

# Chapter 6: Finance Strategy

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## Governance History

The Tillamook Estuaries Partnership is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Originally hosted by Tillamook County (local government) upon its completion of the CCMP in 1999, the Tillamook County Performance Partnership (TCPP) as it was known, was considered a quasi-judicial non-regulatory entity. At that time, the NEP was funded with Section 320 dollars. When the organization was re-structured to become a non-profit organization known as the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) in 2002, that funding was carried over to the new organization and has been in place since. The CWA Section 320 funding was not impacted by the change in organizational structure. The change also opened up more opportunities for diverse funding that would not have been available to a government entity.

## Partner Contributions

The TEP partners are active participants in the implementation of the CCMP to address the priority problems affecting the health and function of Tillamook County's estuaries and watersheds. The partners do not provide a direct cash payment to TEP but rather fund their efforts to implement projects that further the goals of the CCMP. Those efforts provide match and/or leverage as well as build capacity for TEP to accomplish actions it may not be able to complete on its own. The main contributors to our non-federal match efforts include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Oregon State University Extension, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Tillamook County, the Port of Garibaldi, Visit Tillamook Coast, and volunteers.

## Financing the Plan

TEP has historically and will continue to pursue secure funding to finance operation of the base

program and to advance implementation of the CCMP. The updated financing plan includes both dedicated and variable funding sources at federal, state, and local levels as well as private and nonprofit sources.

The major objectives of the financing strategy are:

- Developing dedicated sources of funding to sustain the base operations of the TEP, including personnel, administrative cost, community outreach, and project development and implementation when possible.
- Securing dedicated and variable sources of funding that enhance implementation of the CCMP and maintain adequate progress toward focal area restoration goals.

## Dedicated Funding Sources

Currently, the EPA CWA Section 320 dollars provide the primary financial support for TEP's CCMP implementation. Each action plan in the Revised CCMP indicates whether it will be funded under the Clean Water Act Section 320, versus other funding sources. In general, EPA Section 320 dollars support personnel, Other Personnel Expenses (OPE), and overhead whereas projects are generally funded by outside sources. The EPA Section 320 dollars provide a stable base for the organization and allow TEP to engage with partners in meaningful ways. TEP prioritizes spending of these federal funds in its annual workplans. While the specific future annual appropriations under Section 320 are uncertain, the community-based conservation efforts of the National Estuary Program (NEP) have strong Congressional support. In 2016, Congress and the President signed into law the first reauthorization of the NEP since it expired in 2010. While any level of funding cannot be guaranteed, the reauthorization indicates wide-level and long term support.

**Individual Donor funds (O).** TEP hosts an annual fundraiser to generate unrestricted funds that provide administrative and programmatic support. Expenses which cannot be paid for with federal

money, such as the program's dues to the Association of National Estuary Programs, are also funded through these unrestricted dollars.

## Variable Funding Sources

The following funding sources supplement CCMP implementation through local action plans of TEP partners, grants, cooperative agreements and other mechanisms. While variable from year to year, they represent significant funding sources to support both short- and long-term resource needs as identified in the CCMP Actions for TEP and its partners. It is important to note that funding for a restoration project, for example, may also include funding for monitoring and community engagement as components of the project. As a result, many of the funding sources described below will extend beyond the category with which they are associated.

**External Grants, Assistance Agreements, and Cooperative Agreements.** TEP staff have had significant success partnering with federal, state and local agencies to secure hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants for monitoring, habitat restoration, water quality improvement and environmental education projects as called for in the CCMP. Several of these habitat restoration funded projects also resulted in flood mitigation. The majority of actions led by TEP will be funded by one or more of the following sources. Funding through competitive grant program created in the reauthorization of the National Estuary Program may provide additional opportunities as it is further developed. The list below is not comprehensive as TEP is continually researching and identifying potential funding sources to support its efforts.

**Funding sources for habitat restoration include but are not limited to:**

**EPA Section 320 Grant Funds (E):** EPA Section 320.

**Federal (non-320) Grants (F):** USFWS Habitat Restoration Program, USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Grants Program, NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Project Grants, NOAA Broad Agency Announcement, NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants, US BLM Cooperative Agreements, and USFS Stewardship funding.

**State Grants (S):** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (Section 319, internal funding streams to provide in-kind assistance), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Restoration and Enhancement Fund and Fish Screening and Passage grants).

**Partner-funded Projects (P):** Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District; Salmon SuperHwy (a collaborative of local, state, federal, and non-profit organizations).

**Other Funding Sources (O):** Meyer Memorial Fund, Oregon Community Foundation; private foundations (supporting education, restoration, and capacity building).

**Funding sources for water quality actions include but are not limited to:**

**EPA Section 320 Grant Funds (E):** EPA Section 320.

**Federal (non-320) Grants (F)**

**State Grants (S):** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (Section 319, internal funding streams to provide in-kind assistance), Oregon Department of Agriculture.

**Partner Funded Projects (P):** Local municipalities and special districts

**Other Funding Sources (O)**



Funding sources for community engagement include but are not limited to:

**EPA Section 320 Grant Funds (E):** EPA Section 320.

**Federal (non-320) Grants (F):** EPA Environmental Education Grants, National Parks Service.

**State Funds (S):** Oregon State Parks Recreational Trails Program, the Oregon Travel Commission (also known as Travel Oregon).

**Partner Funded Projects (P):** Visit Tillamook Coast (Tillamook County Transient Lodging Tax), Oregon Community Foundation, private foundations (supporting education, tourism); watershed councils; local school districts.

**Other Funding Sources (O):** Private Foundations including the Oregon Community Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, Gray Family Foundation.

Funding sources for natural hazards include but are not limited to:

**EPA Section 320 Grant Funds (E):** EPA Section 320.

**Federal (non-320) Grants (F):** NOAA, FEMA (hazard mitigation assistance), Federal Highway Administration grants (in partnership with local government).

**State Funds (S):** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Emergency Management, the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon Department of Transportation.

**Partner Funded Projects (P):** Local governments.

