



Network of Oregon Watershed Councils

News and Announcements

December 11, 2017

**Happy holidays to all Oregon watershed council coordinators/EDs,
staff and boards, and our friends and supporters.**

We are grateful for your support and engagement!

We are a small office but we have an active board plus strong partnerships that expand our capacity to serve you. We rely on membership dues from councils, contracts with councils, and OWEB funding to staff our Executive Director full time. Our aim is to represent you, convene you, inform you, and be an indispensable conduit for facilitating a community of watershed councils across the state.

Council coordinators/EDs:

Please feel free to forward this news blast to your board members!

CONNECT 2018

Presented by OCEAN and the Oregon Conservation Partnership



Reminder! CONNECT 2018 Seaside, Oregon

75 sessions- 250+ colleagues
April 17-19, 2018

Chance to meet with agencies
Learning/networking

Network of Oregon Watershed Council 2017 highlights!

What was your Network up to this year?

Representing you:

- Testifying at state legislative hearings to secure OWEB budget to support capacity, restoration, and other grants for you.
- Coordinating a rapid response to ensure Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds stay in the federal budget- this is a third of the OWEB's funding for watershed restoration and

protection!

- We have the ear of Meta Loftsgaarden and Courtney Shaff for at least monthly check-in meetings, and quarterly meetings with state leaders of NRCS, FSA, ODA and other state and federal partners. We share feedback from councils at these meetings.
- Attended all OWEB quarterly meetings and provided updates. We attended weekly meetings with key partners during 2017 legislative session to keep councils up to date on relevant legislation.

Enhancing council capacity:

- Delivering monthly training webinars involving total of 289 participants in 2017 – the recordings are archived on Network website.
- Meeting one-on-one with more than a dozen council coordinators/Exec. Directors in person and phone to brainstorm, problem-solve, and provide information to help with organizational capacity. Linking council coordinators/EDs who have questions with those with information and experiences to share. Sending regular news blasts with upcoming events, funding opportunities, and other information.
- Hosting and coaching councils that used the Network's Survey Monkey and GoToMeeting accounts. Coaching councils to design their surveys and do the analysis.
- Contracting by councils to assist with their organizational development and meeting OWEB merit criteria.
- Organizing 1-day workshop on "R" statistical software in Central Oregon hosted by the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council.
- Serving as facilitator for council FIP grants.

Convening you:

- Workshop with watershed councils and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Natural

Resource department.

- 2017 CONNECT conference in Pendleton with more than 70 technical and administrative sessions in May.

Increasing our capacity to serve you:

- Securing a substantial lift in OWEB funding for the Oregon Conservation Partnership in next biennium- to bring more resources, tools, and opportunities for councils, districts, and land trusts.
- Strategic planning and fundraising planning aimed at bringing growth to the Network.
- Conducting and analyzing a large statewide survey on riparian restoration needs with OSU Extension.

New in 2018

- **new website in January including members-only resources and more timely information.**
- **bringing on a CONNECT planning contractor to free up time to focus more on direct service for you rather than the big job of organizing a conference.**
- **bringing on a communications expert to help councils, districts, and land trusts develop news media connections and help tell your story (see article below on Natalie Brennon).**
- **deepened partnership with the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts with more opportunities to partner with the land trust community on projects and funding.**
- **more monthly webinars and more opportunities to meet in person**

regionally with councils, districts, and land trusts.

Network membership- why is this important?

We are grateful to the 31 councils that paid dues in 2017 and the seven councils that have hired the Network to help with strategic planning, survey work, and facilitation. The Network staff and board members work hard behind the scenes on your behalf: they represent councils to state and federal agencies and decision makers, organize monthly training webinars, co-sponsor the annual conference and much more. Half of our budget comes from memberships and contracts with councils. The more councils pitch in by paying dues, the less the Network staff needs to spend time earning income that takes away from the work of supporting all councils- it's that simple.

Our aim is that every council that receives capacity funding from OWEB will join the Network in 2018. If your council is not currently a paid-up member and you want to join for 2018, please give us a call and we can get you started. 503-362-1246.



Photo: The Network organized a workshop for councils with the Natural Resource Dept. of

the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in April.

Introducing Natalie Brennon- communications consultant

The Oregon Conservation Partnership is excited to announce the recent engagement of Natalie Brennon, communications strategist and consultant, to help increase what is called “earned media” (articles, editorials, and other news media hits) for councils, districts and land trusts starting in 2018. Her goal will be to increase the visibility of land trusts, districts and watershed councils and your work. Natalie's audience will include journalists, elected officials, and other targeted decision makers and is aiming for 12-20 earned media hits on priority projects with at least two pieces in a local newspaper in each OWEB region. Natalie will be looking for success stories in your watersheds – feel free to contact her directly at nb@nataliebrennon.com.

