by the committee in 2016, are wetlands, oak and prairie and ongoing commitments to the Adopt-a-Lek and Youth Outdoor Day programs. These habitat priorities were, in part, selected because Pacific Birds went through an extensive strategic planning effort and coastal wetlands and oak/prairie rose to the top for them. Selecting the same lined up partnership opportunities. Tim asked whether the committee wanted to stay with our existing habitat priorities as we're coming up on year 3. Holly asked, given that we've only been working with our existing priorities for a little over two years, what the concern was. Tim indicated that it was less about the priorities and more about impact; with a modest amount of funds allocated, are we making a difference? We might consider narrowing the geographic scope to magnify the impact we can have i.e., "oak woodlands in the Willamette Valley" or more narrowly "Yamhill County."

It was stated that this is an exercise that should be pursued prior to the adoption of the next year's budget. It was agreed that the discussion is late but could also be preparatory to development of our 2020 budget allocation.

The 2019 budget allocation to our habitat priorities will be discussed at our next meeting which is on May 9th. In preparation, Dave will prepare a questionnaire that asks about our habitat priority areas,

whether we should stick with the ones we have or change them. Tim will prepare a report of 2018 grants funded and in which areas.

Committee budget: 2019 budget is tabled until the May meeting.

Committee charter review: Dave asked each committee member to review the charter; did the committee fulfill its obligations to the Foundation? Please respond with comments and/or questions to Pam and she will compile them for the next meeting. The charter will be reviewed at the May meeting.

Scoring guide: the scoring guide is intended to aid in reviewing projects. The discussion focused on several areas. First, it was suggested that the value of the project in terms of the visibility it affords to the Foundation should somehow be added to the scoring guide. It should include our habitat priorities. Should it be more of a check off approach versus the award of a weighted score?

OLD BUSINESS -

Project 18-13- North Fork Reservoir- Dave reported that in January, the Foundation contracted with McBain and Associates, a California consulting company doing projects on the Clackamas River, to prepare the Oregon Wildlife Foundation's application to the PGE Clackamas Habitat Fund. In late January, McBain installed flow recorders at the site of the project and began preparing drawings to use for review with Oregon Department of Transportation (part of the work will require blocking one lane of the Clackamas River Hwy). Next week (week of 2/18) they will start working on the hydraulic model which will be used to determine the effect on flow caused by different woody debris structures. The end goal for this analysis is to ensure the structures do not cause bank erosion next to the highway. The important dates for the Clackamas Habitat Fund application are:

1. March 15 – Requests for Proposals Issued
2. May 15 – Grant Applications Due
3. July – Presentations of Grant Applications
4. August – Grants Awarded
5. January 2020 – Funds available.

Project 18-34 Siletz River Environmental Health Monitoring – this project was tabled at our November meeting. Tim and Pam met with a representative of the applicant organization and followed up with the committee's questions which were "what are the long-term monitoring plans" and "whether the proposed project was in response to a new DEQ testing requirement." The answers were that they don't have a long-term monitoring protocol in place and that this wasn't a reaction to a new DEQ rule. After that discussion, we suggested that they withdraw their application and consider reapplying if and when they have a more specific strategy.

Project was withdrawn.

NEW PROJECT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Project 19-02 Oregon Vesper Sparrow Study

Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) is requesting \$5,000 for a project that will collect baseline population data on Oregon vesper sparrow at Vesper Meadow, a newly acquired conservation property. This information will be used to inform restoration activities on the site. In addition, this study will look at dispersal of vesper sparrow between multiple meadow sites in the Rogue basin building on a data-collecting effort initiated last year. OWF funds will be used to cover contracted staff costs, mileage, and project supplies. A grant from the Charlotte Martin Foundation will cover KBO staff costs. Total estimated project expenses are \$12,150

- Meets our match requirement & funding guidelines
- Addresses a OCS species: Oregon vesper sparrow
- Includes a letter of support from Steve Niemela, ODFW District Wildlife Biologist for the Rogue

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

Project 19-03 Wildfire Effects on Sage Grouse Ecology

Oregon State University is requesting \$12,000 in funding support for what is the 7th year of a 10 year program that's examining the response of sage grouse to wild fires. ODFW is co-funding this project. OWF funds will be used to purchase 3 GPS transmitters for the project. Total project budget is \$292,886

- Meets our match requirements & funding guidelines
- Addresses an OCS species: greater sage grouse
- Includes letters of support from Lee Foster, ODFW Sage Grouse Conservation Coordinator

Motion was made and seconded to ask Tim to contact the applicant and ask if a lesser amount, of \$10,000, would be acceptable.

Project 19-04 S. Santiam Watershed Council Youth Snorkeling Program

The South Santiam Watershed Council is requesting \$4,394 to purchase 11 sets of wetsuits, hoods, gloves, boots, snorkels, and masks to be used in a curriculum-based natural resource education program that teaches students about national forests, freshwater foodwebs, and salmonid conservation through class lessons and experiential learning. The total project budget is \$8,738

- Meets our match requirements & funding guidelines
- Includes a letter of support from Karen Hans, ODFW STEP Biologist, South Willamette Watershed District

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

Project 19-05 Sagebrush-Obligate Songbird Study

Oregon State University is requesting \$5,000 for a research project that quantify nest success and nestling survival of sagebrush-obligate songbirds over ~6,500 square kilometers of sagebrush steppe in eastern Oregon. The project will conduct point-count surveys, nest searching surveys, and monitor nests at random, sage grouse brood, and sage grouse nest locations. OWF funding will be used to purchase monitoring equipment for songbird nests. Total budget for the project is \$231,598.

- Meets our match requirements & funding guidelines
- Addresses an OCS strategy habitat (sage steppe) and species (Brewer's sparrow, sage thrasher, sagebrush sparrow)
- Includes a letter of support from Lee Foster, Sage Grouse Conservation Coordinator

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

Funding is contingent on project being adequately funded and resubmit a balanced budget.

Meeting concluded at 12:48 pm.



2019 MEETING SCHEDULE

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

You're welcome to bring your own lunch

➤ 5/9, 8/22, 11/14