

## **Oral Testimony**

### 0-20 (intro)

Good morning Co-chairs Reardon, Taylor, and Committee Members.

My name is Anna Rankin. I am the executive director for the Pudding River Watershed Council.

I am here to share the Pudding's chicken soup approach to conservation, and to express support for OWEB's request to maintain a base budget and fund additional human capital.

### 15-30 (our story)

As with 30 other low-overhead watershed councils, the Pudding has one employee. For community members, we are a "one-stop" shopping experience. We are well-connected. Our board of directors represent decades of experience from stakeholder groups with competing interests, yet we align on the premise that NONE OF US, IS AS SMART AS ALL OF US. In our locale, water and weather are hot topics because of the affect they have on the productivity of the working lands and livelihoods dependent on sustainable natural resource stewardship.

### 30-45 (supporting example)

Last Saturday, I explained to 17 volunteers in the City of Aurora at an emerging public greenspace why local voluntary watershed stewardship can be compared to making chicken soup. When the community pools their individual resources everyone benefits. Someone has the chicken, another the vegetables, and somebody else brings the water and spice. Where one person may not have been able to sustain themselves, together we are all nourished.

In this example, the City of Aurora and the watershed council prepared the location.

ORCP donated the plants, and community volunteers got 60 native plants in the ground in 2 hours.

This is a sweet spot for restoration in our locale because it brings disparate communities together. Our vice-chair, producer Ray Eder operated the auger while TSPC's Director Rosilez helped plant trees alongside small families and Aurora leadership. Their energy and excitement was contagious.

### 45-60 (conclusion)

Because our council has a relationship with the Oregon Conservation Partnership, this year alone we procured and distributed roughly 400 native plants at no cost to volunteers ready to give these surplus plants a good home. This is how we have found common ground and "met the people where they are at".

Without Oregon's investment for staffing partner organizations, our efforts to efficiently make real, visible positive impacts will suffer. We rely on their expertise, so that we remain a lean and nimble non-profit.

OWEB's web of partnerships provides the little extra grace we require to have the capacity to pull it all together.

We ask that committee approve a budget that allows future lottery revenue to restore the base funding for Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and provides the additional staffing in Policy Package 100 and 110.

We welcome questions and offer tours.

Thank you for your time.