We are pleased to have her on board and excited about the impact of her efforts to “tell our story.”

Changes in Ford Family Foundation funding criteria for 2018

Many watershed councils have relied on The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) for technical assistance grants in the past up to \$5,000. TFFF is changing criteria for Technical Assistance grants for 2018 such that beginning Jan 1, the project must align with one of TFFF's existing program areas; however, it's not yet clear what that means for watershed councils.... it's possible that watershed work might fit in the Ford Institute for Community Building or with community economic development funding categories of the Foundation. To be on the safe side, if you hope to apply for a Ford Family Foundation TA grant for work in early 2018, Yvette Rhodes at Ford recommends councils get their application in before the end of the year because of the potential change in the new year. We will keep you posted as we learn more.

For more information on grant criteria: <http://www.tfff.org/technical-assistance-grant-requirements>

Essential Tools for NW Nonprofit Leaders workshop

Oregon State University

Saturday, February 3, 2018, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Early Registration through January 10 = \$120

Regular Registration from January 11 = \$135

Registration:

<http://www.nonprofitsteward.org/wp-content/uploads/Essential-Tools-Brochure-for-Website.pdf>

New this year:

- Building Employee Handbooks for Boards

- Better Together - Leading Across Generations
- Understanding Bookkeeping for Small Organizations
- Building a Culture for Effective, Productive & Values-Based Organizations
- Program Evaluation: Tools for Assessment Success
- Simple Ways to Maximize Your Social Media Presence
- Cross Cultural Communication

Restoring Resilient Communities in Changing Landscapes, Oct 15-19, Spokane

Joint conference of the Northwest Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration and Society for Wetland Scientists

Call for presentations:

<https://restoration2018.org/program/symposia>

Citizen Science grant opportunity- due Jan 31

For councils with US Forest Service partnerships, the USFS Washington D.C. office has announced the 2018 Citizen Science funding competition for grants up to \$25,000 due January 31. See

<https://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/citizen-science/competitive-funding-program>

Healthy Watersheds Consortium grant- due Feb 1

A partnership between the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and NRCS has released their 2018 Request for Proposals. \$3 million is available. The goal is to “accelerate strategic protection of healthy, freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds,” with primary focus on prevention of land deterioration in the watershed by:

- Developing funding mechanisms, plans, or other strategies to implement large-scale watershed protection, source water protection, green infrastructure, or related landscape conservation objectives;
- Building the sustainable organizational infrastructure, social support, and long-term funding commitments necessary to implement large-scale protection of healthy watersheds; and
- Supporting innovative or catalytic projects that may accelerate funding for or implementation of watershed protection efforts, or broadly advance this field of practice.

<https://www.epa.gov/hwp/healthy-watersheds-consortium-grants-hwcg>

Network of Oregon Watershed Council board meetings

Network quarterly board meetings are open to all member staff and boards and we welcome you! The

next meeting is January 25-26 and since it is the only meeting each year that is conducted by video conference, this would be a great chance to tune in and learn more about what is happening at the statewide level on your behalf. Join us Thursday, January 25 from 3-5 p.m. and continuing Friday, Jan. 26 from 9-11 a.m. Click on:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/749065957>

You can also dial in using your phone.
+1 (646) 749-3112
Access code: 749-065-957

Comments to OWEB on its Focused Investment rule proposal

OWEB is accepting comments on proposed rules for FIP funding until Dec. 31, 2017. Among other things, the rules specify the maximum amount of funding that any one applicant can request- this influences the number of grantees that can share the \$16 million that the OWEB approved for FIP grants in its most recent spending plan. A public hearing will be held on Dec 19 at 1 p.m. in the State Lands Building in Salem or you can email your comments to Eric Harnstein at OWEB at eric.harnstein@oregon.gov.

OWEB specifies the amount of funding it will devote to the FIP program in its **spending plan** which can be found [here](#) (see page 12 of document). The next spending plan discussion will be launched in January 2019 for the next biennium. The Network of Oregon Watershed councils will be asking members to weigh in on their opinions about the ideal ratio of FIP to open solicitation grants at that time - in this current biennium, the FIP grants, including "Capacity Building" (recently renamed "Development") FIPs and **effectiveness monitoring** are approximately 20% of the total amount of OWEB grant dollars -- should this percentage go up, stay the same, or go down in the next biennium? why or why not?

Donate to the Network of Oregon Watershed Council! [CLICK HERE.](#)

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