

March 19-20, 2008 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update #C6: Monitoring and Research Strategy

Background

At the Board's Planning Session, on July 18 and 19, 2007, there was a theme expressed by members to establish targeted solicitations for a variety of OWEB grant offerings. There was an explicit recognition that the Monitoring and Research grants can and do fill a niche of providing scientific evaluation and discovery that assists in characterizing past accomplishments and describing progress toward goals and objectives of OWEB's programs. Particular interest was expressed by the Board to establish a Monitoring and Research Subcommittee that would develop a set of recommendations for the full Board to consider prior to the 2008 grant solicitation for these two grant types.

Planning Session Themes

At the Board Planning Session, it was established that monitoring projects have the inherent capacity to provide data and information that are useful in describing accomplishments undertaken under the auspices of Measure 66, the Oregon Plan, Recovery Planning, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and other large initiatives. It was recognized that without clear targets for prospective grantees to design their work towards, the agency is not likely to have all of its objectives met through these grants. Similarly, with the potential of the Board offering an additional Research solicitation this biennium, and the often long term nature of both monitoring and research investments, it is important to act soon in establishing priorities and targets for future grant offerings. These themes will be instructive in guiding the work of the subcommittee.

Subcommittee Activity

The subcommittee consists of Board members Meta Loftsgaarden, Ken Williamson, and Bobby Brunoe and it is staffed by Greg Sieglitz and Courtney Shaff. Their first meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2008 and will focus on several areas:

- 1) Reflecting on the Board Planning Session outcomes.
- 2) Developing a common understanding of the investments made to date in Restoration and Monitoring.
- 3) An evaluation of the current Effectiveness Monitoring Program and Procedures.
- 4) Begin consideration of alternative targeted grant offerings for Monitoring and Research.

The subcommittee will likely meet on two occasions this spring in preparation for the May 2008 Board meeting. At that meeting, it is anticipated that the Board will consider alternative means of focusing the future Monitoring and Research grants in a manner that will provide a high likelihood of achieving results from the subsequent projects that will: a) complement the Restoration grant projects; b) coincide with necessary reporting periods between 2008 and 2014; c) be flexible enough to adapt to a variety of non-capital funding scenarios; and d) align with the Board's intent of funding more strategic, outcome based projects.

Staff Request

If you have questions or need additional information about the Monitoring and Research Subcommittee please contact Greg Sieglitz, at greg.sieglitz@state.or.us or 503-986-0194.