CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Study Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: May 10, 2011 Time: approximately 11:00 AM Length: 30 minutes

Presentation Title: Flood Erosion Hazard Study Grant Proposal

Department: Emergency Management, Transportation & Development, Water Environment Services, County Administration

Presenters: Jay Wilson, Mike McCallister, Steve Hanschka, Liz Garcia, Laurel Butman

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

This section lays out the context for consideration of a potential Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) grant application related to Sandy River Sustainable Flood Recovery for $100,000 – $125,000 which requires a local match of 25% ($25,000 – $31,250).

The upper Sandy River has recurrent flood events that are characterized by significant bank erosion and channel migration when log jams and gravel bars create flood flow impediments. The upper river has a steep gradient and its floodplain geology is highly erodible.

Following the January 16, 2011 flood event along the Sandy River, Clackamas County departments began working with state and federal regulatory agencies to develop a consolidated approach for all homeowners to work together in affected areas to protect their properties with a preferred method of bio-engineered bank stabilization and other approaches.

Staff recently completed property owner meetings and is coordinating with other State and Federal agencies to develop a "Regional General Permit" tailored to this area of the Sandy River. The use of this permit by resident property owners will significantly streamline the permitting process and meet the requirements of County, State and Federal agencies. Staff and the agencies are also beginning work on a Sandy River Sustainable Flood Recovery Strategy. At this time the County has no formal flood recovery goals and objectives for property owners to reference when they are deliberating possible recovery projects and who to hire for technical consultation. Deliberation and adoption of flood recovery policy now will support:

- The County's future efforts for expanded floodplain management following the next significant flood event on the Sandy River; and
- Completion of the new Sandy flood hazard maps currently in process.

Goals and objectives of the Strategy would support a "No Adverse Impacts" concept promoted by the Association of State Floodplain Managers and are critical for consideration of how projects are designed, reviewed, approved, engineered and inspected. These parameters can also provide legal support for how regulatory agencies address violations and how homeowners register complaints about unpermitted work.

One important component of developing the Strategy is assessing current conditions and trends of bank erosion (including the effects of existing riprap) in the Sandy River's stream channel to

be considered upstream and downstream with each potential project area. Short-term updates and long-term changes to floodplain hazard area boundaries necessitate a coordinated strategy.

The objective of a planned Flood Erosion Hazard Study (Study) is to develop a report on the flood erosion hazard of the upper reaches of the Sandy River and provide a technical basis for design criteria for a test method of bank stabilization, called bio-engineering. The Study will provide the foundation for implementation of one or more demonstration test projects of bio-engineering to demonstrate its viability for a sustainable, equitable, and cost-effective approach for improving public safety and overall river functionality. The Study areas will include Timberline Rim and the area along East Lolo Pass Road across from Autumn Lane.

The Study will also re-characterize the nature of flood hazard along the upper Sandy River and address impacts of current conditions in the river affecting property protection, including new and historic riprap and armored revetments. The Study will thus compliment the policy discussion surrounding the Sandy River Sustainable Flood Recovery Strategy and pave the way for future public education for "Living with the River." This Study will, further, provide objective information for landowners based on best available science.

Staff proposes pursuing FEMA funding for this Study. Under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, FEMA will cover up to 75% of eligible study costs. The estimated cost of the Flood Erosion Hazard Study is $100,000 – 125,000. The FEMA grant program requires a local match of 25% which would be $25,000 – $31,250. Local match would come either from the General Fund or through cost sharing among WES, DTD and the General Fund.

If the Board directs staff to pursue this grant application, Board action to approve the application process will take place at a regular Board business meeting. Further, if grant funds were to be awarded, deliberation regarding County acceptance of those funds would also occur at a regular business meeting.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. Direct staff to prepare a Board action item to approve the FEMA grant application
2. Direct staff not apply for the FEMA grant

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff respectfully recommends pursuit of these grant funds through an application to FEMA with matching fund requirements shared across WES, DTD and the General Fund.

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

Should the County take action to pursue this grant opportunity?

SCHEDULE FOR STUDY SESSION

Division Director/Head Approval _____
Department Director/Head Approval _____
County Administrator Approval SW