

Clackamas SWCD Budget: FY 2020-2021

Written Public Comment

Received before 1:30 pm, April 28, 2020

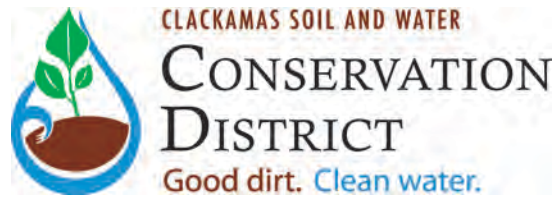
Budget Notes:

- Fiscal year 2020-2021 starts July 1, 2020 and ends on June 30, 2021.
- March 31, 2020: First meeting of the Budget Committee to be held.
- April 28, 2020: Second meeting of the Budget Committee to be held and public comment accepted.
- May 19, 2020: The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on the budget.
- May 19, 2020: The Board of Directors may adopt the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Public Comment Notes:

- Public comment received to date pertains to the "Grants to Partners" line in the budget found on General Fund pages 2, 3, and 9 of the budget in the Special Payments section on lines 33, 23, and 22 respectively.
- Comments are organized by the partner organization they are in support of receiving funding. There is a general section for comments in support of funding for multiple partner organizations.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING GRANT FUNDING FOR MULTIPLE WATERSHED COUNCILS



April 24, 2020

To: CSWCD Board of Directors
Jeff Becker, Chair
Jim Johnson, Zone 2 Director
Jan Lee, At-large Director
Roger Fantz, At-large Director
Jesse Nelson: Vice Chair, Zone 1 Director
Joan Zuber, Zone 4 Director
Dun Guttridge, Zone 5 Director

CSWCD Budget Committee

Dave Albrecht
John Borden
Jessica Collins
Steve Fedje
Terry Muilenburg
Rennie Squier
Jim Toops

CC: Jason Faucera, Budget Committee
Lisa Kilders, Acting General Manager,
Cathy McQueeney, Education & Outreach Specialist

To the Board, Budget Committee, and Staff of CSWCD,

We, the ten Watershed Councils that restore healthy streams and watersheds in Clackamas County, were dismayed to find out that the District's proposed FY20-21 budget eliminates basic mission support for the county's Watershed Councils. We have been very grateful to previously receive support through the Partnership Grant Program, which has significantly expanded our conservation, stewardship, and landowner outreach abilities. While we are aware that the budget situation at the District is limited, the decision to eliminate this funding is the wrong decision. We are writing to provide some needed background on how our work assists in fulfilling the promises the District makes to its landowners, residents, taxpayers, and voters, how this decision, if implemented, will affect both the Councils and the District, and how we propose to move forward together.

Ten Watershed Councils —the Sandy River, Clackamas River Basin, Tualatin River, Tryon Creek, Pudding River, Molalla River, North Clackamas, Johnson Creek, Greater Oregon City, and Oswego Lake Watershed Councils— rely on CSWCD operating support. Together, we vastly extend the reach of the District to rural, suburban, and urban landowners alike, achieving protections and improvements for natural resources that the District could not achieve by itself.

Watershed Councils have provided a vital extension of the CSWCD staff work. As small private nonprofit organizations, we can develop rapport with landowners and stakeholders who aren't

eager to work with government, even government entities as user-friendly as the CSWCD. In the past year alone, what the 10 Councils and the district have achieved together is astounding:

- Restored 15,349 feet – 29 miles – of riparian zone and river channel.
- Planted 163,730 native plants on 1,169 acres. That's one native plant for every 2.5 County residents.
- Engaged 41,836 district residents, landowners, and volunteers in restoration, stewardship, and conservation education. That's nearly 10% of the county's population and more than twice the number of people who can fit into the Moda Center to watch a Blazers game.
- Created and led massive volunteer events in each watershed, such as the Johnson Creek Watershed Wide Event, the North Clackamas Annual Stewardship Day, Molalla River Cleanups, Tryon Creek Watershed Wide Event, Clackamas Down the River Clean Up, Stash the Trash program, and other events that brought 2,746 community members and volunteers together to build a stewardship ethic together.
- Helped CSWCD and local governments fulfill state and federal permit and reporting requirements, such as MS4 and TMDL requirements of ODEQ along with achievements reported for ODA funding. With CSWCD support, additional funding also was generated from ODA to develop a strategic plan for a local Pesticide Stewardship Partnership. The plan will assist local agricultural landowners in meeting stewardship goals without the need for onerous external restrictions in the future.
- Leveraged CSWCD support into \$2,318,487 from other funding sources for projects. This means that for every dollar provided by the District, we raised \$19.65 in cash. The value of in-kind contributions and volunteer time magnifies this even more.
- Extend public awareness of the CSWCD through our web sites, newsletters, social media, community newsletters, and earned media.

