

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

January 16, 2008

OWEB Board Meeting

Astoria, Oregon

Minutes

OWEB Members Present

Miles Brown
Bobby Brunoe
Dan Carver
Dan Heagerty
Jim Johnson
Skip Klarquist
Meta Loftsgaarden
Jim Nakano
Jennifer Phillippi
Dave Powers
Patricia Smith
Diane Snyder
Michael Tehan
Dan Thorndike
Helen Westbrook
Ken Williamson

Member Not Present

Jose Linares

OWEB Staff Present

Bonnie Ashford
Lauri Aunan
Ken Bierly
Tom Byler
Rick Craiger
Carolyn Devine
Douglass Fitting
Miriam Hulst
Melissa Leoni
Tom Shafer
Courtney Shaff
Greg Sieglitz
Roger Wood

Others Present

Charlie Corrarino
Wayne Hoffman
Paul Siebert
Bruce Taylor
Jo Morgan
David Bailey
Lori Lilly
Margaret Magruder
Anne Squier
Jim Scheller
David Ambrose
Micah Russell
Bruce Crawford
Jennifer O'Neil
Chris Hathaway
Dave Ambrose
Teresa Retzlaff
Katie Volkie

A. Board Member Comments

Representatives on the OWEB Board commented on recent activities and issues facing their respective agencies.

B. Board Chair Election

Board member Dan Thorndike provided background information on how the Board has elected Board Co-Chairs in the past and described the three decisions facing the Board: 1) Chair or co-chairs; 2) Terms; and 3) Election of chair/co-chairs. Dan Heagerty expressed interest in serving another year as co-chair. Board member Bobby Brunoe nominated Diane Snyder to serve as co-chair.

After a brief discussion, *Board members unanimously approved the following:*

- 1. Continue the practice of Board co-chairs;*
- 2. Elect each Board co-chair to serve a two-year term, and annually consider one of the co-chairs;*
- 3. Dan Heagerty will continue to serve as co-chair for the next year, and Diane Snyder is elected to serve as board co-chair for a two-year term.*

C. Minutes

Minutes of the following Board meetings were unanimously approved:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>September 18-19, 2007</i> | <i>Board meeting in La Grande</i> |
| <i>September 24, 2007</i> | <i>Special Board meeting via teleconference</i> |

D. Executive Director Update

Executive Director, Tom Byler, briefly described the following items.

1. Staff Changes

- Lauri Aunan, Grant Program Manager, started on December 17;
- Carolyn Devine, Communications Coordinator, started on November 26;
- Douglass Fitting was reassigned to Council Support/Acquisitions Specialist; and
- The Legislature approved two new positions in OWEB's 2007-2009 budget: regional program representative for a 6th region, and a technical assistance coordinator, which have not been filled pending the hiring of a Grant Program Manager.

2. New Board Member

Jose Linares, Director of Natural Resources, Pacific Northwest Region 6 of the U.S. Forest Service will fill Alan Christensen's vacancy on the Board representing the USFS. Jennifer Phillippi, who resides in Cave Junction, is new to the Board representing the Oregon Board of Forestry.

3. Storm Aftermath

Tom Shafer, North Coast Regional Program Representative, and Greg Sieglitz, Monitoring and Reporting Program Manager, discussed the status of how OWEB investments fared in the recent storm that swept across the coast. The preliminary report is that, so far, culvert and bridge replacements all appear to have survived and there are not reports of large wood being lost or causing damage downstream. We are getting reports of new log and gravel recruitment and new braided channels. Channel reconstruction projects also all appear to be okay. There is some riparian fencing and planting damage on the Upper Nehalem. Sieglitz discussed using effectiveness monitoring funds to do follow-up research on the effect of storm events on projects and what that means for OWEB programs and grant projects.

4. 2008 Legislative Session will begin on February 4, 2008, and run through February, with a very limited focus.

E. Grant Program Update

Lauri Aunan, OWEB's new Grant Program Manager, provided Board members with an update on the October 22, 2007, grant cycle and recommended types of solicitations for the April 21, 2008, grant cycle.

