

MEMO TO BOARD: Agenda Commentary for Draft Agenda July 10, 2024

Action Items

- a. **District Cost Share Requests:** Abbie has several requests for the board's consideration.
- b. **FY 2024-2025 Annual Plan of Work:** This was tabled at the June meeting; it is one of our legal requirements. Pursuant to ORS 568.554, each conservation district must submit its proposed long-range program and annual work plans to ODA for review and comment.
- c. **Extending GSI Contracts for 15mile MUS & Mosier Support:** I have extended the date on the 15mile MUS contract with no added funding. This aligned the GSI timeline with OSU's. We included \$15,000 in the budget for GSI support of Mosier. This is less than they proposed for the Mosier Million #2 scope of work. I suggest that we extend the date on the current contract pursuant to our contracting policies and add \$15,000. We can see how far this gets us and revisit the question later.
- d. **RFP for Helicopter Services for 15mile LWD project w/USFS:** The bid opening date is July 12th, and the notice of intent is due the following week on 7/19, this is pass through fund with admin. The board can choose to have a special meeting to approve this contract, or the board can take action now. I recommend the board delegate approval authority to The Manager or Acting Manager to approve contract as long as the bids are within our budgeted fund from the Agreement with USFS.
- e. **MOU/Contribution Agreement with Wy'East:** I've prepared the FY24-25 contribution agreement with Wy'East. Robert already signed it. I would like the board to approve and delegate someone to sign it. I don't think it's appropriate for me to sign it since I serve on the Wy'East Council. On that note, Wy'East has been growing and is really in a good position to recruit council members. I think we've done a fantastic job incubating them over the past several years, and I'd like to step down from the council and allow them to continue to grow and evolve. Plus I'm in an awkward position where Wy'East is employing one of our board members, who is technically one of my bosses.
- f. **Discussion on Regular Meeting Dates – 1st Wed vs 2nd Wed of Month:** We'll continue the discussion from the last meeting.

Wasco County Fair & 4-H Introduction – Addie & Eva Underhill would like to take a few moments to share their 4H experiences with the board.

Kickoff Succession Planning with SWCD Board – Emily Stranz would like to spend about 30 minutes getting acquainted (or reacquainted) with the board members and kickoff our succession planning effort.

Updates

- a. **Next Regular Mtg, September 4th or 11th, 2024, 1:00 PM USDA Service Center** – The meeting date will depend on whether we decide to move to meeting on the 2nd Wed of the month or stick with the usual schedule.
- b. **East Cascade Oaks Partnership Fiscal Sponsorship for Cultural Surveys** – With the untimely passing of Dan Bell, Land Trust Director of Friends of the Columbia River Gorge, we were approached by the ECOP partners about serving as applicant and fiscal sponsor on an OWEB Focused Investment Partnership grant application. We worked with the partners to get the grant submitted by the deadline on June 30. If awarded, funds will be used to contract with Geovisions for cultural

resources inventories on priority oak habitats in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area on lands owned by USFS, OPRD, FOTG, and TNC.

- c. **Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program Update** – Staff have been frustrated with this program over the past couple of years. We've expressed these concerns to ODA and requested more clarity, guidance, and communication. This grant is funded at a low level with high expectations and has become one of our most challenging projects. We will continue water quality sampling through this summer but unsure whether it's in our best interest to apply for funds from ODA in going forward.
- d. **15mile MUS** – Staff are working on some additional requested updates to the OWRD final report. We continue to coordinate with OSU and GSI on additional testing funded under the new TA grant.
- e. **Highline Ditch**– Josh will provide an update.
- f. **2020 White River Fire & 2022 Miller Road Fire** – Josh will provide an update. The Miller Rd fire project is completed and we are just waiting on an invoice from the contractor.
- g. **Mosier Million #2** – Josh will provide an update.
- h. **Lower Deschutes CWMA Lead Entity Status:** Job applications are due July 8. An agreement is in place with Sherman SWCD and pending with ODFW and Sherman County. Conversations are ongoing with ODA and BLM regarding the best ways to tap into their grant programs to support the project.
- i. **SDAO Best Practices Checklist** – I've started working through this year's checklist. We're currently at 6% of the total 10% possible discount. The two remaining areas that will need to be addressed are the new Public Meetings Public Meetings Law Training Requirement for board members and updating our Public Meetings Policy. The training materials and draft policy are not yet available. We have until November to complete these requirements.
- g. **Director Elections** – This is an election year, and we have 4 positions up for election: Zone 1 (Ken Bailey), Zone 3 (Bill Hammel), Zone 5 (Bob Krein), At-Large 1 (Larry Powell). ODA has issued elections materials. The first day to file is July 18 and the last day to file is Aug 27. Write-ins can file through Oct 22. Election Day is Nov 5, and the new term will begin on Jan 1, 2025. See ODA's website for more information:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/NaturalResources/SWCD/Pages/Elections.aspx>

Routine Reports: Committees, Agencies, Manager



WATERSHED COUNCIL COORDINATING BOARD MEETING TO FOLLOW