Thus, investments in watershed councils reduce CSWCD expenses for program delivery, expand the District's work, and bring increased revenue for our shared mission.

Unfortunately, this proposed elimination of funds will profoundly weaken the ability of Councils to deliver their work, sustain themselves, and in some cases, survive. This risk is severe for several reasons that may not have been evident to the Budget Committee and the Board:

- Most Councils are very small—only three of the Councils in Clackamas County have more than 1 staff person.
- Three of the Councils in Clackamas County are ineligible for OWEB's Watershed Council Capacity Support, which means that CSWCD is their sole significant source of funds for basic operations. Without a source of funds for basic operations, staff time for grant-seeking and fundraising will have to be minimal, since these activities cannot be billed to project grants.
- The result will be a vicious cycle, where the limited fundraising ability weakens the organizations even further.
- The CSWCD's proposed budget came to our attention just after OWEB and several other funders put all future grants on hold. This magnifies the risk to the Councils.

- Without District funding as match, many of the leveraged funds would be lost. As one example, the North Clackamas Watersheds Council was able to use CSWCD funds to meet the required match on a \$62,000 OWEB grant to convene partners to plan the removal of Kellogg Dam. Having received the grant, the Council engaged the many stakeholders, and has been working with the Governor's Natural Resources Office and private funders of ecosystem credit markets to move this major watershed health project forward. The Council is now preparing the project for multi-million dollar future infrastructure funding as part of an anticipated federal stimulus package. None of this progress would have been possible without CSWCD funds to begin the process.

With the County's Watershed Councils being so essential to the District achieving its mission and serving the County well, and the Council's reliance on CSWCD support for basic operations to leverage project funds, we request that the Budget Committee and the Board do the following:

1. Reinstate Watershed Council support funding for FY 20-21;
2. Seek savings and reprioritization within the CSWCD budget, including any savings that may exist from the General Manager vacancy period and/or metered payments to partners to alleviate District cash flow challenges;
3. Work with the Councils collectively over the next year through the District-convened Council of Councils to identify a sustainable long-term future funding engine for CSWCD Watershed Council support.

We have worked in partnership with the District for many years to expand the reach of the District's own staff and budget to bring about healthy watersheds for everyone who lives, works, owns, or manages land in Clackamas County. Together, we achieve results that are orders of magnitude larger than could be accomplished any other way. It would be a great loss to the people of the County if we were to lose that momentum.

Sincerely,

Rita Baker

Rita Baker
Coordinator



Daniel G.S. Newberry

Daniel Newberry
Executive Director



Josef. Ennis

JP Riggsby

Terri Preeg Riggsby

Sara Ennis
Interim Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Halsey".

Jack Halsey
Watershed Coordinator



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott McEwen".

Scott McEwen
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cheryl McGinnis".

Cheryl McGinnis
Executive Director

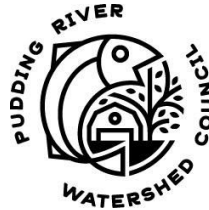


Executive Director



A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Anna Rankin".

Anna Rankin
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Schulman".

Neil Schulman
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Asako Yamamuro".