OWEB received 264 grant applications on its October 22, 2007, deadline, which is the largest number of applications OWEB has received for a grant cycle. At the September 2007 Board meeting, the Board established funding allocations and reserves for available capital and non-capital funds as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Capital grants | 9,250,000/cycle |
| Non-capital grants (October 2007 Grant Cycle) | |
| Monitoring | \$1,500,000 |
| Education and Outreach | \$ 500,000 |
| Technical Assistance | \$ 500,000 |

Non-capital funding allocations/reserves are conservative thus far because we have not been awarded a grant from NOAA Fisheries for PCSRF funds for the biennium. It is anticipated that Oregon will receive PCSRF funds estimated between \$4.0 and 6.5 million. Until there is more clarity on the amount of 2008 PCSRF funds available to Oregon, additional non-capital grant solicitations beyond the April 2008 grant deadline are not recommended.

With the number and complexity of applications received in the October 2007 cycle, the workload of the regional review teams has increased. Due to the increased workload, OWEB staff are looking into new ways for the regional review teams to evaluate applications.

Board members and staff discussed the following:

- Staff expectations for applications and the amount of funding available.
- How OWEB communicates with applicants to tell them why applications were not funded.
- If projects could be carried over into the next grant cycle without resubmitting applications
- If some of the “do fund” projects could be partially funded by some of the other partner agencies
- The importance of monitoring what does not get funded and telling applicants up front about the limited pool of money, and the constant struggle with capital and limited non-capital funding.

Board members unanimously approved the staff recommendation identified in Section IV, Parts A and B of the staff report which state:

- A. *The solicitation of Technical Assistance grant applications for the April 21, 2008, deadline, with a targeted funding allocation of up to \$500,000, dependent upon new PCSRF funds; and*
- B. *The solicitation of Watershed Assessment grant applications for the April 21, 2008, deadline, targeted to basins where assessments have not been completed, with a targeted funding allocation of up to \$500,000, dependent upon new PCSRF funds.*

F. Public Comment

Wayne Hoffman, Mid-Coast Watershed Council, presented Board members with a copy of the Council’s Annual Report, and commented on a recent financial audit of the council’s investments.

Margaret Magruder, Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, welcomed Board members to the North Coast and commented on damage from the recent storm.

G. Livestock Exclusion Effectiveness Monitoring Report

Bruce Crawford, Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and Jennifer O’Neil, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., joined Greg Sieglitz, Monitoring and Reporting Program Manager, and Courtney Shaff, Effectiveness Monitoring Specialist, to update Board members on the effectiveness monitoring of livestock exclusion projects and the efforts of OWEB and the Washington SRFB to coordinate current and future effectiveness monitoring opportunities. Findings after just one year on several restoration sites show a decrease in the erosion when compared to pre-treatment conditions. Vegetation growth was not significant after one year but is expected to improve after three or more years. The Board was appreciative of the collaboration between the two states and encouraged staff to continue to look for similar opportunities in the future.

H. Westwind Stewardship Group Presentation

Anne Squier, Duncan Berry, and Melany Berry of the Westwind Stewardship Group provided Board members with a report on the status and activities of the Camp Westwind acquisition project in Lincoln County.

In March 2006, the OWEB Board awarded \$1.5 million to the Westwind Stewardship Group toward the purchase of Westwind’s 508 acres adjacent to and south of the Salmon River estuary and north of Lincoln City. The property is located within the Cascade Head Scenic Forest Research Act area and has been a YWCA camp since the 1930s. Other partners for the \$4 million project include Spirit Mountain Community Fund, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Forest Service, private foundations, individuals, and Westwind Stewardship Group member contributions.

Camp Westwind has received both national and international recognition. Key points of the presentation were:

- Westwind as a model for successful conservation-based acquisition that is self supporting.
- Serving a diverse population of Oregonians with emphasis on youth environmental education and stewardship.
- A practical example of financial and environmental sustainability.
- Engagement with the local community.

I. Mid-Coast Report Follow-Up

Melissa Leoni, Senior Policy Coordinator, explained a funding request to support mediation and training for watershed councils in the Mid-Coast area. At its May 2007 meeting, the OWEB Board heard testimony from a citizen from Newport that included allegations about the Mid-Coast Watershed Council (MCWC) and its watershed council support grant application. The Board Co-Chairs committed OWEB to look into the issues raised and tasked the Executive Director with conducting an investigation into the allegations. On the basis of the issues investigated, OWEB staff found no conclusive evidence to support the allegations made against the council, although the investigation identified a number of areas that could merit further consideration by OWEB. This funding request comes from a recommendation made in the final report, which states:

“OWEB should consider offering funding to provide mediation or other forms of assistance to help the MCWC strengthen its community relationships.”

