

January 10, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Wendy Hudson, Grant Program Coordinator

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item D, Attachment D: Update on OWEB Technical Assistance Program
January 24-25, 2006 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

In this report, staff describe the current status of the Board's allocation of non-capital funding to technical assistance, including actions related to "early action" grants, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) technical assistance, and future technical assistance grant cycles.

II. Background

At the September 2005 meeting, the Board allocated \$1.9 million to technical assistance, recognizing that such funding plays a key role in developing proposals for capital-funded projects. Of that \$1.9 million, the Board reserved:

- \$500,000 of non-capital funds for an "early action" technical assistance grant cycle, which occurred in October 2005 and will be concluded at the end of January 2006.
- \$500,000 of non-capital funds for CREP technical assistance to soil and water conservation districts, with \$38,000 of that amount available to the Oregon Department of Agriculture to support coordination of the State CREP Program.
- \$900,000 of non-capital funds for grants to be distributed through the April and October 2006 grant cycles.

III. "Early Action" Technical Assistance

For the October 2005 grant cycle, OWEB received 31 "early action" technical assistance applications for a total request of \$851,605 (see table on page 2). This grant cycle is so named because staff wanted to create an opportunity for applicants who will be able to complete the technical assistance project in time to submit a restoration application for either the April or October 2006 grant cycles. The early action grant cycle was:

- Open to any applicant eligible for OWEB grants;
- Limited to those applicants who were confident of being able to meet the tight time schedule for submitting restoration applications; and
- Limited to staff or contracting support for the development of project-specific, technical designs addressing a locally acknowledged limiting factor or watershed restoration priority.

The Regional Review Teams, which meet in January 2006, will review the technical assistance applications and make funding recommendations to OWEB staff. Staff will then take the recommendations and finalize awards, not to exceed \$500,000. Funding decisions will be posted on the OWEB website on or around January 31, 2006.

**‘Early Action’ Technical Assistance
Applications Received October 24, 2005 Grant Cycle**

Region	Project #	Project Name	Amount
1	z206-165	Lost Cr Large Wood Enhancement	3,385
1	z206-166	Vaughn Cr Reach 2 Fish Passage Engineering Design	37,000
1	z206-167	Conyers Cr Planning Phase	24,150
1	z206-168	Engineering Design for Re-establishment of Reneke Cr Channel	24,200
1	z206-169	Lint Slough Hydrologic Analysis	39,375
5		Region 1 Total	\$128,110
2	z206-170	Bear Cr Riparian Program Development-Site Prescriptions	15,500
2	z206-171	Jumpoff Joe Cr Bio-Engineering Technical Design	8,925
2	z206-172	Roberts Cr & South Fork Deer Cr Conservation Planning	50,000
2	z206-173	West Fork Williams Cr Salmonid Habitat Restoration Plan	17,466
2	z206-174	Bennett Cr Culvert Replacement Design	12,593
2	z206-175	Sediment Abatement Project Plan Development	27,461
2	z206-176	Brummit Cr Instream Log Placement Design	8,190
2	z206-177	S Fork Coos R Mixed-ownership High-Risk Road Sediment Reduction	39,151
8		Region 2 Total	\$179,286
3	z206-178	Willow Cr Confluence Restoration Scoping & Budgeting	36,435
3	z206-179	East Lane Riparian Restoration Planning	49,770
3	z206-180	Hatch Airport Fish Passage/Habitat Restoration Design Feasibility Study	39,565
3	z206-181	Deer Cr Wetland & Stream Restoration Design	8,653
3	z206-182	Pond Turtle Enhancement Project	12,473
3	z206-183	Sauvie Island Hydraulic & Hydrologic Modeling	21,950
3	z206-184	Luckiamute WS Winter Steelhead Fish Passage Survey	33,589
3	z206-185	West Fork Dairy Cr Culvert Removal & Stream Enhancement Design	28,196
8		Region 3 Total	\$230,631
4	z206-186	Squaw Cr Restoration Design	50,000
4	z206-187	Upper McKay Cr Flow Study & Restoration Design	24,220
4	z206-188	Wastewater to Constructed Wetland Design	47,700
4	z206-189	Middle Crooked R WS Restoration Planning & Design	23,805
4		Region 4 Total	\$145,725
5	z206-190	Ordell Ditch/Grande Ronde Ditch Diversion Rehabilitation	36,278
5	z206-191	USFS Road 4600-930 Chesnimnus Cr Crossing Design	30,000
5	z206-192	Zell Ditch Diversion Design	8,400
5	z206-193	Cow Hollow Engineering Project	3,570
5	z206-194	Five Point Diversion Fish Screen & Passage	39,605
5	z206-195	Wallowa Lake Dam Replacement- Final Engineering	50,000
6		Region 5 Total	\$167,853
31		Total ‘Early Action’ Technical Assistance Applications	\$851,605

