



WILLAMETTE VALLEY  
**OAK & PRAIRIE**  
COOPERATIVE

4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE, Salem, OR 97302

**Partners Meeting**

Tuesday, February 17, 2026  
1:00 – 4:00pm PST

In-person meeting

Introductions/housekeeping

- Coordinator/facilitator (Laura Estrada) introduced the meeting, logistics, etc.
- Lots of QR codes on meeting documents
  - Each QR code links to a unique resource
- Agenda review
- Meeting goals
- About the WVOPC
  - Started 2017
  - Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2018
  - Oak woodland/savannah and dry/wet prairie
  - Steering Committee introductions

Decade of the Oak (DECO) – *Kelly Missett, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture*

- Reference the presentation (put link here later)
- Previously there were “Year of the Oak” but didn’t quite get off the ground
- Theme for Year 1: “the acorn has sprouted”
- Year 1 goal:
  - Gain traction and reach new people
  - Highlighting partner conservation work
- Full toolkit in development with lots of oak outreach resources
- Share resource needs with Kelly
- Share stories with Kelly to cross-promote
- Cobrand photos with #DecadeOfTheOak hashtag

Revised strategic action plan (SAP) updates - *Carolyn Menke, Greenbelt Land Trust*

- Reference the presentation (put link here later)
- Also reference handout from the meeting
- 2020-2025
- Impetus to update
  - Previous SAP was from 2018 and timely to update
  - Need an SAP to apply for OWEB FIP



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- With some specific template requirements, that Carolyn described in presentation
- SAP update is open for comments (see QR code) by March 3

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant overview – *Andrew Esterson, Institute for Applied Ecology*

- Reference the presentation
- Andrew’s summary of FIP directive “Working together as a cooperative to produce substantial conservation returns”
- 6 year investment, up to \$15M
  - 3 bienniums, up to \$5M per biennium
- FIP initiatives centered around restoration and/or acquisition, but can also be the other OWEB grant programs
- If partner wants to do a project – submit directly to OWEB and grant would be to the grantee (i.e., no WVOPC pass-thru).
  - Proposal deadlines are separate from the OWEB open solicitation
  - But the proposals need to use the OWEB open solicitation templates
  - Workplan 1, WVOPC wants those projects to be shovel-ready
- FIP proposal – IAE will be the proposed applicant (pending Steering Committee approval)
- For current FIP proposal, we need project applications for Workplans 1, 2, and 3 (all bienniums)
- FIP writers: Andrew Esterson, Carolyn Menke, Michael Ahr, Sara E-P, WVOPC Steering Committee, and any others interested in participating

OWEB FIP project application and selection process overview - *Andrew Esterson, Institute for Applied Ecology*

- Feb 27 – May 1
  - Deadline is May 1
  - Question: If partners have similar project ideas, how to integrate those? Both timing and process?
    - At today’s meeting, breakout groups will start discussions of project ideas



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- Andrew emphasized
  - that WVOPC reviewers are experts in the region, so applications don't need to describe the problem in great lengths
  - less is more, and bullet points are fine
  - focus is on how the project addresses WVOPC SAP priorities and is strategic
  - reviewers will have hundreds of pages to review, so don't be too wordy
- Match will be same as OWEB open solicitation (5-25%)
- WVOPC Steering Committee will review and score workplan 1 applications
- Review process and scoring rubric (see presentation)

Networking session

- 45 mins
- Signs on wall of the SAP goals – interested partners met by the goals most aligned with their project ideas
- Discussed project ideas and possible collaborations

William Blake, *American Bird Conservancy* – MOTUS wildlife tracking system

- Motus.org
- 3 pillars of MOTUS
  - Tags – radio tags on animals (birds, bats, insects)
    - Some tags as small as 0.02g (not a typo – tags on Monarchs)
  - Stations – receiving station to collect data
    - Individual IDs
  - Data – publicly accessible (managed by Birds Canada)
- 35 MOTUS stations in Oregon
- MOTUS in Willamette Valley
  - Ankeny NWR, Sauvie Island, others
  - Proposal for additional stations and to tag more species
- Currently Oregon has had 5 species tagged
- Priority species
  - Lewis' woodpecker
  - Vesper sparrow
  - Slender-billed nuthatch



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- Question: migratory vs. non-migratory
  - MOTUS is focused more on migratory, but some researchers are using MOTUS for “spin-off” research

Gareth Hopkins, *Western Oregon University* – Integrating Research and Education on Privately-owned oak habitat to understand amphibian and reptile....

