

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**  
**Council Support Advisory Committee**  
**Evaluation for January 30, 2009 AM Applications**

<b>APPLICATION NO.:</b> 210-037	<b>PROJECT TYPE:</b> Council Support
<b>PROJECT NAME:</b> Tualatin River Council Support	
<b>APPLICANT:</b> Tualatin River WSC	
<b>BASIN:</b> WILLAMETTE	<b>COUNTY:</b> Washington
<b>OWEB FUNDS REQUESTED:</b> \$111,410.00	<b>TOTAL COST:</b> \$161,153.00

**Merit Category: Very Good**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Tualatin River Watershed Council in Region 3 formed in 1996. The watershed area served is 453,000 acres, includes one fourth-field watershed, and has a growing population of approximately 486,000. Key watershed issues include water quality and quantity, floodplain connectivity, habitat fragmentation, and invasive species. The applicant requests \$111,410 for one FTE Coordinator and for administrative and direct operating costs.

**Overall Comments:** The council has a successful record of implementing complex restoration projects. Reviewers were impressed by the types of projects implemented, including fish passage, road improvement, invasive species, and in-stream restoration projects. The reviewers thought the council should expand its education and outreach programs to a larger geographic area of the watershed and include a greater diversity of topics.

**Criteria #1 A well-organized council has an effective functioning organization and governance structure, and is increasing citizen participation.**

**COMMENTS:** The council clearly described the board's organizational structure, decision-making process, and how committees work with the board. The reviewers liked the targeted outreach by the council to specific local organizations. The reviewers also liked that the council had a volunteer recruitment strategy.

**Criteria #2 A well-organized council is committed to organization improvement.**

**COMMENTS:** The council completed a self-evaluation within the biennium. It did a good job of describing the areas of concern that were identified through the evaluation process, action items, timelines for implementation and measures of progress. The reviewers were impressed by the thoughtfulness put into the council's self-evaluation.

**Criteria #3 A well-organized council is engaged in active management of the organization.**

**COMMENTS:** The council described the supervision of the coordinator and the reviewers thought all the appropriate pieces were in place. The council has a very good process in place to set project and organizational goals; however, the reviewers were unsure how the organization measures progress.

**Criteria #4 A well-organized council is fiscally responsible.**

**COMMENTS:** The council acts as its own fiscal agent and has well described fiscal policies and procedures in place to ensure fiscal responsibility including separation of duties, dual signatures on checks, and annual financial review.

**Criteria #5 An effective council takes a leadership role in watershed activities.**

**COMMENTS:** The reviewers were impressed by the number and diversity of on-the-ground projects implemented by the council; it is clearly filling that niche in the watershed. The council is clearly the lead at working with private landowners in the watershed. It seemed to the reviewers that the council has a narrow focus that includes only restoration actions and would like to see the council become more of a leader in education and outreach in the watershed.

**Criteria #6 An effective council plans strategically.**

**COMMENTS:** The council listed the appropriate assessments, action plans, and documents from partnering agencies. The reviewers liked the use of an issues forum to reach out to the community for project input and strategic planning.

**Criteria #7 An effective council works collaboratively with partners.**

**COMMENTS:** The council has a good mix of cash and in-kind contributions and is working to share its knowledge and expertise with local groups. The reviewers would like the council to work to achieve additional operational efficiencies.

**Criteria #8 An effective council makes progress toward goals.**

**COMMENTS:** The council has implemented a good diversity of complex restoration projects during the last biennium. These restoration projects are all focused on the limiting factors addressed in the application, but the reviewers would like the council to expand its project types and improve outreach to the local community.