Asako Yamamuro
Executive Director



April 21, 2020

To: Jeff Becker, Chair, at jbecker@conservationdistrict.org
Jim Johnson, Zone 2 Director, at jjohnson@conservationdistrict.org
Jan Lee, At-large Director, at jlee@conservationdistrict.org
Roger Fantz, At-large Director, at rfantz@conservationdistrict.org
Jesse Nelson, Vice Chair, Zone 1 Director, at jnelson@conservationdistrict.org
Joan Zuber, Zone 4 Director, at jzuber@conservationdistrict.org
Dun Guttridge, Zone 5 Director, at dguttridge@conservationdistrict.org

CC: Jason Faucera, Budget Committee, at jfaucera@conservationdistrict.org
Lisa Kilders, Acting General Manager, at lkilders@conservationdistrict.org

Dear Members of the Board, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District:

We recently learned that the proposed budget of the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) would eliminate funding for watershed councils. We recognize that the CSWCD, like our city and virtually every other publicly funded entity, is concerned about what the current economic downturn will mean for your revenue in the coming year. But we write to express our hope that you might find the ability to restore funding to the watershed councils, which are vital to the health of the environment in Milwaukie and other communities.

The City of Milwaukie is home to the Kellogg/Mt. Scott, and Johnson Creek watersheds, where efforts to restore stream habitat for the fish and wildlife have been underway for many years. We fund vital project work and partnered with our two councils — North Clackamas Watersheds Council and Johnson Creek Watershed Council – on habitat restoration projects. This project funding, however, is only effective with the critical core mission support to these two councils provided by the District. They are vital non-governmental partners who can work with private landowners, implement key projects, engage businesses, and work across the jurisdictional boundaries between cities, counties and special districts.

We have worked, and are committed to continuing to work, with our councils, including but not limited to:

- Funding the Streamside Stewards and Stream Care program that conducts on-the-ground riparian restoration of key habitat in the Kellogg/Mt. Scott and Johnson Creek watersheds, which are home to salmon and steelhead;
- Working with the North Clackamas Watersheds Council toward removal of Kellogg Dam, including working with Governor's Natural Resources Office, the Congressional Delegation, federal and state agencies, Metro, and private investment to move this high-priority project of regional significance forward;
- Working with the Johnson Creek Watershed Council on tree planting along Johnson Creek in Milwaukie, in support of Milwaukie's goal of reaching a 40% tree canopy by 2040, and restoration along the creek in Milwaukie's industrial areas;
- Working with the North Clackamas Watershed Council and the Wetlands Conservancy to map flood attenuation benefits of wetlands in the Kellogg-Mt. Scott watersheds, and to engage the public in stewardship of Minthorn Wetlands;
- Working with both Councils to incorporate climate resilience and strong ecosystem protection measures into the Milwaukie Comprehensive Plan; and



- Conducting numerous public volunteer stewardship projects each year on the Willamette River, Johnson, Mt. Scott, and Kellogg Creeks.

Although some of this project-specific work comes with funding from the city, county, or individual landowners, the planning and execution of such project-specific work is made possible by the general support that CSWCD funding supplies to core budget of the Johnson Creek and North Clackamas Watersheds Councils. The CSWCD funding also supports the important work of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council's AmeriCorps volunteer in local schools and with community groups.

Crucially, supporting the councils is also vital to the CSWCD's interest. The strongest support for the CSWCD tax base and for environmental stewardship has been the urban and suburban population, a large portion of which is based in Milwaukie. Watershed councils are a vital way in which the CSWCD reaches these populations, and indeed the councils regularly share CSWCD content in their social media platforms. Losing this vehicle for sustaining public support would be counterproductive.

We ask that you reinstate this important funding for the North Clackamas Watersheds Council, Johnson Creek Watershed Council and for all the councils in Clackamas County.

Thank you for your consideration, and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Gamba', written in a cursive style.

Mark Gamba, Mayor
For the Milwaukie City Council

CC: Neil Schulman, Executive Director, North Clackamas Watersheds Council
Daniel Newberry, Executive Director, Johnson Creek Watershed Council

Comments submitted from Clackamas SWCD Website and email regarding Council Support Grants in General

Michael S Goodman

4/22/2020

NO funding cuts for any of the watershed committee organizations!

James Martin

4/22/2020

Please retain funding for the Watersheds Councils in Clackamas County. I served for 11 years on a local Sanitary District. Every year, the local Watershed Council, appeared at our budget meeting to propose a joint project within our watershed, whose protection was also our responsibility. Every year we approved the project spending. Those projects were always a highlight of our year's accomplishments.

