

August 26, 2005

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**FROM:** Roger Wood, Grant Program Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item K: OWEB Grant Award Recommendations  
Region 2, Southwest Oregon  
September 13-14, 2005 OWEB Board Meeting**

### **I. Background**

Twenty restoration applications were received from the Southwest Region seeking a total of \$1,951,127. The Southwest Oregon Regional Review Team met at the DEQ Regional offices in Medford on July 5, 2005, to review the applications received in this grant cycle. All applications were reviewed for technical merit and a fund/no fund recommendation was made by the Team. The Review Team then prioritized the applications recommended for funding.

### **II. Regional Review Team Recommendations**

The Region 2 Review Team recommended 15 restoration projects for funding. One of these, the Honey Creek Culvert Replacement, was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant. The remaining 14 “do-funds” totaled \$1,390,511. Six of the projects were recommended for funding at a lesser amount than requested by the applicants. Special conditions were suggested for all 14 of the projects recommended for funding.

### **III. Savage Rapids Dam Removal and River Restoration Project**

About four years ago the OWEB Board committed \$3 million toward the removal of Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River and toward subsequent restoration of the riparian zone upstream of the dam. The award was made contingent upon the receipt of sufficient other funding, largely from federal sources and from the local irrigation district, to complete the project. As the first major funding provider, and realizing that the project had a long developmental phase ahead of it, OWEB gradually allocated and reserved funds toward the commitment, eventually allocating \$2.25 million. Last year the Board allowed \$40,000 of the reserved funds to be spent on engineering and design work. The necessary other match funding has been slowly but steadily secured, and although the complicated project is neither fully funded nor yet ready to begin the implementation phase, staff believes implementation is near enough that it is time for OWEB to allocate the remaining \$750,000 of its commitment. See Attachment C for background information on the Savage Rapids Dam project.

### **IV. Staff Recommendations for Project Funding**

Attachment A shows the proposals, funding amounts, conditions (if any), and priority rankings recommended as “do fund” to OWEB staff by the Review Team. The table also indicates, by

means of shaded entries, the OWEB staff “do fund” recommendations to the Board. The shaded items total \$1,390,511, of which \$1,379,636 is *capital* and \$10,875 is *non-capital*. The recommended final allocation of \$750,000 (all *capital* funds) for the Savage Rapids Dam Removal project is also shown.

Attachment B shows those applications not recommended for funding at this time by either the Review Team or by OWEB staff.

Attachments

- A. Projects Recommended for Funding
- B. Projects Not Recommended for Funding
- C. Background Information on Savage Rapids Dam project (201-444)

**Region 2 – Southwest Oregon  
Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by the Review Team  
April 25, 2005 Grant Cycle**

Staff Funding Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray

Project #	Project Name	Non-Capital Funds	Capital Funds	Total Amount	Priority
z206-082	Coos Watershed Association Projects 2006*/**	0	244,999	244,999	1
z206-071	S Fork Elk Cr Large Wood Debris Placement & Riparian**	400	49,560	49,960	2
z206-072	Coquille Watershed Riparian Enhancement 2005**	1,100	148,850	149,950	3
z206-086	Joe Hall Aquatic Habitat Restoration*/**	0	73,311	73,311	4
z206-081	Bryant Elder Push Up Dam Removal*/**	0	37,332	37,332	5
z206-083	Structure Placement 2006-UBWC**	0	116,353	116,353	6
z206-085	Jackson Cr Restoration**	0	98,000	98,000	7
z206-079	Middle Rogue Watershed Riparian Tree Planting**	2,025	111,092	113,117	8
z206-087	Honey Cr Culvert Replacement WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT	0	0	0	9
z206-088	Paradise Cr Watershed Restoration*/**	0	258,002	258,002	10
z206-090	Copeland Cr Instream Large Woody Material**	0	15,750	15,750	11
z206-074	Squaw Cr Riparian Restoration*/**	350	26,830	27,180	12
z206-078	Archambeau Cr Riparian*/**	0	19,007	19,007	13
z206-073	Illinois Valley Riparian Tree Planting**	7,000	91,300	98,300	14
z206-084	Steamboat Cr Instream Restoration**	0	89,250	89,250	15
<b>Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by the RRT</b>		<b>\$10,875</b>	<b>\$1,379,636</b>	<b>\$1,390,511</b>	
<b>Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to the Board</b>		<b>\$10,875</b>	<b>\$1,379,636</b>	<b>\$1,390,511</b>	