- Oak Ecology Research Group, started in 2019

Sean McKenzie, *Oregon Dept. of Forestry* – Hardwood Map

- Published via ODF’s GIS portal
  - Raster and vector available here:

Adjourn at 4:05pm

Attendees:

First Name	Last Name	Entity	Email
Andrew	Esterson	IAE	andrew@appliedeco.org
Carolyn	Menke	GLT	
Scott	Shaff	MRWC	scott@mrwc.org
Lawrence	Schwanbe	CTGR	lawrence.schwabe@grandronde.org
Tatum	VanHawkins	BSWCD	tatum@uwsxcd.org
Cierra	Dawson	BSWCD	cierra@bentonswcd.org
Jim	Merzenich	Oak Basin Tree Farm	jim@oakbasin.com
Tyler	Roberts	ODFW	tyler.r.roberts@odfw.oregon.gov
Erin	Blair	Pheasants Forever	eblair@pheasantsforever.org
Tim	Lawes	CTSI	timl@ctsi.nsn.us
Eleanor	Kenyon	Pheasants Forever; NRCS	eleanor.kenyon@usda.gov
Jonathan	Campbell	USFWS Partners	jonathan_campbell@fws.gov



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Marc	Bell	PSWCD	marc.bell@polkswcd.com
Ava	Howard	WOU	howard@wou.edu
Amanda	Gonzalez	EcoStudies Institute	agonzalez@ecoinst.org
Peg	Boulay	UO	boulay@uoregon.edu
Kelly	Missett	Pacific Birds	kelly_missett@pacificbirds.org
Emily	Southwell	Pheasants Forever	emily.southwell@usda.gov
Jenna	Leichner	Corvallis Parks and Recreation	jenna.leichner@corvallisoregon.gov
Chelsea	Blank	MSWCD	chelsea.blank@marionswcd.net
Bryce	Izlar	Willamalane PRD	bryce.izlar@willamalane.org
Sean	McKenzie	ODF	sean.c.mckenzie@odforegon.gov
Ameyalli	Manon	Parrott Creek	amanon@pcreek.org
Rio	Hybert	OLWC	rio@oswegowatershed.org
Kelly	Warren	Duck Unlimited	kwarren@ducks.org
Shelly	Miller	Eugene Parks	smiller@eugene-or.gov
Rachel	Pecore-Valdez	Columbia Land Trust	rpecore-valdez@columbialandtrust.org
Loren	Gerig	Landowner	lpgerig@gmail.com
Amie	Loup-Frison	YSWCD	amie@yamhillswcd.org
Whitney	Randall	McKenzie River Land Trust	whitney@mckenzieriver.org
Rachel	Villapando	US Army Corps of Engineers	rachel.a.villapando@usace.army.mil
Charlotte	Hamilton	American Farmland Trust	chamilton@farmland.org
Aubrey	Cloud	Mary's River and Luckiamute WC	projects@luckiamutelwc.org



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Erin	Hatch	City of Corvallis	erin.hatch@corvallisoregon.gov
Scott	Harris	IAE	scottharris@appliedeco.org
Rachael	Rosenstein	MRWC	rachael@mrwc.org
Andy	Neil	GLT	andy@greenbeltlandtrust.org
April	Dane Christen	Friends of Buford Park	aprildawne@bufordpark.org
Rick	Kipper	Mary's River WC	rckipper@outlook.com
Anna	Merzenich	Oak Basin Tree Farm	anna@oakbasin.com
Emma	Smith	Pudding River WC	emma@puddingriver.org
Cole	Hanych	Portland Parks	cole.hanych@portlandoregon.gov
Wallace	Jennings	NRCS	wallace.jennings@usda.gov
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Brendan	Addis	Clackamas SWCD	baddis@conservationdistrict.org
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Carolyn	Foland	Landowner	folandc@gmail.com
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Claire	Fox	GLT	efox@greenbeltlandtrust.org
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Aaron	Groth	OSU FNR Extension Fire Program	aaron.groth@oregonstate.edu
Gareth	Hopkins	WOU	hopkinsg@wou.edu
Emily	Steele	Eugene Parks and Open Space	esteele@eugene-or.gov
Ariana	Scipioni	WMSWCD	ariana@mswcd.org
Alejandro	Mejia	Long Tom WC	alejandro@longtom.org
Ed	Alverson	Lane County	edward.alverson@lane.co.gov



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