Larry Short

4/22/2020

As a Streamside Steward and a long time county resident (Clackamas High class of 1966) I heartily endorse the work of our Watershed Councils. I live on Riverforest Creek and maintain a riparian buffer with help from these folks. I advocate the removal of the Kellogg Creek dam and the Riverforest Creek dam. I was saddened by the loss of the opportunity to make the former Evangelical property on River Road part of our public assets (no thanks to Tootie and Ludlow). Please fund these Councils in the future.

Blair Wardwell

Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

4/22/2020

My name is Blair Wardwell. I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask to maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year. My family and I frequently walk and run along Mt. Scott Creek, and I have witnessed how the creek has

benefitted from this program through riparian restoration, including invasive species removal, stewardship projects, stewardship events, and healthier streams as a result of my local Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watershed Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Cutting this funding would be a great loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the coming year.

Thank you,

Blair Wardwell

Kay Deines

4/22/2020

Please restore support for the local Watershed Commissions to the 2020-2021 budget. These Commissions do invaluable environmental good to our local riparian areas. This work is important, and deserving of our support thru our property taxes paid to the Soil and Water Conservation District. I am a landowner and taxpayer in Clackamas County- in unincorporated Clackamas County. Thank you for considering my request. Kay Deines, Jennings Lodge

William (and Georgia) Lenon

Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

4/22/2020

My name is William Lenon, former member of the Board of Directors of the Clackamas River Basin Council. I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year . As a taxpayer, I, and many others, have benefitted from this program through a riparian restoration, including invasive species removal, stewardship projects, stewardship events, and healthier streams as a result of my local Watershed Councils, the North Clackamas Watershed Council and the Clackamas River Basin Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Councils to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Cutting this funding would be a great loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the coming year.

Thank you,

William (and Georgia) Lenon

Walter Matera

4/22/2020

Hello,

Please keep things in perspective. The Watershed Councils are entirely too important to be casually budgeted out of existence. Water is the lifeblood of the PNW and our own watersheds are what connect us to it. I would no more give them up than I would the fire department. It's that vital.

Thank-you

Walter

Louella Gordian

4/23/2020

Please reinstate the Watershed Tax that helps keep our area in the healthy state that we have enjoyed for years. It also promotes citizen participation in the health of the community's natural open areas and this saves money by encouraging volunteers to do the actual physical labor on many projects.

Christi Cawood

4/23/2020

As a Clackamas County taxpayer, resident, and homeowner, I am writing to request that you maintain funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program. Our natural areas, waterways, etc. need to continue to receive the care they have through the efforts of the Watershed Council. I have volunteered many times to clean waterways, pull ivy and other invasive species, and plant native species. What a difference it makes. Our planet, and Clackamas County in particular deserve and need the funding for this program. Please reinstate the funding this year.

Thank you,

Christi Cawood

Jan Rose

4/24/2020

Hello Cathy

After seeing some of the costs and overrides for the new building, I am writing to you. I hope that you will pass this on to those who make the money decisions at Soil & Water.

I am almost positive that the votes of the county would NOT have approved CSWCD's ask for a new building if they had known the eventual cost of things. What that means is that NOW the conservatives in the county have ammunition for not only Soil & Water but also many other county budgets. It's unfortunate that this had to happen.

To secure a new building and furnishings and then tell WaterSheds that there will be little to no money for them is not only irresponsible but damages the whole county.

Please make sure that those who made these terrible errors in building a new space for Soil & Water are aware of the jeopardy in which they have put the whole organization and possible the whole county. The last couple of years was not the time to be extravagant with taxpayer money.

Thank you for all that you do. I have faith in you--not so much others at CSWCD.