Staff discussions with Wayne Hoffman, MCWC Coordinator, identified two forms of assistance that could both benefit members of all the watershed councils in the Mid-Coast area and the relationships between councils in the area.

Effective Watershed Council Member Training.

The goal would be to improve consensus and decision-making processes and behavior issues, and to clarify council member roles and responsibilities for all members of watershed councils in the Mid-Coast area. OWEB would partner with OSU Extension to deliver the training through their existing Watershed Education Program. The cost is estimated to be \$5,000.

Mediated Joint Council Meetings.

The goal would be to improve relationships between watershed councils in the area, to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each group, to support ongoing efforts, and build partnerships and relationships between the councils. The cost is approximately \$15,000 for this element.

Board members questioned whether other councils in the state could benefit from the watershed council member training, and staff responded that they are looking into the cost of providing 10 trainings across the state. Board members also expressed that it was important to have voluntary participation in the mediated joint council meetings.

Board members unanimously approved an allocation of up to \$20,000 in non-capital funds to support training and mediation in the Mid-Coast area contingent upon voluntary participation of local groups, and delegated distribution authority to the Executive Director to enter into agreements as necessary to implement this funding allocation.

J. Special Investment Partnerships (SIP)

Roger Wood, Special Projects, and Rick Craiger, Central Oregon Regional Program Representative, provided Board members with an update on Special Investment Partnerships (SIP) development, specifically in the Willamette and Deschutes basins. SIP is a tool that OWEB may elect to use in situations where an important and extremely beneficial ecological outcome is facilitated by an interaction with OWEB different than OWEB's regular grant program.

Deschutes SIP

Tod Heisler, Deschutes River Conservancy, Ryan Houston, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, and Max Nielsen-Pinkus, Crooked River Watershed Council, joined Roger Wood to brief Board members on the proposed Deschutes SIP. Local partners have been able to focus their efforts on a coordinated set of priorities by working together on completion of the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan, agreement on Pelton-Round Butte fish passage issues, and OWEB's SIP. OWEB's role in the Deschutes SIP is to allocate funding for the current biennium, describe the appropriate uses for those funds, establish and run a technical review process, work with the partners to design and implement effectiveness monitoring, execute the necessary contractual agreements, review and respond to payment requests, and review interim and final reports on project accomplishments.

Board member Bobby Brunoe cited a conflict of interest and recused himself from voting. *Board members unanimously approved staff's recommendation in the staff report as follows:*

1. *Endorsed the merit and objectives of the Deschutes SIP contained in Attachment A of the staff report and the value of likely outcomes.*
2. *Allocated to the Deschutes SIP up to \$4 million of capital funds from the \$12 million previously reserved for SIP for the 2007-2009 biennium and delegate the distribution authority to the Executive Director.*
3. *Placed the conditions described in Section IV of the staff report on the Deschutes SIP funding allocation as follows:*
 - a. *The central partners must sign a Partnership Agreement by March 1, 2008, and before project implementation agreements are signed.*
 - b. *Any projects and actions in the implementation work plan for which OWEB funds will be used will be subject to detailed scrutiny and approval by a technical review process designated by OWEB.*
 - c. *Implementation must proceed in a timely manner. If the entire \$4 million is not timely committed, the Board reserves the right to redirect the unallocated amount for other uses.*
 - d. *Irrigation efficiency improvement projects may use OWEB SIP funds only if they produce legally protected instream flows.*
 - e. *OWEB SIP funds may be used for acquisition of conservation easements or title to land and water only if OWEB's standard acquisition program criteria and due diligence requirements have been satisfied.*
4. *Authorized the Executive Director to enter into Deschutes SIP negotiations necessary to*
 - a. *Identify which of the high and immediate project priorities are right for OWEB funding.*
 - b. *Certify that these projects are technically sound.*
 - c. *Identify which activities and line item expenses for each project are appropriate for OWEB funding.*
 - d. *Identify any special conditions that should apply to the OWEB funding.*
 - e. *Enter into agreements and contracts with the appropriate implementing partners.*

Willamette SIP

(Note: This item was heard on January 17.)

Roger Wood, Special Projects, updated Board members on the Willamette SIP. At the September 2007 meeting, Board members approved a \$6 million reserve for the Willamette SIP. With OWEB assuming the leadership role, this reservation has allowed detailed conversations to proceed with a number of partners toward the objective of refining enough project-specific detail to present this item to the Board for further action. Staff are expecting to have the Willamette SIP ready for Board consideration at the March Board meeting.

