

Conference Call: OWEB Technical Assistance Grant Application Assistance

Attending:

Alethea

Eve Montanaro

Brian Wolcott

John Moriarty

Kay Patteson: Mollala River Watch

Sarah Young: Powder Basin

Jean Reiher: Yamhill

Cheryl McGinnis: Clackamas

Dennis Wise: Coquille

Xan Augerot: Mary's River

Kay: Currently looking to fund project design for fish passage on several tributaries; can someone clarify whether to use restoration or tech assistance application for the design phase of the project?

Eve: usually write TA to have design work done, then restoration for funds to implement

Pros: focus on one project at a time

Cons: timing, periods between grant cycles may extend project timeline.

Grouping them into one application may allow you to get the project on the ground faster

Brian: doing the two parts separately will allow you to develop the project budget more accurately, get better information regarding the real costs of the project. Also, doing the design portion of the project under a TA grant gives time between two grants (TA for design; Restoration for the implementation) gives time for permits to be obtained

Cheryl: What she has experienced with her council, reimbursement can be delayed anyway because OWEB will not reimburse until permits are received

Brian: downside to doing the design first (in a separate grant) is that it may affect your ability to find the necessary cost-share funding during the design phase

Eve: Knowing the real costs from doing the design first allows you to incorporate a better estimate of the project's implementation costs into the restoration application; If you apply for implementation funding and design funding at the same time, your cost projections might not be as accurate, and you can't go back and ask for more if you do the design in the restoration application and find that you didn't ask for enough funds for implementation.

Brian: There's a lot less capital dollars to go around this year; make sure that your project budgets are reasonable, get second and third quotes from engineers, consultants, etc.; make sure cost-share is lined up and that you have all the appropriate signatures and letters of support from your partners.

Also, keep in mind that reviewers are looking for clear, concise descriptions and want to see that you have a goal in mind for the project, and that you're able to link your project to the larger objectives
Eve: not a lot of major changes to the application

Some general advice for writing these grant applications: First, talk with your partners; develop the project with them, involve them early on; ask for a letter of support right away. You want to make sure letters of support are collected in a timely fashion, so give your partners/supporters plenty of time to work on these (they can take time in the writing) and make sure that you have them all in order when you submit

Depending on the project, you may want to talk with engineering or technical firms to get quotes soon. Seek second or even third quotes, from different sources, then incorporate the best into your project application. Getting those extra quotes gives you a better idea of the range of costs you'll have to fund when the project is implemented.

Brian: Pay attention to the project budget! These are looked at closely; make sure your numbers are vetted. One way to do this is to add the numbers several times before you submit—spend the time to make sure it's completely accurate!

Some general advice: They're looking for you to be succinct and concise. Read the question, think about the question and answer only the question given.

If you can obtain adequate cost-share, build in project-management funds for you or a member of your staff. There will be project related tasks that will fall under this category (project mgmt) and can be used to supplement the coordinator's (or others) pay.

The major changes to this application are:

Brian: question 8: cost-share table changes, separate columns for in-kind or cash match, now need to separate these out

With attachments: now require more detailed maps and include a link to Oregon Explorer (online mapping tool). Trouble with the maps or questions about their intent should be directed to Ashley Seim at OWEB.

Also, they've added questions about (ESA listed) salmon and trout