With regrets

Jan Rose

Steve Rayne

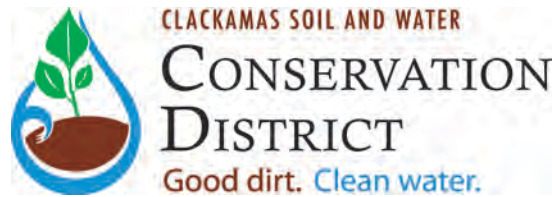
4/24/2020

Dear Clackamas SWCD Budget Committee

I own 200 acres of farm and forest land in Clackamas County and was shocked to hear that you plan to slash the funding to Watershed Councils in our County. My property is along the Sandy and I have seen the direct results of the Watershed's use of SWCD funds in the past. The Council has been a steady partner in helping restore the Sandy by eliminating invasive species like knotweed and policeman's helmet, planting trees and other native plants, and restoring side channels to prevent flooding and provide critical salmon habitat. Your basic level of support helps the council leverage other grant funding thereby multiplying the good done for our River. Please reconsider the proposed action and restore the level of funding back to last year's support.

Sincerely, Steve Rayne

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING GRANT FUNDING FOR NORTH CLACKAMAS WATERSHEDS COUNCIL





2416 SE Lake Road, Milwaukie, OR 97222 - 503-550-9282 - northclackamaswatersheds.org

To: Jeff Becker, Chair
Jim Johnson, Zone 2 Director
Jan Lee, At-large Director
Roger Fantz, At-large Director
Jesse Nelson: Vice Chair, Zone 1 Director
Joan Zuber, Zone 4 Director
Dun Guttridge, Zone 5 Director

CC: Jason Faucera, Budget Committee, jfaucera@conservationdistrict.org
Lisa Kilders, Acting General Manager, lkilders@conservationdistrict.org

Dear Jim and Jeff,

We were quite troubled to hear of the District's proposed cut of all Watershed Council support funds from the CSWCD in 2020-21, in the third year of our 3-year award. This funding is critical to our work in some of the most populous watersheds in Clackamas County, and where we have the best chance of integrating functioning watersheds with healthy human communities. Over the past few years, the CSWCD has been a major factor in the Council's growth and the expansion of our stewardship work. However, the possibility that the Clackamas SWCD might cut its' funding to our Council, and other Watershed Councils, threatens to undo all that growth. Furthermore, it will weaken the District's effectiveness as well. We ask that you reinstate Watershed Council funding in 2020-21 at the same level as 2019-20.

This funding is particularly critical to our Council because, due to the date of our founding, we are ineligible for OWEB Watershed Council Capacity grants. Therefore, the CSWCD is our sole source of funding for Core Mission Support to keep the basic operations of our Council running. Eliminating these funds in the current economic climate jeopardizes our survival as a Council. The same is true of many of the small Councils in Clackamas County, which operate with one (or fewer) staff people and may not be able to absorb this loss.

With the District's support, we have:

- Restored riparian vegetation on 163 private parcels with 159 different landowners, in four watersheds, revegetating 18,031 feet of riparian habitat
- Conducted the first Bio-Assessment of Kellogg/Mt. Scott, River Forest, Boardman, Rinearson creeks, and a stretch of the Willamette. We are now developing a Watershed

Action Plan that will prioritize restoration projects for years to come, and will pre-design high priority projects so they can advance to implementation.

- With SWCD, Clackamas River Basin Council, Greater Oregon City Watershed Council, and Johnson Creek Watershed Council, we leveraged OWEB funding through the Clackamas Partnership to secure multimillion dollar investments in salmon restoration for the Clackamas Fish population. (These funds, as you likely know from Tom's involvement, are strictly for projects and cannot be used to support Council operations.
- Convening stakeholders to advance the removal of Kellogg Dam, and restore fish passage to Kellogg and Mt. Scott watersheds. We've engaged the Governor's Natural Resources Office, the Congressional Delegation, federal and state agencies, Metro, the City of Milwaukie, and private investment to move this high-priority project of regional significance forward. We are currently working hard to prepare this project for federal funding via a likely stimulus package.
- Conducted many public volunteer stewardship projects on the Willamette River, Rinearson, Boardman, Mt. Scott, and Kellogg Creeks, working in partnership with the District on our Watershed Cleanup and Stewardship Day and restoration of Olson Wetlands in partnership with a low-income housing nonprofit, and to restore the headwaters of Mt. Scott Creek.
- Are working with Clackamas WES, Oak Lodge Water Services, the Wetlands Conservancy, and the City of Milwaukie to map the flood attenuation benefits of wetlands, promote an understanding of the ecosystem services of wetlands, identify future wetland restoration projects, and model climate change impact on late-season water availability.
- In the age of covid, we are developing online workshop curricula to share with landowners who are sheltering in place but eager to improve their properties.

