

## **September 19-20, 2006 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update #C5: Database Update**

### **Background**

In February 2005, OWEB began the process to replace its Grants Administration database. The old database was in a version of Microsoft Access that is no longer supported and does not have any security. Staff decided to approach the conversion in several phases. Phase 1 involved the migration of the old fiscal database to a new improved database. Phase 2 will be the conversion and integration of the Watershed Restoration Inventory Database into the new database; Phase 3 will be the development of online applications for grantees; and Phase 4 will be the addition of a monitoring module. It is anticipated that the new database will continue to be modified as technology grows and staff can automate processes.

### **OWEB Grant Management System (OGMS)**

In June 2005, data was migrated nightly to a temporary database that could be accessed by staff via the Internet. Work was still underway to continue refining the new database and make more data accessible to staff. In October 2005, OWEB hired a limited duration business application support specialist to get us up and running on the new database named the OWEB Grant Management System, or OGMS. Staff continued to run parallel systems until April 17, 2006, when we officially migrated to OGMS. Throughout this time, staff were able to access data via the Internet and no longer depended on a few key fiscal staff to provide grant administration information. Refinements are still occurring. On June 15, 2006, OWEB sent an email to all watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts notifying them that OGMS was now available for their use. To date we have had excellent feedback from those grantees using OGMS who appreciate the system because they can track payments, grant balances, outstanding grant reports, and project end dates. If you would like to access the service visit: <http://apps2.wrd.state.or.us/apps/oweb/fiscal/login.aspx>. The user identification is “grantee” and the password is “OWEB.” Reference materials about how to use the system are available once you’ve logged in.

### **Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI) Database Conversion, Phase 2**

The second phase of the OWEB database project involves the conversion of the OWRI from Microsoft Access to a Structured Query Language (SQL) Server and to combine the inventory with the OGMS database. Work began in July 2006 to structure the fields and tables within the current database structure to a form that would be accepted and readable by the SQL Server software. Particular consideration will be given to retaining the capability to report and provide data to constituents in a non-SQL server format since many of our end users will not have the capacity to receive or interpret data in that format. Testing and query building will occur during the summer months simultaneous with the transfer of data from the old database to the new version. This fall has been chosen as the target for testing the new system when reporting to NOAA Fisheries on the annual expenditure of Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund investments. OWEB’s constituents will benefit by being able to access and query restoration data online. A future benefit will be the ability for restoration projects to be reported online.

### **Staff Contact**

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