



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

This exhibit includes information on the Fish Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Program appointment of an R&E Board member and approval of funding for one project recommended by the R&E Board.

The R&E 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 surcharges on sport and commercial fishing licenses and a commercial poundage fee and is overseen by a seven-member citizen board made up of three sport fishing representatives, three representatives of the commercial salmon industry and one representative of the public. The R&E Board meets three or four times each year in various communities throughout the state to review applications for project funding, hear public testimony, act as liaisons between the program and the public, and conduct other program business.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Issue 1: Notice of Board recruitments is provided upon request, listed on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) website, and distributed via news release to statewide and local media. The current R&E Board Chair is invited to assist with candidate selection.

Issue 2: R&E Board meetings are open to the public and considered “public meetings” under the Oregon Public Meetings Law. Notice of upcoming meetings is provided on request; listed on the ODFW and Oregon Transparency Commission websites; and distributed via news release to statewide and local media.

ISSUE 1

Commission appointment of a Public Representative to the R&E Board.

ANALYSIS

R&E Board members are appointed to four-year terms by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) and are eligible for reappointment. The current public representative, Kay Brown, will end her first term on December 31, 2020. She is eligible for, and has requested, reappointment.

During the month-long recruitment period, eleven candidates applied for the public representative position, as outlined in Attachment 2. A list of current R&E Board members and locations are also listed in Attachment 2.

While the Commission makes the appointment, ORS 496.286 states “In making appointments ... the Commission shall consider recommendations from the State Fish and Wildlife Director.” To develop a recommendation several staff reviewed the applications and ranked candidates based on their qualifications and the following criteria:

- Angling interests;
- Participation in fishing organizations;
- Familiarity with Oregon’s fish management programs;
- Understanding of ODFW and the 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).

Recommendation for Public Representative:

The review panel unanimously ranked Kay Brown as the top candidate. Kay retired in 2003 after more than 30 years of employment with ODFW. Kay served in a variety of positions for ODFW retiring from the position of Operations Manager for Fish Division. Kay is knowledgeable about the range of issues impacting fisheries and is able to represent the public. During her first term on the R&E Board, Kay’s experience was utilized during the legislative renewal of the R&E program. She is well respected by the other Board members and is always actively engaged in the board meetings and other board business. Her previous experience with statewide fisheries issues and the R&E Board elevated her above the other candidates. In addition, her geographical location and expertise fits well with the other members.

Alternate Choice for Public Representative:

All of the applicants were reviewed by an internal committee in accordance to the criteria mentioned above and could serve as an alternate to Kay Brown.

Jim Muck was the second highest ranked candidate. His background as a fish biologist, fishing experience including for warmwater species, and history of working with organizations would give him the skills necessary to be a R&E Board member. That being said, his geographic location is not currently the best fit with existing board members and his resume makes him a better fit for one of the positions representing recreational fisheries.

Kyle Smith ranked third, his background and experience with outreach, communication, and engaging with partners while working with a watershed council and various non-profits make him a well-rounded candidate. While he is an angler, his broader background would allow him to better serve as a representative of the public. His geographic location would also fit better with the existing board than other candidates.

Issue 1 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 candidate.

Option 3: Do not appoint a member to the R&E Board.

ISSUE 2

Commission approval of one R&E Board recommended project.

ANALYSIS

On September 23, 2020, the R&E Board recommended one project totaling \$8,494. This is the fifth and final funding cycle for the 2019-2021 biennium. If the Commission adopts this recommendation, \$0 of the biennium allocation will remain.

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

ISSUE 2 OPTIONS

Option 1. Approve the R&E Board recommended project set forth in Attachments 3.

Option 2. Reject individual project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Issue 1, Option 1: Staff recommends Kay Brown from Columbia City be reappointed as Public Representative to the R&E Board.

Issue 2, Option 1: Staff recommends approving the recommended project.

DRAFT MOTION

Issue 1: I move to appoint Kay Brown to a four-year term as the Public Representative on the Fish Restoration and Enhancement Board.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2021.

Issue 2: I move to approve the project recommended by the Fish Restoration and Enhancement Board set forth in Attachment 3.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 14, 2020