



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

This exhibit includes information on two topics that require Commission review and action. (1) The approval of funding for projects recommended by the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Board. (2) The appointment of one R&E Board member.

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 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 ocean and inland fisheries representatives, three representatives of the commercial salmon industry and one representative of the public. The R&E Board meets four times each biennium 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 to conduct other program business.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Issue 1: Public comment on applications for funding is taken at R&E Board meetings, which are open to the public and are public meetings under the Oregon Public Meetings laws. Notice of upcoming meetings and the proposed agenda is provided on request, listed on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) website, and distributed via news release to statewide and local media.

Issue 2: ODFW solicits board recruitments via news release to statewide and local media and outreach to stakeholder groups.

ISSUE 1

Approval of the R&E Board-recommended Restoration and Enhancement projects.

ANALYSIS

On March 24, 2023, the R&E Board recommended funding eleven projects in addition to the R&E administration package. The total recommended funding is \$4,103,369.00. This is the first of four funding cycles for the 2023-2025 biennium. If the Commission adopts these recommendations, \$374,543.00 of the projected biennium allocation will remain. The Board typically recommends allocating the majority of funds during the first request for proposals in a biennium to allow project proponents sufficient time to complete projects. The Department does expect that the remaining balance will increase as a result of funds being returned and carried over from closed out projects once the 2021-23 biennium ends.

A summary of the R&E projects recommended for funding is presented in Attachments 2 and 3.

ISSUE 2

Appointment of Restoration and Enhancement Board representative.

ANALYSIS

To inform the recommendation, several ODFW 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 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission;
- Contribution to diversity of the board;
- Availability for R&E Board duties;
- Interpersonal skills;
- Experience working with or representing the public;
- Experience with public service (boards, committees, etc.); and
- General “fit” with current Board members (e.g., area of expertise, location in state).

The R&E Board is comprised of seven members, three representing ocean and inland recreational fisheries, three representing the commercial salmon industry, and one representing the public. When appointed, a member serves a 4-year term that can be renewed for a total of eight years of representation on the board. There is a present vacancy for one position to represent the commercial salmon industry as the previous representative completed their second 4-year term in December 2022.

Historically, it has been difficult to identify candidates to represent the commercial salmon industry. During the recruitment period, one candidate applied for the position (Attachment 4). Attachment 5 identifies current R&E Board members and their locations.

Recommendation for Commercial Salmon Representative:

ODFW recommends that Troy Laws be appointed by the Commission to fill the vacant seat on the R&E Board to represent the commercial salmon industry. Mr. Laws is a second-generation commercial fisherman, who was born and raised in and around the coastal communities of Northwest Oregon. Mr. Laws currently holds a Lower Columbia River gill net permit in both Oregon and Washington and actively operates a gill net boat on the Columbia River. Troy also brings a unique perspective to the board as he is an avid sport angler. Troy’s knowledge of statewide fishery issues and his ability to work as part of a team will serve him well as a member of the R&E Board.

OPTIONS

Issue 1:

- Option 1. Approve the R&E Board recommended projects.
- Option 2. Reject all projects.
- Option 3. Reject individual projects.

Issue 2:

- Option 1. Approve staff recommendation for the R&E Board.
- Option 2. Reject the staff recommendation for the R&E Board and direct ODFW to continue with an open recruitment to fill the vacant position on the R&E Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Issue 1, Option 1: Staff recommend approving the recommended projects.

Issue 2, Option 1: Staff recommend appointment of Troy Laws as Commercial Salmon Industry Representative on the R&E Board.

DRAFT MOTION

Issue 1: I move to approve the projects recommended by the Restoration and Enhancement Board as set forth in Attachments 2 and 3.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1st, 2023.

Issue 2: I move to appoint Troy Laws to a four-year term as a Commercial Salmon Industry Representative on the Restoration and Enhancement Board.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1st, 2023.