K. DOGAMI – LiDAR Presentation

Vicki McConnell, Director, and Ian Madin, Chief Scientist, of the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) provided Board members with a presentation on LiDAR.

LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is a new tool that can provide very precise, accurate, and high-resolution images of the surface of the earth, vegetation, and the built environment.

Airborne LiDAR uses a laser range finder mounted in a precisely navigated aircraft to scan the

earth's surface to help identify geologic hazards, manage forests, farmlands, fish, streams and fires, and help with urban engineering and planning applications. LiDAR data are useful for anyone wanting to know the shape of the land surface or of the vegetation and buildings on the land.

In 2007, the Legislature provided \$1.5 million of Measure 66 funds and directed DOGAMI to extend LiDAR collection efforts throughout the state in order to provide high-quality LiDAR coverage for the entire state. To achieve this goal DOGAMI has formed the Oregon LiDAR Consortium, to bring together funding partners and to help promote the use of the new LiDAR data to better understand and manage Oregon's resources. The geographic focus this biennium is centered in western Oregon.

L. Award Adjustments

Ken Bierly, Deputy Director, and Greg Sieglitz, Monitoring and Reporting Program Manager, described two projects that needed award adjustments.

Restoration Award #206-293 – Tenmile Lakes Watershed Fish Passage and Sediment Abatement Phase III in Region 2

The Board approved funding for this project in March 2006. Due to a staff error, a budget element of \$3,600 for office space and related expenses was overlooked. Staff request the Board replace \$3,600 of capital funds with non-capital funds for this budget element. The total grant award of \$320,071 remains unchanged.

Research Award #208-8008 – Development of Physiological Health Criteria to Assess Habitat Quality in Degraded and Recovering/Restored Stream Systems in Region 5

The Board approved funding for this project in September 2007. Tuition for a graduate student was misplaced into the capital funding category prior to the Board action. Tuition is not eligible for capital funds; therefore \$36,856 of non-capital funds is needed to pay for this budget item. The total research grant award of \$240,000 remains unchanged.

Board members unanimously approved staff's recommendation as outlined in Section V, Parts A and B of the staff report as follows:

- A. Amend grant #206-293 and authorize the replacement of \$3,600 in capital funds with non-capital funds; and*
- B. Amend grant #208-8008 and authorize the replacement of \$36,856 in research capital funds with research non-capital funds.*

Local Partner Presentations

Board member Helen Westbrook introduced Neal Maine, Director of the North Coast Land Conservancy, and recognized his many years of contributions to Oregon. The following representatives from local watershed and conservation organizations made presentation to the Board:

- Lori Lilly, North Coast Watershed Association
- Katie Volkie, North Coast Land Conservancy
- Teresa Retzlaff, Necanicum Watershed Council
- Dave Ambrose, Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District
- Chris Hathaway, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership (LCREP)

At the conclusion of the Board meeting, there was an informal reception for OWEB Board members, staff, watershed partners, and local officials at the Holiday Inn Express Inn & Suites.

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Rick Craiger
Carolyn Devine
Douglass Fitting
Miriam Hulst
Melissa Leoni
Tom Shafer
Greg Sieglitz
Roger Wood

Others Present

John Runyon
Wayne Hoffman
Brent Davies
Megan Callahan
Jeff Uebel
Shirley Kalkoven
David Bailey

Members Not Present

Jose Linares
Ken Williamson

M. 2009 Legislative Concept Discussion

Melissa Leoni, Senior Policy Coordinator, briefed Board members on the process to develop legislative concepts for the 2009 legislative session and potential draft legislative concepts. To date, staff have identified two legislative concepts for Board consideration and discussion. The deadline to turn in legislative concepts to the Department of Administrative Services is April 4, 2008. Staff will return at the March Board meeting with further developed concepts (these or other proposals) and draft budget packages.

The two draft concepts are:

1. Exception to landscape contractors licensing requirements for OWEB grantees who are performing landscaping work as part of an OWEB-funded restoration grant. OWEB is working with the Landscape Contractors Board to see if the concept is needed or whether it could be resolved in another way.
2. Proposed change to OWEB's statute that requires all permits to be obtained before OWEB can release any funds. The intent of this proposed concept is to maintain the policy of not paying for activities without documentation that permits have been issued,

while giving OWEB the flexibility to more effectively administer complex restoration applications.

