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Moore-Love, Karla

From: Carolyn Lindberg [Carolyn@wmswcd.org]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 12:07 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: [Approved Sender] RE: Columbia River Levee Repair / Oregon Solutions

Attachments: Sturgeon Lake Funding Strategy FINAL.docx



Sturgeon Lake
Funding Strategy...

Hello Karla,

My District Manager, Dick Springer, is hoping to be able to schedule an appearance before council to brief members on the multi-million dollar restoration of Sturgeon Lake, on Sauvie Island. Our agency, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, is the "local sponsor" of the project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In the email string below, you can see that Dick reached out to his past colleague, former senator Jackie Dingfelder and she suggested this might be a good idea.

Could you let me know what dates might be available in the future for such a briefing? I believe the briefings are normally held on Wednesday mornings and that opportunities may be not be available for another month or so. I've attached a background paper on the project.

Thank you,

Carolyn
Carolyn Myers Lindberg
Communications Coordinator
West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
2701 NW Vaughn Street, Suite 450
Portland, OR 97210
503.238.4775, ext. 101
carolyn@wmswcd.org
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"Conserving and protecting soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment"

-----Original Message-----

From: Wiggins, Rachael [mailto:Rachael.Wiggins@portlandoregon.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:53 AM
To: Dick Springer
Cc: Dingfelder, Jackie
Subject: RE: Columbia River Levee Repair / Oregon Solutions

Hi Dick,

I hope that this email finds you well. If you are interested in speaking before Council, please contact the Council Clerk Karla Moore-Love, who can let you know when the next available date to sign up for Council communication. She can be reached at either 503-823-4086 or at karla.moore-love@portlandoregon.gov. Communication slots are scheduled approximately 1 - 1.5 months in advance.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,
Rachael

Rachael Wiggins
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P: 503-823-4142
E: rachael.wiggins@portlandoregon.gov
www.portlandonline.gov/mayor

-----Original Message-----

From: Dingfelder, Jackie
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 9:17 AM
To: 'Dick Springer'
Cc: Wiggins, Rachael
Subject: RE: Columbia River Levee Repair / Oregon Solutions

Dick:

I had an idea. I would encourage you to come to Council communications and ask Council for a resolution. You can work with Rachel to set up a time if you are interested. Let me know when you are downtown next and we can grab coffee.

Regards,

Jackie Dingfelder
Policy Director
Office of Mayor Charlie Hales
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 340
Portland, OR 97204
(Office) 503-823-4125
Jackie.Dingfelder@portlandoregon.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Dick Springer [mailto:Dick@wmswcd.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 10:19 AM
To: Dingfelder, Jackie
Cc: Alpert, Josh
Subject: RE: Columbia River Levee Repair / Oregon Solutions

Greetings Jacqueline and thanks for your message.

As you probably know, Sauvie Island welcomes over 800,000 visitors annually -- a majority of them from Portland and nearby communities. The bicyclists are encouraged to ride there and since Portland has very limited riverfront & beach / river access to the Willamette, Portlanders flock to the miles of sandy expanses along the Columbia. ODFW bears the brunt of the costs for sanitation, road & gravel parking plus law enforcement costs. Sauvie Island property owners also pay for our volunteer fire and rescue department who are primary responders when accidents occur -- from traffic injuries to near drownings and much more.

I reviewed most of these issues with Josh last fall and am visiting with commissioners' staff. Since June 2012 I have served on the board of The Intertwine Alliance and wonder if you or someone of the Mayor's staff is assigned as liaison. Former Metro President David Bragdon initiated the efforts to create a regional coalition of natural resource and parks system leaders over six years ago to address the need for better coordination, communication and utilization of limited public resources.

My ask from the city leadership is a council resolution of support for our efforts to save Sturgeon Lake on Sauvie Island and restore habitat & connectivity between the Columbia River and the 11,500 acres of waterways, tidal wetlands, lakes and sloughs that are essential to preserve and protect millions of waterfowl as part of the Pacific Flyway (1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act) and ESA-listed aquatic species from sturgeon to lamprey to salmonids. Like many others, we eagerly await some signs of progress with the Portland Harbor Superfund and mitigation projects identified by the NRDA Trustees Council. We are also working with the Grand Ronde Tribe and scores of other public agencies, community groups and non-profits -- from Ducks Unlimited to the National Fish & Wildlife Federation.

