

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Study Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 7/23/13 **Approx Start Time:** ^{9:30}~~10:00~~ AM **Approx Length:** 60 minutes

Presentation Title: Sandy River Flood Recovery grants and activities update

Department: Emergency Management, Transportation & Development, County Administration

Presenters: Jay Wilson, Mike Bezner, Laurel Butman

Other Invitees: Sandy River Sustainable Flood Recovery group members

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

1. Approval to receive a grant and enter into a separate interagency agreement
2. Otherwise, information only

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Upper Sandy River has recurrent flood events characterized by significant bank erosion and channel migration. Following the January 2011 flood event, which significantly affected some residents and properties, Clackamas County worked with State and Federal regulatory agencies to develop a consolidated approach for all homeowners to work toward flood recovery, coordinate permitting information, and prepare for future flooding events.

Since then, County staff and the agencies continue to work together on a Sandy River Sustainable Flood Recovery Strategy to support future efforts for expanded floodplain management following the next significant flood event on the Sandy River. Goals and objectives of the Strategy, which will support a "No Adverse Impacts" concept promoted by the Association of State Floodplain Managers, are critical for considering how recovery 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.

The goal of this Study Session is to brief the Board on recent activities and share objectives for the upcoming winter rain season during which additional flooding events could occur. Additionally, some County departments involved with the Recovery group have recently received notice of financial and/or technical assistance grants and support for these efforts. Some have already received Board approval for acceptance; today we are seeking approval for any outstanding support awarded.

Recent Activities of Note

1. Emergency Management has begun planning work on the third and final buyout due to the 2011 flood. It is hoped that demolition of the home can be done during the in-water work period which began July 15. FEMA is providing partial funding for this work.
2. A mitigation project related to the Lolo Pass Road reconstruction was recently approved and is moving forward.

3. Flood hazard mapping and flood insurance coverage are critical aspects of reducing flood risk on the Upper Sandy River. FEMA will be releasing a brand new set of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) later this fall and we expect changes from the 20 year old maps. Also, Congress has recently approved the National Flood Insurance Reform Act (Biggert-Waters 2012) and there will be definite impacts to policy holders throughout the County, but especially to this newly mapped area on the Sandy. One of the main goals of our public outreach – see next item (#4) – is to get ahead of these changes so those with flood risk can make informed decisions about flood insurance.
4. We are planning for our second annual ½ day “Flood of Information” event up the mountain in conjunction with a ½ day public workshop to lay the ground work for establishing a community flood risk management committee to explore ways to address flood impacts and possible mitigation options. (See also third bullet under #5 below)
5. We also have several parallel partnership projects in the works:
 - Emergency Management is waiting the funding for a FEMA grant awarded for the Flood Erosion Evaluation Project (\$125,000 project, includes 25% County match budgeted in the General Fund for FY 2013-14).
Receipt of funding has been approved by the County Board of Commissioners.
 - The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has chosen the Hoodland area of the County for a technical assistance public involvement project which will help with public outreach regarding Sandy River flooding to lay the ground work for establishing a community flood risk management committee to explore ways to address flood impacts and possible mitigation options. This project is the only project the Corps chose outside its own agency and is the only rural community selected.
Interagency agreement needs to be approved by the County Board of Commissioners.
 - Transportation & Development is being awarded a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grant to conduct a feasibility study regarding potential Lolo Pass Road alternative routes (\$520,000 award with 10.27% match from Road Fund). This project is one of only 15 nationwide, and the only project in Oregon, chosen to receive funding from excess funds from previously awarded projects.
Receipt of funding needs to be approved by the County Board of Commissioners.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

With the exception of additional grant funding or in-kind technical assistance received, all work is being accomplished within already established budgets.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

1. For the Lolo Pass Road buyout home demolition (#1 above) the USACE and Division of State Lands informed us that no permits are needed because, though the home was undercut and hangs over the river channel, our plan does not involve disturbing the bank or any in-water work. We continue to work closely with both agencies on this project.
2. There are no other specific legal/policy requirements at this time, but all work and analysis will necessarily include compliance with or planning for compliance with legal requirements. Further, when studies are complete, there may be a need for policy discussions.

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

The Sandy River Sustainable Flood Recovery group actively partners with and involves other agencies (Army Corps, State Lands, National Marine Fisheries, FEMA, DOGAMI, Forest Service), watershed groups, the Villages at Mt. Hood, and the general community in its activities.

OPTIONS:

1. Approve receipt of FHWA grant funding and direct staff to place the item on an upcoming business meeting agenda.
2. Approve, in concept, interagency agreement, and direct staff to place the item on an upcoming business meeting agenda.
3. Direct changes to items 1 and/or 2 and direct staff to place the items on an upcoming business meeting agenda.
4. Do not approve items 1 and/or 2.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff respectfully recommends approval of both receipt of FHWA grant funding and entering into an interagency agreement with the USACE and directing staff to place the items on an upcoming business meeting agenda.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval Jay Wilson, Mike Bezner
Department Director/Head Approval Nancy Bush, Barb Cartmill
County Administrator Approval Laurel Butman, Deputy

For more information, contact Laurel Butman, Deputy County Administrator @ 503-655-8893.

Fiscal Impact Form

RESOURCES:

Is this item in your current work plan and budget?

- YES
 NO

START-UP EXPENSES AND STAFFING (if applicable): N/A

ONGOING OPERATING EXPENSES/SAVINGS AND STAFFING (if applicable): N/A