No Board action was requested.

N. Oregon Coast Coho Recovery Plan Implementation

Ken Bierly, Deputy Director, and Miriam Hulst, Oregon Plan Implementation Specialist, described a strategy for intensive, community-based outreach and subsequent project development assistance intended to encourage landowner participation in Oregon Coast coho salmon habitat restoration in high-priority areas. The Coastal Coho Assessment determined that the Nehalem and Tillamook coho populations are not currently viable. Therefore, staff are offering non-competitive coho outreach and project development funding to councils in that area (Upper Nehalem, Lower Nehalem and Tillamook Bay watershed councils) as a pilot project. At a later date, staff will consider expanding the project to other coho populations and possibly to salmon recovery domains in other parts of the state.

Staff are working with the Nehalem and Tillamook councils to establish outreach priorities and plan landowner meetings. The meetings are likely to be patterned after an approach implemented in Coos Bay watersheds. The Coos Bay approach entailed a series of landowner meetings termed coffee klatches. The coffee klatches helped the Coos Watershed Association to introduce itself to landowners, present information about watershed conditions, survey landowner concerns related to land management, provide a tour of restoration project sites, and develop restoration priorities using input from landowners.

At the completion of the Tillamook and Nehalem landowner meetings, the councils will work with OWEB staff to assess funding needed for project development.

No Board action was requested.

O. Williamson River Delta Presentation

Mark Stern, The Nature Conservancy, provided a multi-media presentation to the Board updating members on the status of the Williamson River Delta project and a recent effort to use explosives to breach two miles of levees along Upper Klamath Lake flooding more than 2,500 acres. Removing the levees is part of a larger project to restore the vast marsh wetlands that once dominated the Williamson River Delta. In March 2006 the OWEB Board awarded \$2 million in Oregon Lottery funds for the restoration project estimated to cost \$10.5 million. Other partners include The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

P. Whole Watersheds Restoration Initiative Partnership

Brent Davies, Ecotrust, Jeff Uebel, U.S. Forest Service, and Megan Callahan, NMFS, joined Ken Bierly, Deputy Director to explain this funding proposal. In May 2006, the OWEB Board allocated \$500,000 of capital funds for the USFS Whole Watershed Restoration Initiative effort. At this meeting, staff are requesting the Board allocate an additional \$500,000 to continue support for the Initiative projects for the first year of the biennium. The proposal includes a new funding partner, and a focus on private lands.

The Whole Watershed Restoration Initiative is a broad-based, landscape-scale, public/private partnership intended to expedite restoration of a core set of the Northwest's most valuable salmonid streams. This partnership, initiated in 2006, has involved OWEB, USFS, Ecotrust, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, BLM, Oregon Trout, and WolfTree, Inc. NOAA Fisheries has joined the partnership with a \$1.2 million three-year grant (\$400,000 per year) to Ecotrust beginning in 2008, encouraging growth of the partnership and community investments.

Because of past experience with the tribes working with the USFS, Board member Bobby Brunoe was concerned if this was an effective use of OWEB funds. He hopes that the parties are very supportive and responsive to concerns.

OWEB staff provided Board members with a list of proposed projects, including a description of the proposed restoration activities, the anticipated sources of funding and match for OWEB funds, a description of participating local partners, the location of the proposed project and whether it is within a priority basin or focus watershed, and the ratio of private and public lands the project proposes to restore.

The administration of OWEB funding via grant agreements will be handled through a third party, Ecotrust. If approved by the Board, the Director will determine the amount of OWEB's contribution for each specific project with the funding partners and Ecotrust.

A portion of the Board approved May 2006 allocation (\$45,430) has not been awarded to specific projects, and staff are recommending that amount be reallocated to fund proposed projects this year.

Board members unanimously approved the following:

- A. *Allocate up to \$500,000 of capital funds to match USFS and NOAA funding for projects shown in Attachment F of the updated report, and delegate the authority to the Director to determine the OWEB amount of funds for each project grant award to Ecotrust; and*
- B. *Reallocate \$45,430 from grant #206-833 to fund projects shown in Attachment F of the updated report, and delegate the authority to the Director to determine the OWEB amount of funds for each project grant award to Ecotrust.*

Q. Restoration Priorities

Public Comment:

Wayne Hoffman, Mid-Coast Watersheds Council, although supporting the restoration priorities, suggested the focus should be on the data base and making it accessible to the regional review teams and applicants, and there should be a process in place for ongoing data base updates.