\*Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction

\*\*Fund with Conditions

**October 1, 2001 Grant Cycle  
Additional Project Recommended for Funding by OWEB Staff**

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount
<b>201-444</b>	<b>Savage Rapids Dam Removal</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>

Staff recommendation to set aside Capital funds this cycle toward meeting the Board's \$3 million commitment to this project. Doing so will place the total amount set aside to \$3 million.

**Region 2 – Southwest Oregon**  
**Restoration Projects Not Recommended for Funding by the Review Team and OWEB Staff**  
**April 25, 2005 Grant Cycle**

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
z206-075	North Myrtle Riparian Restoration	52,453
z206-076	Bennett Cr Habitat Improvement	125,000
z206-077	West Fork Trail Cr Culvert Replacement for Fish Passage	88,770
z206-080	West Fork Williams Cr Salmonid Habitat Restoration	42,457
z206-089	Apple Fire Riparian Revegetation	85,050

**Savage Rapids Dam (201-444)  
Background Information**

**Introduction**

Agenda Item K, the Grant Award Recommendations for the April 2005 to September 2005 grant cycle, includes the recommendation from staff that the Board allocate the final \$750,000 of a pledge made previously by the Board to provide \$3 million toward the removal (or other significant alteration) of Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River. What follows is a brief review of that project for newer Board members.

**Project Summary**

The Grants Pass Irrigation District (District) diverts all of its water from the Rogue River at Savage Rapids Dam, located approximately five miles east of Grants Pass at the Jackson County line. Savage Rapids Dam is a diversion dam, and thus does not store water for any reason except to raise the water level in order to operate the district's diversion facilities.

Upstream of the dam are over 500 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat, including 50 miles on the main stem of the Rogue River, all of which are significantly and adversely affected by the current facility. Existing fish screens are not up to standards, and operational constraints make it extremely difficult to manage the dam without significantly impairing critical fish runs. A 1995 Bureau of Reclamation Planning Report and Environmental Statement found that dam removal would increase fish escapement at the site by approximately 22 percent, thus adding about 114,000 salmon and steelhead annually to the Rogue River runs. The dam has also been identified as the number one removal priority in the basin by the Rogue Basin Fish Access Team.

While there has been historical conflict over the notion of removing the dam at Savage Rapids, the litigants have settled their claims and the proponents of dam removal, the District, and the state and federal governments have all arrived at a consensus-based plan for meeting the irrigation needs of the district while also accomplishing removal of the dam and restoration of the river's riparian corridor. The principles of the plan are set forth in a declaration signed by the various interests on October 12, 2001.

In January 2002, OWEB committed funding of up to \$3 million to fund removal of the dam and post-removal restoration of the riparian area upstream of the dam site; and creation of enhanced recreational opportunities for the community along the river corridor. To date the Board, through a series of set-asides, has allocated a total of \$2.25 million to Grant No.201-444. The initial approval in January 2002 anticipated the full OWEB allocation by June 2003, but delays in securing federal funding pushed back the start of implementation and caused OWEB to also delay tying up additional funds.

Congress has now authorized the Bureau of Reclamation to remove the dam from the Rogue River, and has appropriated \$2.4 million in FFY 2005 for the design of dam removal, for construction of new diversions, and for pump purchase and installation. While all funding has not yet been secured, there appears to be sufficient support for the effort and final Congressional action is likely by the end of the year. Meanwhile, project design continues to move forward and installation of new water diversions could begin during spring and summer of 2006, with testing of those new diversions during the irrigation season of 2007, and with removal (or notching) of the dam likely to start in the spring and summer of 2008.