

(b) Use the expertise of the appropriate state agency according to the type of enhancement project.

(c) Provide educational and informational materials to promote public awareness and involvement in the watershed enhancement program.

(d) Coordinate and provide for or arrange for assistance in the activities of persons, agencies or political subdivisions developing local watershed enhancement projects funded by the board.

(e) Grant funds for the support of watershed councils in assessing watershed conditions, developing action plans, implementing projects and monitoring results and for the implementation of watershed enhancement projects from such moneys as may be available to the board for that purpose.

(f) Develop and maintain a centralized repository for information about the effects of watershed enhancement projects.

(g) Give priority to proposed watershed enhancement projects receiving funding or assistance from other sources.

(h) Identify, and provide funding or support for filling, gaps in information about watershed health and enhancement.

(i) Cooperate with appropriate federal entities to identify the needs and interests of the State of Oregon so that federal plans and project schedules relating to watershed enhancement incorporate the state's intent to the fullest extent practicable.

(j) Encourage the use of nonstructural methods to enhance the riparian areas and associated uplands of Oregon's watersheds.

(k) Determine criteria for utilizing the private sector, both not-for-profit and for-profit organizations, to provide landowners with technical assistance to help develop and implement conservation easements and resource improvement projects.

(2) In accordance with ORS 541.890 to 541.969, the board shall administer a watershed conservation grant program using funds from the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund established under ORS 541.947, from the Natural Resources Subaccount established under ORS 541.942 and from the Flexible Incentives Account established under ORS 541.937.

(3) To aid and advise the board in the performance of the functions of the board, the board may establish such advisory and technical committees as the board considers necessary. These committees may be continuing or temporary. The board shall determine the representation, membership, terms and organization of the committees and shall ap-

point their members. The chairperson is ex officio a member of each committee. [Formerly 541.370; 2017 c.14 §5]

Note: See note under 541.890.

541.929 Duties of board; integrated watershed planning framework; expenditures. (1) In addition to the duties set forth in ORS 541.926, in carrying out the provisions of ORS 541.890 to 541.969, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board:

(a) Shall establish a framework for a locally based integrated watershed planning and management process designed to assist watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts and other partners and to support the efforts of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts and other partners to work within the requirements of state and federal laws without duplication of planning effort. The framework shall include all of the following:

(A) Guidance and protocols for watershed assessments to encourage consistent assessment methods across all watersheds and agencies, including assessment of cumulative effects. At a minimum, such guidance shall address the following plan components:

(i) A description of the watershed;

(ii) An assessment of current watershed conditions and the distribution and condition of habitat; and

(iii) Identification of conditions preventing watershed restoration.

(B) Guidance on how to prepare watershed action plans. At a minimum, such guidance shall address the following plan components:

(i) Applicable water quality standards and native salmonid and habitat recovery objectives;

(ii) Proposed measures needed to restore watershed health;

(iii) Timeline and budget estimates for implementation of action measures in priority order; and

(iv) Monitoring and evaluation systems.

(b) May review plans, actions and rules of state agencies pertaining to restoration and protection grants for the purpose of coordinating the board's grant program with other ongoing grant programs.

(c) Shall establish statewide and regional goals and priorities that shall become the basis for funding decisions by the board. In adopting such goals and priorities, the board shall adopt priorities for grant funding based on the Oregon Plan, the Oregon Conservation Strategy, the watershed health and native fish recovery programs of this state and measurable goals. In carrying out this func-