But most importantly, we are the locally, based, non-governmental stewardship partner for an area of 163,000 people—equal to Oregon's 4th-largest city, equal to Eugene. To *not* have an effective Watershed Council for a population this large that supported the District at the ballot box would be large step backwards.

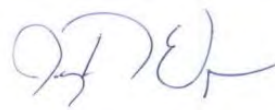
Covid poses a challenge for all of us. At this time, more than any other, the community of those who work for healthier watersheds must meet it together. In the past, CSWCD has been the convening entity that has supported, strengthened, and facilitated collaboration among watershed Councils. CSWCD funding is critical to our survival and ability to implement our programs than ever. It would be a terrible loss to the communities we all serve if we had to abandon what we've built together.

I ask that you reinstate this funding for both the North Clackamas Watershed Council, and for all the Councils in Clackamas County.

Sincerely,



Neil Schulman
Executive Director



Joseph Edge
Board Chair



2416 SE Lake Road, Milwaukie, OR 97222 - 503-550-9282 - northclackamaswatersheds.org

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Jim Johnson, Zone 2 Director
Jan Lee, At-large Director
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Don Guttridge, Zone 5 Director

CC: Jason Faucera, Budget Committee, jfaucera@conservationdistrict.org
Lisa Kilders, Acting General Manager, lkilders@conservationdistrict.org
Budget Committee

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This funding is particularly critical to our Council because, due to the date of our founding, we are ineligible for OWEB Watershed Council Capacity grants. Therefore, the CSWCD is our sole source of funding for Core Mission Support to keep the basic operations of our Council running. Eliminating these funds in the current economic climate jeopardizes our survival as a Council. The same is true of many of the small Councils in Clackamas County, which operate with one (or fewer) staff people and may not be able to absorb this loss.

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Action Plan that will prioritize restoration projects for years to come, and will pre-design high priority projects so they can advance to implementation.

- With SWCD, Clackamas River Basin Council, Greater Oregon City Watershed Council, and Johnson Creek Watershed Council, we leveraged OWEB funding through the Clackamas Partnership to secure multimillion dollar investments in salmon restoration for the Clackamas Fish population. (These funds, as you likely know from Tom's involvement, are strictly for projects and cannot be used to support Council operations.
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- In the age of covid, we are developing online workshop curricula to share with landowners who are sheltering in place but eager to improve their properties.

The other critical factor to consider is what the impacts will be on Watershed Councils if this funding is removed, especially two years into a 3-year agreement. The effects will be severe:

- *All but two Watershed Councils in the County are very small, operating with minimal staff.* The North Clackamas Watershed Council has only 1 FTE; several are .5 FTE. However, we are able to "punch above our weight because District funding has been reliable. Without this base of funding, we will struggle to pay salary and general operations like insurance, etc.
- *The District funding is our sole grant that can be for base operations.* The North Clackamas Watersheds Council is not alone in Clackamas County about being ineligible (due to dates of founding) for operating support from OWEB. The vast majority of other grants are all project grants, which means most of the money is spent on specific line items like plants, materials, supplies, etc.
- *Without CSWCD funding, our ability to raise other funds would be limited.* Because project grants can't be used for fundraising, we will struggle to actually write future project or operating grants because we won't be able to dedicate the staff time to fundraising—it must be billed to projects to be reimbursed.
- *CSWCD funding is critical in providing match that leads to more money.* Councils have been able to use the CSWCD funding—especially given the multi-year agreement—to leverage other funding. For instance, the North Clackamas Watershed Council was able to use our CSWCD funding as match to apply for an OWEB Stakeholder Engagement Grant to move the process forward to restore a free-flowing Kellogg Creek. However, without CSWCD base funding, we wouldn't have had enough qualifying matching funds to even apply. We received the grant, and have

since engaged the Governor's Natural Resources office in moving the project forward, and have asked to prepare it for stimulus funding. Without CSWCD base funding none of this would have been possible.

