

## **CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

### **Staff Presentation Worksheet**

Presentation Date: March 15, 2011      Time: 10:45am      Length: 30 minutes

Presentation Title: Senate Bill 752 – Metropolitan Service District

Department: Business and Community Services

Presenters: Gary Barth; Director of Business and Community Services, Jim Desmond; Metro, and Mike Wetter; The Intertwine

#### **POLICY QUESTION**

Does the Board of County Commissioners - in their capacity as the County Board as well as the elected board of the North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District (NCPRD) - support proposed legislation that would provide Metro the authority to establish a region-wide Metropolitan Service District which may acquire, construct, maintain and operate facilities for publicly owned natural areas, open space, trails and regional parks?

#### **ISSUE & BACKGROUND**

A coalition of parks providers and natural resource advocates throughout the Portland-Vancouver Metro

Region has joined forces to connect our network of parks, trails and natural areas in the Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington region under a common name of The Intertwine.

The Intertwine provides unparalleled opportunities to preserve natural areas, open spaces, water and wildlife habitat. The Intertwine reflects our region's passion for quality of life by encouraging recreation, connection to nature, and active transportation like walking, running and biking. As our urban areas grow denser, The Intertwine promotes the health and happiness we, as citizens of the Pacific Northwest, so dearly value.

The Intertwine is nothing new. It's simply the name given to the amazing network of parks, trails and natural areas in the Portland-Vancouver area.

Recent discussions among the regional coalition has focused on identifying long term sustainable sources of revenue that will provide for the ongoing acquisition, construction, maintenance and operations of publicly owned facilities, natural areas, open space, trails and regional parks. These assets are currently under ownership and management by multiple public agencies throughout the region.

Many options have been discussed including the creation of a Metropolitan Service District formed for this explicit purpose. Proposed funding sources for this District are outlined in Section 8 of Senate Bill 752, a copy of which is attached to Staff Presentation Worksheet.

Metro has taken extra effort to consult with NCPRD and Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District (THPRD), the only two Parks Districts in the Metro region, to assist on formulating this strategy and proposed legislation. They have given presentations to

both the NCPRD District Advisory Board and the THPRD elected board and received general support to proceed.

Representatives from Metro and The Intertwine Alliance will be attending the study session to provide further background on this proposed legislation for consideration.

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Does the BCC support the proposed legislation contain in SB 752?

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. Support the proposed legislation. Pros: new sources of revenue for maintenance and improvements to public-owned open spaces, trails, and natural areas. Cons: possibly new taxes to residents, possible negative impacts on NCPRD's ability to increase local funding in the future
2. Do not support the proposed legislation. Pros: no new potential taxes or additional financial contributions from the public. Cons: lack of dedicated funding to preserve and maintain public open spaces, trails, and natural areas.
3. Support the proposed legislation with recommended provisions or modifications.

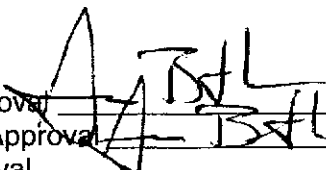
RECOMMENDATIONS

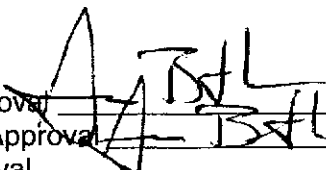
BCS staff representing the NCPRD and County Parks respectfully recommends that the BCC support Metro's proposed legislation, enabling Metro to form a Metropolitan Service District to fund the care and maintenance of the publicly owned open spaces and natural resource areas within the Metropolitan Service District boundaries.

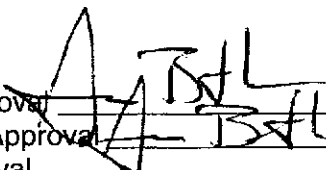
The potential benefit to NCPRD and County Parks is a new revenue source to help maintain the natural resources, trails, and open spaces under management, relieving pressure on our local operating budgets. Similar to our Clackamas County Library District, this special District would have the ability to collect revenue and then distribute that revenue to parks providers throughout the region based on a formula to be developed by the coalition.

If legislation providing Metro with the ability to form a Metropolitan Service District is not enacted then other revenue sources will need to be identified to meet the long-term maintenance and capital needs of the regions natural areas, trails and open spaces.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval 

Department Director/Head Approval 

County Administrator Approval 

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Gary Barth @ 503-742-4299