

February 28, 2006

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**FROM:** Roger Wood, Grant Program Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item J: OWEB Non-Capital Grant Award Recommendations  
Statewide Education  
March 15-16, 2006 OWEB Board Meeting**

### I. Background

Four “statewide” Education applications, requesting a total of \$734,848, were reviewed by a subcommittee of the Oregon Plan Outreach Team (OPOT) at a meeting in Salem on January 5, 2006. All applications were reviewed for eligibility and technical merit and a fund/no fund recommendation was made by the OPOT. The OPOT then prioritized the applications recommended for funding. OWEB staff considered present and future funding availabilities, and special needs and circumstances in balancing and integrating the statewide “do funds” with those from the Regional Review Teams.

The OPOT recommendations in summary form were distributed to all applicants whose proposals were reviewed by that subcommittee. Staff continued in this grant cycle the practice of forwarding all comments received from applicants regarding the regional recommendations to the Board prior to the Board meeting.

With available *non-capital* funds very limited, the Board authorized a special solicitation for Education project applications targeted at just one of OWEB’s three strategies for Education and Outreach – namely, “Knowledge Development.” OWEB’s guidance on this grant type describes it as “formal, intensive education efforts linked to teaching standards...defined educational objectives... and specific audiences” – essentially, a more targeted and academic approach to increasing the level of knowledge of watershed functions and values.

### II. Outreach Team Recommendations

As noted in the Overview Report for *Non-Capital* Projects in Agenda Item L, a certain number of the applications received did not aim at the “Knowledge” focus of this solicitation. Only z206-232, the Healthy Waters Institute Pilot Project, hit reasonably close to the “bulls-eye,” and it also included significant elements that fit better into OWEB’s “Skills” and “Awareness” strategies. This proposal was highly regarded by the OPOT, but because of the shortage of *non-capital* funding, is recommended for only \$120,000 in this grant cycle. This amount will fund only the first of three anticipated years and minimize support for the non-“knowledge” elements of the project.

Project z206-230, the Increased Knowledge Equals Increased Action proposal from the Watershed Council Network, was also highly regarded by reviewers. It also is not limited to “Knowledge” elements and is proposed in such a way that pulling the project apart to fund only those “Knowledge” elements would be very difficult.

### **III. Recommended Board Action**

Attachment A shows the statewide education proposals, funding amounts, conditions (if any), and priority rankings recommended as “do fund” to OWEB staff by the OPOT. The table also indicates, by means of shaded entries, the OWEB staff “do fund” recommendations to the Board. For some “do fund” projects, the amount shown in the table may be the staff funding recommendation rather than the OPOT recommendation.

Attachment B shows those statewide education applications not recommended for funding at this time by either the OPOT or by OWEB staff.

#### Attachments

- A. Statewide Education Non-Capital Projects Recommended for Funding
- B. Statewide Education Non-Capital Projects Not Recommended for Funding

**Statewide  
Education Projects Recommended for Funding by the OPOT  
October 24, 2005 Grant Cycle**

Staff Funding Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Priority</b>
z206-232	Healthy Waters Institute Pilot Project*	120,000	1
z206-230	Increased Knowledge = Increased Action	96,547	2
<b>Total Education Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by the OPOT</b>		<b>\$216,547</b>	
<b>Total Education Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to the Board</b>		<b>\$120,000</b>	

\*Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction

**Statewide  
Education Projects Not Recommended for Funding by the OPOT and OWEB Staff  
October 24, 2005 Grant Cycle**

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
z206-229	Building Knowledge in WS Restoration	145,800
z206-231	Oregon Explorer-Oregon's Natural Resources Digital Library	150,000