IV. CREP Technical Assistance

In November 2005, OWEB signed an interagency agreement with the Oregon Department of Agriculture for \$38,000 to provide coordination of the CREP program. Additional coordinator

duties include finalizing the CREP biological opinion, developing a CREP easement program, providing outreach and public information, and preparing a final report for submission to OWEB, the Farm Service Agency, and other partners.

In December 2005, OWEB began writing separate grant agreements with participating soil and water conservation districts to provide staff or contracting support for CREP technical training and outreach to landowners. To date, eleven contracts, totaling \$462,000 have been written. Local districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Farm Service Agency will provide match for OWEB funds.

CREP Technical Assistance Grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Region	Project #	Grantee	Award Amount
2	206-406	Coos-Curry SWCDs	\$60,300
2	206-412	Umpqua	\$57,620
3	206-410	Polk	\$30,150
3	†206-410a	Yamhill	\$30,150
4	206-414	Wasco	\$32,080
4	206-411	Sherman	\$16,530
4	206-407	Crook-Deschutes-Jefferson SWCDs	\$40,200
4	206-409	Klamath	\$60,300
5	206-405	Baker-Malheur SWCDs	\$50,250
5	206-408	Harney	\$24,120
5	206-413	Union	\$60,300
TOTAL			\$462,000

† Resulting from a recent Yamhill SWCD request, OWEB took the Polk/Yamhill contract, 206-410, and split it equal into two contracts, 204-410 for Polk and 204-410a for Yamhill.

IV. OWEB Technical Assistance Grant Cycle

In November 2005, staff announced funding availability for technical assistance and invited applications to be submitted for the April 2006, October 2006, and April 2007 grant cycles. These grant cycles are open to any applicant eligible for OWEB grants, and are limited to supporting staffing or contracting to accomplish any of the following (shown in order of award preference):

- Developing a technical design for a specific restoration project that addresses a locally acknowledged limiting factor or watershed restoration priority. Preference will be given to those applications that identify specific site(s) and landowner(s), demonstrate a high likelihood of implementation, and provide a timeline for restoration implementation. The final report, among other things, must include the final project design(s).
- Developing or updating an action plan, or developing a project to address a locally acknowledged limiting factor(s) or watershed restoration priority. Preference will be given to those proposals that will identify specific projects and sites and other outcomes that demonstrate a high likelihood of being implemented within a year. The final report, among other things, must include a completed action plan.
- Recruiting multiple landowners for a cooperative conservation or restoration project, or for a state or federal landowner assistance program (e.g., Environmental Quality

Incentives Program, Wetland Reserve Program, or Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program) that addresses a locally acknowledged limiting factor(s) or watershed restoration priority. Preference will be given to those applications that thoroughly describe the needs and geographic area(s) to be addressed, detail the methods and timetable for participant recruitment, and demonstrate that enrollment will result in the successful implementation of the intended projects or programs. The final report, among other things, must include a list of the landowners contacted and recruited, the reasons that landowners agreed or declined to participate, and the resulting list of sites secured for project implementation.

Regional Review Teams will evaluate the technical assistance applications and make recommendations to the OWEB Board for funding consideration.