



# Regional Solutions Participation Plan Oregon State Marine Board June 2014

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## Agency Background

The Oregon State Marine Board is Oregon's recreational boating agency, embracing a vision of a collaborative community to provide opportunities for all boaters to safely and respectfully experience Oregon's waterways. To achieve this vision, the Marine Board focuses on serving Oregon's recreational boating public through education, enforcement, access and environmental stewardship for a safe and enjoyable experience. The Marine Board provides boating facility grants, boating safety education, enforcement, public information, boating law administration and environmental programs such as clean marina, clean boater and aquatic invasive species prevention throughout the state.

The Marine Board has 40 staff, centrally located in Salem, employed in programs which partner with public entities throughout the state in support of the agency's mission, including:

**Boating Facilities** - Joins with ODFW, OPRD, county parks, ports, and cities to identify boating access opportunities and then leverages funds from a variety of stakeholders to complete priority projects;

**Boating Safety** - Contracts with 32 counties and the State Police to provide education and enforcement services on Oregon's waterways; and

**Environmental Stewardship** - Addresses derelict/abandoned vessels and Aquatic Invasive Species prevention objectives by working cooperatively with DEQ, DSL and ODFW.

It is only as a result of these close partnerships that the Marine Board achieves its mission in serving the recreational boaters of Oregon.

The Marine Board is funded by boaters through titling and registration fees, fuel tax revenue and federal grants. The Marine Board does not receive general funds.

## Regional Solutions Participation Plan

House Bill 4015 requires specified natural resource agencies including the Oregon State Marine Board to submit a plan to the Governor's Office by July 1, 2014 describing each agency's design for participating in Regional Solutions Teams.

In a memorandum dated March 24, 2014, Regional Solutions Director Annette Liebe outlined the three-part content for those plans. The Marine Board offers the following plan in response:

1. *Review the regional priorities and identify programs/projects that the agency is already involved in related to the regional priorities (by region).*
  - a. *Identify other state agencies involved in these programs/projects. If additional state, local or federal agencies are involved, how is interagency coordination and integration currently achieved?*
  - b. *Are additional resources (funding or staffing) needed in order to make these programs/projects successful? If so, what is the need?*

The Marine Board is currently involved in one Regional Solutions Project:

### **South Coast/Umpqua Region (Coos, Curry and Douglas Counties)**

- Enhance marine, rail and telecommunication infrastructure

The Marine Board is participating with OBDD to provide grants to small ports for assistance to obtain dredging permits. This project is being coordinated by Jeff Griffin, Regional Coordinator, Southwest Oregon and OBDD.

The resources provided from the Governor's Strategic Reserve Fund are adequate to begin the process of obtaining permits.

2. *Identify grant and loan programs administered by your agency and their purpose.*
  - a. *Describe if/how current decision making processes/scoring criteria support consideration of regional priorities.*
  - b. *Identify needed changes to scoring criteria in order to support regional priority projects (are these changes in statute or rule?)*

ORS 830.150(2)(a) authorizes the Marine Board to provide funds for the construction, rehabilitation, and replacement of recreational boating facilities. The Boating Facility Grant Program can also provide for the acquisition of property and related development projects. The Marine Board provides this grant funding to eligible public agencies for the construction and maintenance of public access facilities including launch ramps, parking lots, restrooms and temporary mooring facilities. There is no maximum grant amount, however, these grants are competitive and the pool of money available is based on revenues received by the agency, not to exceed the biennial limitation approved by the legislature.

The Marine Board does not own or operate any boating sites or facilities; instead, the Boating Facility Grant Program assists the providers of public boating access sites around the State of Oregon to acquire, improve and maintain facilities.

There are three types of boating facility grants: competitive grants to acquire property or improve boating access sites and support facilities; non-competitive small project grants limited to \$10,000 (and a total project cost of \$20,000); and annual maintenance assistance grants to help facility providers augment their existing operation and maintenance costs associated with operating eligible boating facilities.

Funding for boating facility grants derives from state fees and state fuel taxes paid by owners of registered boats. Federal funds from the Clean Vessel Act and Boating Infrastructure Grant programs may also be utilized to augment boating facility grants. The Marine Board frequently partners with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife to cooperatively fund projects using federal Sport Fish Restoration Funds. The sources of funding for these federal programs include federal motorboat fuel taxes and excise taxes.

Local government agencies, which under state law have an obligation to provide public recreation facilities, are eligible to apply for funding assistance. Applicants include cities, counties, park and port districts and state agencies. Federal agencies including the USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are also eligible to apply for grants.

All grant fund distribution must be approved by the five-member Marine Board. Generally, there are three grant funding rounds each biennium. The Board reviews the requests and determines which grants to fund and how much in state boater dollars to authorize and expend. A majority of the grant funds are obligated at the beginning of a given biennium during a round one grant cycle. This allows larger grant assisted projects the entire biennium to be completed. Grants cannot be carried over between biennium.

While there is no set minimum match requirement, applicants are encouraged to make use of matching funds in the form of cash or "in-kind" materials or services such as project administration, design, engineering, force account labor and permit fees. The availability of matching funds or local participation, while not the primary factor in considering a grant application, will be examined as one aspect of the project in the decision-making process. Additionally, the Board gives priority to those facilities providing free services to boaters.

Grants are limited to actual certified expenditures for materials, equipment, labor, and services directly related to construction. Applicants are encouraged to supply "in-house" administration, labor, equipment and services as a form of match to the Marine Board grant.

Eligibility criteria and the funding process are outlined in the Boating Facilities Procedural Guide:

<https://data.oregon.gov/Business/13-15-Boating-Facilities-Procedure-Guide/q7s2-ewrt> and,

Chapter 250 Division 014, Oregon Administrative Rules:

[http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars\\_200/oar\\_250/250\\_014.html](http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_200/oar_250/250_014.html)

Additionally, the Marine Board completes a Boating Access Improvement Plan every six years that details, county by county, the needs for boating access in that county, along with the county's prioritization of importance for each of the identified needs. These regional priorities are always considered when approving grant applications.

The Boating Access Improvement Plan from 2011 can be found at the following link:

[http://www.oregon.gov/OSMB/BoatFac/pages/docs/sixyearplan11\\_17/sixyear2011\\_2017.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/OSMB/BoatFac/pages/docs/sixyearplan11_17/sixyear2011_2017.aspx)

Since regional priorities are already considered as part of the grant process, there is no need to revise its current scoring criteria.

*3. Identify staff that will participate in Regional Solutions Teams to coordinate outreach, permitting, approval, grant, loan and planning functions within your agency.*

Director Scott Brewen and Boating Facilities Manager Wayne Shuyler are the designated points of contact for coordination of Regional Solutions Projects. Other agency members may participate on behalf of the agency for projects that are specific to their expertise or job function.