I hope this provides a better perspective on our efforts and their importance to protect outdoor recreation in the region as well as engage and educate those who enjoy bird-watching, kayaking, fishing, hunting, jogging, farm fresh food and the agricultural / rural setting only 20 minutes from downtown Portland. If you have some time in the few weeks, perhaps we can meet and I'm always glad to respond to any suggestions & comments. I'm copying Josh in the event he has anything to share. Thanks always for your service and very truly yours,

Dick Springer, Manager
West Multnomah Soil & Water
Conservation District
2701 NW Vaughn St., Ste. 450
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(f) 503.326.3942

PS -- I'm sure glad not to be in Salem for the February session. I believe our legislators have already 'walked the plank' for the Governor and agree with Courtney on the CRC.

FACT SHEET

Sturgeon Lake Restoration & Funding

2.2014

Needed: Approximately \$1.6 million

Of the total cost of \$7.5 million, this figure represents West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District's share (25%) of Section 1135 authorization matching funds. The funds are to be used both for the feasibility study and the actual restoration.

History:

Since the construction of the Sauvie Island levee by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), open water habitat on the island has been reduced by 45%. The levee and the upstream dams have altered hydrology and sedimentation in the lake which continues to reduce in size.

Today, Sturgeon Lake covers 3,000 acres, yet grows to almost 7,000 acres when the Columbia River reaches flood stage (19 feet) or above. These winter high water periods benefit fish and wildlife the most. The lake offers winter habitat to 200,000 geese alone. In addition, juvenile salmonids will leave the main river and seek refuge from high flows within the lake and sloughs. They use this time to increase in size and heartiness which in turn increases their likelihood of survival when they reach the ocean.

A partnership in the 1980's, led in part by West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, attempted to reverse the increasing sedimentation in the lake by cutting a new channel from the Columbia River through Dairy Creek. Then Congressman Les AuCoin was very instrumental in providing federal funds and was present at the dedication in 1990. However, the channel was blocked by the February 1996 floods and water passage has been restricted ever since.

Current situation: In 2010 the USACE was authorized to create a new feasibility study to better understand what went wrong in past efforts as well as look for permanent, sustainable solutions to the problem. WMSWCD signed on as the "Project Sponsor" with the primary role of providing matching funds at the implementation stage of the project. In December 2011, a large group of partners and landowners drafted over 30 possible solutions meant to achieve the following project goals:

- Provide new, direct fish access between the main stem Columbia River and Sturgeon Lake. Project would benefit Chinook, Coho, and steelhead.
- Improve daily tidal amplitude within the lake, thereby improving habitat complexity, supporting native plant communities and open water habitats.
- Maximize direct hydrologic exchange with the Columbia River during flood events to restore the natural process including wood debris and food prey transport.

Since December 2011, those goals have been refined to focus on enhancements to Dairy Creek, possible new channels between the Columbia River and Sturgeon Lake, and alterations to the Sauvie Island levee and drainage system for the benefit of the lake.

On September 20, 2013 the first public draft of the study and plan for restoration was released for public comment. In the Plan, the Corps three major problems with maintaining the Dairy Creek channel and therefore reducing sediment inputs into the lake.

- Debris (logs) and sediment from the Columbia River are entering Dairy Creek and depositing at the mouth. The solution is an improved log boom and "eddy control" structures to keep material out of Dairy Creek
- Sediment in Dairy Creek, mostly deposited in 1996, only allows flow through Dairy Creek to the Lake during average high water (12-15 ft). The existing sediment will be removed, and Dairy Creek will be reconstructed to a "two-stage" channel. A small "low flow" channel keeps velocities up and prevents sedimentation while a "high flow" or flood channel allows for the maximum movement of water during floods.
- The Dairy Creek culverts at Reeder Road are undersized, failing and greatly restrict flow. The culverts would be replaced with either two 42-foot concrete arches or a 100-foot full-span bridge.

Funding Situation: Two project phases need funding; the feasibility study and the actual restoration. With the draft of the feasibility study now released, WMSWCD must work with the USACE to draft a Project Partnership Agreement. This means that WMSWCD will be responsible for providing 25% of the study and restoration costs (a total of approximately \$1.6 million).

Currently, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) has earmarked \$42,500 for the project to cover a portion of the feasibility study. Bonneville Power Administration is looking into the project for its own mitigation needs; however it is unclear if it will be able to contribute after evaluating the project. Lack of data on the actual use of large off-channel lakes by salmonids leads them to “score” the project much lower than was otherwise thought.

If funding for the feasibility study is not fulfilled, the entire project will be in jeopardy as WMSWCD will likely not be able to cover the costs through the Conservation District’s annual budget. It will take a much larger partnership effort to fully fund the restoration implementation.

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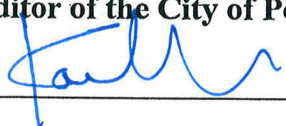
Request of Dick Springer to address Council regarding the restoration of Sturgeon Lake on Sauvie Island (Communication)

APR 16 2014

PLACED ON FILE

Filed APR 11 2014

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		