



MEMORANDUM

TO: Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners (Board)

FROM: Tarik Rawlings, Associate Planner
Will Groves, Planning Manager

DATE: February 22, 2022

SUBJECT: Deschutes River Mitigation and Enhancement Committee / Appointments

The Deschutes River Mitigation & Enhancement (M & E) Committee has seven voting members appointed to three-year terms by the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners. Four (4) members with expired terms, Kris Knight, Patrick Griffiths, Shaun Pigott, and Craig Horrell recently expressed a desire to be reappointed. Additionally, the M & E Committee nominated Ted Wise, an ecology expert from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to fill a vacant position designated for ecology expertise.

I. BACKGROUND

In order to mitigate for its siphon hydropower project located upstream from Bill Healy Bridge in Bend, the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) signed an agreement with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) on March 31, 1987. The agreement was a requirement of a County conditional use permit (CU-87-2). The goal of the agreement is to ensure that no net loss of fish, wildlife, habitats, or recreational opportunities result from construction and operation of the hydropower project. To help accomplish the goal of the agreement, managers created the Deschutes River M & E Program.

The program sets general priorities for habitat mitigation and enhancement activities based on location within the upper Deschutes River. These priorities have been further refined to target key fish spawning and rearing areas and adult fish holding areas. Other program goals are described in the M & E Program Plan. The Program is consistent with other regional and statewide plans, such as the ODFW Upper Deschutes Subbasin Fish Management Plan and the Oregon Conservation Strategy. COID is required to use a portion of the revenues generated by the power plant for enhancing river habitat and water conservation improvements in the upper Deschutes basin. The M & E Committee reviews plans developed and submitted by ODFW. The program has funded and built over 60 separate fish habitat and bank stabilization projects in the upper Deschutes River basin since 1989, in addition to several feasibility studies and monitoring projects.

The M & E Committee is made up of representative stakeholders, including: conservation organizations, ecology and fishery experts, members at large and COID. They oversee approximately \$90,000/year of funding.

II. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The following tables describe the current and proposed membership of the M&E Committee. As noted above, Staff recommends the Board reappoint Kris Knight, Patrick Griffiths, and Shaun Pigott each to a three-year term (February 28, 2025), reappoint Craig Horrell to a three-year term retroactive to February 28, 2020 (February 28, 2023), and appoint Ted Wise to a three-year term (February 28, 2025).

Voting Members		
Kate Fitzpatrick - Chair	Member at Large - Deschutes River Conservancy	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2023</i>
Patrick Griffiths	Member at Large - City of Bend Utility Department Water Resources Manager	<i>Reappointment requested</i>
Craig Horrell	COID - District Manager	<i>Reappointment requested</i>
Ted Wise	Ecology Expertise - ODFW	<i>Requested for appointment</i>
Shaun Pigott	Fisheries Expertise - Trout Unlimited	<i>Reappointment requested</i>
William Seitz	Fisheries Expertise - Retired fish and wildlife biologist	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2023</i>
Kris Knight	Conservation Organization - Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	<i>Reappointment requested</i>

Non-voting Members	
Jackson Morgan	Department of State Lands
Sam Vanlaningham	Oregon Water Resources Department
Jason Gritzner	U.S. Forest Service
Tarik Rawlings	Deschutes County - CDD

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Member	
Jerry George	ODFW M & E Coordinator

III. STAFF RECCOMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board reappoint Kris Knight, Patrick Griffiths, and Shaun Pigott each to a three-year term (February 28, 2025), reappoint Craig Horrell to a three-year term retroactive to February 28, 2020 (February 28, 2023), and appoint Ted Wise to a three-year term (February 28, 2025).