- *CSWCD Funds are Critical to Surviving in Tough Times.* Nonprofit resilience is directly tied to the amount of unrestricted revenue: unlike tax property revenues, almost all of our other funds are tied to specific both projects, and specific line items, from office supplies to mileage reimbursement, and are typically difficult to change. Funds for general operating are rare; without these funds, it will be very hard to keep the organization running, develop future projects, keep staff on board, and engage with the community.

The North Clackamas Watersheds Council is the only locally-based, non-governmental stewardship partner for an area of 163,000 people—equal to Oregon's 4th-largest city, equal to Eugene. To *not* have an effective Watershed Council for a population this large that supported the District at the ballot box would be large step backwards.

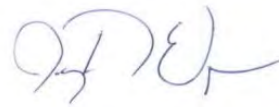
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I ask that you reinstate this funding for both the North Clackamas Watershed Council, and for all the Councils in Clackamas County.

Sincerely,



Neil Schulman
Executive Director



Joseph Edge
Board Chair



2416 SE Lake Road, Milwaukie, OR 97222 - 503-550-9282 - northclackamaswatersheds.org

April 23, 2020

To: Jeff Becker, Chair
Jim Johnson, Zone 2 Director
Jan Lee, At-large Director
Roger Fantz, At-large Director
Jesse Nelson: Vice Chair, Zone 1 Director
Joan Zuber, Zone 4 Director
Don Guttridge, Zone 5 Director

CSWCD Budget Committee

Dave Albrecht
John Borden
Jessica Collins
Steve Fedje
Terry Muilenburg
Rennie Squier
Jim Toops

CC: Jason Faucera, Budget Committee,
Lisa Kilders, Acting General Manager
Cathy McQueeney, Education & Outreach Specialist

Dear Jim and Jeff,

We were quite troubled to hear of the District's proposed cut of all Watershed Council support funds from the CSWCD in 2020-21, the third year of our 3-year award. For the past several years, CSWCD's operational funding has been the foundation of our success and growth, for which we are extremely grateful. This funding has been the catalyst for our recent expansion in some of the most populous watersheds in Clackamas County, and where we have the best chance of integrating functioning watersheds with healthy human communities. The proposed budget that eliminates funding to our Council, and our 9 partner Watershed Councils, will weaken conservation efforts throughout both our watersheds and Clackamas County overall. Furthermore, it will weaken the District's effectiveness. We ask that you reinstate Watershed Council funding in 2020-21 at the same level as 2019-20.

This funding is particularly critical to our Council because we are ineligible for OWEB Watershed Council Capacity grants. Therefore, the CSWCD is our sole source of funding for the basic operations of our Council running. Eliminating these funds in the current economic climate jeopardizes our survival as a Council, especially as other typically-reliable funders of Councils (OWEB and Patagonia, recently) have also suspended grantmaking. Given that only three of the ten Councils in Clackamas County have more than one staff person, several other Councils in Clackamas may also not be able to sustain the blow.

With the District's support, we have:

- Restored riparian vegetation on 163 private parcels with 159 different landowners, in four watersheds, revegetating 18,031 feet of riparian habitat
- Conducted the first Bio-Assessment of Kellogg/Mt. Scott, River Forest, Boardman, Rinearson creeks, and a stretch of the Willamette. We are now developing a Watershed Action Plan that will prioritize restoration projects for years to come, and will pre-design high priority projects so they can advance to implementation.
- With SWCD, Clackamas River Basin Council, Greater Oregon City Watershed Council, and Johnson Creek Watershed Council, we leveraged OWEB funding through the Clackamas Partnership to secure multimillion dollar investments in salmon restoration for the Clackamas Fish population. (These funds, as you likely know from Tom's involvement, are strictly for projects and cannot be used to support Council operations.)
- Convening stakeholders to advance the removal of Kellogg Dam, and restore fish passage to Kellogg and Mt. Scott watersheds. We've engaged the Governor's Natural Resources Office, the Congressional Delegation, federal and state agencies, Metro, the City of Milwaukie, and private investment to move this high-priority project of regional significance forward. We are currently working hard to prepare this project for federal funding via a likely stimulus package.
- Conducted many public volunteer stewardship projects on the Willamette River, Rinearson, Boardman, Mt. Scott, and Kellogg Creeks, working in partnership with the District on our Watershed Cleanup and Stewardship Day and restoration of Olson Wetlands in partnership with a low-income housing nonprofit, and to restore the headwaters of Mt. Scott Creek.
- Are working with Clackamas WES, the Wetlands Conservancy, and the City of Milwaukie to map the flood attenuation that specific wetlands provide to specific property owners, promote an understanding of the ecosystem services of wetlands, identify future wetland restoration projects, and model climate change impact on late-season water availability.
- In the age of Covid-19, we are developing online workshop curricula to share with landowners who are sheltering in place but eager to improve their properties.

