

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1989 to help fund fish restoration and enhancement projects throughout the state. The program is funded by a surcharge on sport and commercial fishing licenses and commercial poundage fees and is overseen by a seven-member citizen board made up of three sport fishing representatives, three representatives from the troll, gillnet and seafood processing industries and one public-at-large representative. The Board reviews grant proposals from various organizations and agencies and recommends projects for funding.

Board members, who are appointed to four-year terms by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, meet three or four times each year in various communities throughout the state to review project funding applications, hear public testimony, act as liaisons between the program and the public and to conduct other program business.

Two representatives, one Sport Fishing and one Gill Net, will end their first term on December 31, 2018. Both are eligible for reappointment.

Current R&E Board members and locations are listed in Attachment 2.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Notice of board recruitments is provided upon request, advertised in the R&E/STEP publication “FishWorks”, listed on the ODFW website, and distributed via news release to statewide and local media. Current Board members are invited to assist with candidate selection.

ISSUE 1 of 2

R&E BOARD APPOINTMENT (Sport Fishing Representative)

ANALYSIS

A total of three candidates applied for the Sport Fishing position and two applications were received for the Gill Net position (see Attachment 2). Full application materials are included in Attachment 3.

R&E Board applicant qualifications were considered using the following criteria:

- Angling interests;
- Participation in fishing organizations;
- Familiarity with Oregon’s fish management programs;
- Understanding of ODFW and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission;
- Availability for R&E Board duties;
- Interpersonal skills;
- Experience working with or representing the public;
- Experience with public service (boards, committees, etc.);
- General “fit” with current Board members (e.g. area of expertise, location in state).

Five ODFW staff reviewed the applications and developed the following recommendations.

Sport Fishing Recommendation

The review panel felt that Rich Heap’s current and previous experience with numerous local, state, and federal fishery related public boards, including STAC and R&E, and his career in natural resource management make him an ideal candidate to continue on the R&E Board. Mr. Heap is the current Chair and was recently reappointed by his fellow members to another two years as chair, contingent upon his reappointment. Mr. Heap is one of the longest tenured members of the R&E Board and his leadership as chair over the past two years has improved board operation and helped ODFW address the Secretary of State audit findings related to the R&E Program. His experience and leadership will be an asset during the next years as the R&E Program is up for reauthorization during the 2019 Legislative Session.

Alternate Choice for Sport Fishing:

If the Commission does not concur with the above recommendation, staff recommends Kristin Bishop as an alternate. While her application scored lower than Mr. Heap, the review panel felt her geographic location and obvious passion for fishing and connecting women with fishing would be an asset to the board. Mr. Heaps’ background is stronger and more relevant to the upcoming program reauthorization and continued improvements.

While Maynard Flohaug is a good candidate for the R&E Board, his geographic location and background are very similar to current Board members and would not provide the diversity of geographic and demographic representation, fishing interests, or fishery knowledge that has been previously requested by the Commission.

Gill Net Recommendation

The review panel felt that Cary Johnsons’ four years of experience on the R&E Board and continued support from Salmon For All make him a good choice to continue his service on the Board and represent the Gill Net fisheries. He is also one of the longest tenured members of the R&E Board. The other candidate, Tim Heuker, did not score close to Mr. Johnson due to the limited amount of information provided in his application.

OPTIONS

- Option 1. Approve staff recommendations for the R&E Board.
- Option 2. Reject the staff recommendations for the R&E Board and select another applicant.

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1: Staff recommends Richard Heap from Brookings be appointed as Sport Fishing Representative and Cary Johnson from Astoria be appointed as Gill Net Representative on the R&E Board.

DRAFT MOTION	I move to appoint _____ to a four year term as the Sport Fishing representative and _____ to a four year term as the Gill Net representative on the Fish Restoration and Enhancement Board.
EFFECTIVE DATE	January 1, 2019.

BACKGROUND

At their September 14, 2018 meeting in Winchester Bay, the R&E Board recommended three projects for funding, totaling \$492,793. This is the sixth of seven funding cycles for the 2017-2019 biennium.

Two of these projects, totaling \$40,995, will be funded following commission approval. If the Commission adopts the recommendations for these projects, \$151,368 of the \$5,044,583 estimated R&E program revenue for the 2017-2019 biennium will remain (5%).

The remaining project, ODFW Small Hatchery Projects Bundle 2018 requesting \$451,798, will only be approved and funding will be applied after the January R&E meeting. This will allow a full accounting of any remaining or returned funds. This approach is new this biennium and is an attempt to limit the amount of returned funds that go unspent following the last cycle of the biennium. In prior cycles this has ranged from 10-25% of the total biennium funding, \$400k to over \$1M. Reducing carry over and efficiently putting unspent money on the ground was one of the recommendations of a recent Secretary of States audit.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

R&E Board meetings are open to the public and are considered “public meetings” under the Oregon Public Meetings laws. Notice of upcoming meetings is provided on request, advertised in the R&E/STEP publication “FishWorks”, listed on the ODFW website, and distributed via news release to statewide and local media.

Issue 2 of 2

RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT APPROVALS

ANALYSIS

A summary of the projects recommended for funding is presented in the staff report (Attachment 3).

OPTIONS

Option 1. Approve all the R&E Board recommendations.
Option 2. Reject individual projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to approve the recommendations of the Fish Restoration and Enhancement Board (with the following exceptions...)

EFFECTIVE DATE

December 8, 2018