

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

Through HB 2538, the 1993 Oregon Legislative Assembly created the seven-member Access and Habitat (A&H) Board. This legislation authorized the A&H Board to review and recommend to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) projects designed to improve wildlife habitat and public hunting access in Oregon. The 2009 Oregon Legislative Assembly reauthorized program funding through December 2019. Project proposals are typically submitted by landowners, corporations, organizations, and agencies. Applications are initially reviewed by A&H Board-appointed Regional Advisory Councils established in six geographic regions of the state. Regional Councils forward proposals to the state A&H Board with recommendations to approve or deny projects. The A&H Board provides the next level of project review and then forwards proposals to the Commission for final consideration and approval to expend A&H Program funds.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The A&H Program provides for public involvement through the Regional Advisory Councils and A&H Board meetings. The meetings are advertised in advance, notices are published on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) website and in the A&H program's newsletter and agendas are mailed to interested citizens. There is an opportunity for interested parties to provide public comment during these meetings. The A&H Board most recently met on October 18, 2011 in Lakeview, Oregon.

Board position vacancies were advertised statewide via news releases and postings on the A&H website. The Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Forestry were contacted to inform them of the vacancies.

ISSUE 1

PROJECT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ANALYSIS

A summary of all projects recommended for funding by the A&H Board is presented in the staff summary (Attachment 2).

OPTIONS

Option 1. Approve A&H Board recommendations.

Option 2. Modify individual project proposals.

Option 3. Reject individual projects proposals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

ISSUE 2**A&H LANDOWNER REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS****ANALYSIS**

A&H Landowner Representatives Ron Borisch and Barry DelCurto have each completed their first four-year term on the A&H Board. Members of the A&H Board are eligible to serve two consecutive four-year terms. The vacancies were advertised via statewide news releases and a notice on the A&H website; Mr. Borisch and Mr. DelCurto were the only applicants. If re-appointed, both Landowner Representatives would serve through December 31, 2015. Attachment 5 summarizes the background and relevant experience of both candidates.

OPTIONS

Option 1. Re-appoint Mr. Borisch and Mr. DelCurto to each serve a second four-year term as Landowner Representatives of the A&H Board.

Option 2. Do not re-appoint one or both of the candidates to serve a second four-year term as a Landowner Representative of the A&H Board.

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to approve the recommendations of the Access and Habitat Board for project funding and to re-appoint Ron Borisch and Barry DelCurto to a second four-year term on the Access and Habitat Board as Landowner Representatives.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

December 2, 2011