Roger Wood, Special Projects, briefly described the watershed restoration priorities for the basins along the middle to north Oregon coast, which are presented for Board consideration at this meeting. This set of priorities covers all the coastal watersheds from St. Helens on the Columbia River down to the Coquille River. Adoption of these priorities continues OWEB's development of priorities for the 15 Oregon Plan reporting basins in the state. Priorities for the Umpqua, Klamath, Lake, Harney, Owyhee, and Walla Walla basins still need to be completed. Funding for these remaining basins was allocated by the Board in September 2007 and the prioritization will be carried out during 2008.

Roger Wood also discussed the next steps that will include rulemaking to identify how OWEB will use the priorities in grant evaluations and funding recommendations. Several Board members commented that OWEB should be careful not to adopt a system that could exclude good projects and provide flexibility. There was also discussion about whether the data is too high level vs. site specific and that higher level data can be too general and limiting for local projects. OWEB staff will develop and bring to the Board recommendations on how to keep the database current and useful.

Board members unanimously approved the approach and content of the restoration priorities described in the final report titled "Summary of the Watershed Health Indicators for the Oregon Coast Coho ESU – 2007" and included as Attachment A to the staff report with the amended tables 8, 9, 10, 23, 24, and 25 for the Nehalem and Smith River watersheds.

R. Public Comment

Shirley Kalkoven, Mayor of the City of Nehalem, commented on recent storm damage on the North Coast including Fish Hawk Lake levee/dam being overtopped in the storm and concern about the risk to the city, downed timber, local opposition to a proposed new state park, and the Tillamook Railroad damage.

David Bailey, Necanicum Watershed Council and Lower Nehalem Watershed Council, questioned if OWEB could provide copies of OWEB grant applications on the OWEB Web site.

S. Public Records Rulemaking and Public Hearing

Melissa Leoni, Senior Policy Coordinator, briefed Board members on proposed rules to establish procedures and fees for OWEB to respond to public records requests. The proposed rules address requests to inspect or obtain copies of public records, the fees for inspection or copies of public records, exceptions to fee charges, and fee waivers and reductions.

Rules were created to address OWEB's implementation of the Public Records Law, including the 2007 legislative changes to the law. In addition, Senate Bill 554, which also passed last session, required each agency to make a written procedure for public records requests available by January 1, 2008. As required by SB 554, OWEB has posted its procedure for public record requests on our Web site. The proposed rules are designed to be a standalone division in OWEB's rules. The proposed rules include that public records requests should be sent to a single Public Records Coordinator, OWEB will charge its actual costs to respond to requests, and fees will be waived if providing certain public records is within the normal scope of implementing OWEB's programs. This exemption allows OWEB to continue to provide data or monitoring information that are key to the agency's responsibilities and to provide grant documents related to OWEB's administration of its grant awards.

Public comments will be received today at the Board meeting, as well as at another public hearing scheduled for January 23, 2008. Written comments will also be accepted until the public comment period ends at 5:00 p.m. on February 1, 2008. Leoni will prepare a report on comments received after the close of the public comment period.

Public Comment

Wayne Hoffman, Mid-Coast Watershed Council, is supportive of the proposed rules but had some concerns about wording on the second page, lines 20-24.

T. Administrative Rulemaking

Melissa Leoni, Senior Policy Coordinator, presented a request for the Board to authorize staff to begin administrative rulemaking if needed on the following issues: 1) Watershed Council Support; 2) Restoration Grant Eligibility; and 3) Grant Administration.

1. Watershed Council Support

Staff would like to work with the council support subcommittee and a rules advisory committee and if necessary, propose rules for adoption by May of this year if changes need to be made before the 2009-2011 grant cycle.

2. Restoration Grant Eligibility

Staff would like to explore opportunities for OWEB to leverage its funding with other significant restoration funding sources that could be construed as being required for mitigation purposes or for compliance with a legal judgment, and make rule changes if needed.

3. Grant Administration

Since 2004 rule restructuring, staff experience with implementing the rules has identified areas where they would like to revisit rules and make changes as necessary: landowner agreements, grant amendments, as well as make some minor technical adjustments, and explore rules for types of awards that do not go through the competitive, regular grant process.

Board members voted unanimously to begin administrative rulemaking to address issues relating to watershed council support, restoration grant eligibility, and grant administration rules.

U. Other Business

There was none.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.