The other critical factor to consider is what the impacts will be on Watershed Councils if this funding is removed. The effects will be severe:

- *All but three Watershed Councils in the County are very small, operating with one or fewer staff. The North Clackamas Watershed Council has only 1 FTE; several are .5 FTE. However, we are able to punch above our weight because District funding has been reliable. Without this base of funding, we will struggle to pay salary and general operations like insurance, etc.*
- *The District funding is our sole grant that can be for base operations. The North Clackamas Watersheds Council is not alone in Clackamas County in being ineligible*

(due to dates of founding) for operating support from OWEB: this applies to two other Clackamas County Watershed Councils as well. The vast majority of other grants are all project grants, which means most of the money is spent on specific line items like plants, materials, supplies, etc.

- *Without CSWCD funding, our ability to raise other funds would be limited.* Because project grants can't be used for fundraising, we would struggle to write future grants because we won't be able to dedicate the staff time to fundraising.
- *CSWCD funding is critical in providing match that leads to more money.* Councils have been able to use the CSWCD funding—especially given the multi-year agreement—to leverage other funding. For instance, the North Clackamas Watershed Council was able to use our CSWCD funding as match to apply for an OWEB Stakeholder Engagement Grant to advance the process to restore a free-flowing Kellogg Creek, an eight-figure infrastructure project. However, without CSWCD base funding, we wouldn't have had enough qualifying matching funds to even apply. We received the grant, the Governor's Natural Resources Office is now mobilizing the 4 state agencies involved, and the Council has been asked to prepare the project for federal stimulus funding expected as part of the COVID-19 recovery. Without CSWCD base funding, none of this would be possible.
- *CSWCD Funds are Critical to Surviving in Tough Times.* Nonprofit resilience is directly tied to the amount of unrestricted revenue: almost all the Council's other funds are tied to both specific projects and line items. Funds for general operating are rare; without these funds, it will be very hard to keep the organization running, develop future projects, keep staff on board, and engage with the community.

The North Clackamas Watersheds Council is the only locally-based, non-governmental stewardship partner for an area of 163,000 people—equal to Oregon's 4th-largest city, equal to Eugene. To *not* have an effective Watershed Council for a population this large that supported the District at the ballot box would be large step backwards.

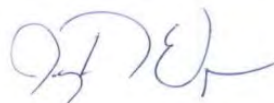
This particular time is a challenge for all of us. The community of those who work for healthier watersheds must meet it together. In the past, CSWCD has been the convening entity that has supported, strengthened, and facilitated collaboration among watershed Councils. CSWCD funding is critical to our survival and ability to implement our programs than ever. It would be a terrible loss to the communities we both serve if we lost what we've built together.

We ask that you reinstate this funding for both the North Clackamas Watershed Council, and for all the Watershed Councils in Clackamas County.

Sincerely,



Neil Schulman
Executive Director



Joseph Edge
Board Chair



April 22, 2020

To: Jeff Becker, Chair, Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District
Jim Johnson, Zone 2 Director
Jason Faucera, Budget Committee
Lisa Kilders, Acting General Manager

Dear Jeff, Jim, Jason, and Lisa,

Hello. We are writing as a board representative for the North Clackamas Watersheds Council, a community-based stewardship nonprofit that works to engage people in bringing about healthy watersheds in North Clackamas County. As a jurisdictional board supporter, Oak Lodge Water Services District (OLWS) has been proud to help guide the Council as it has grown over the years. However, the possibility that the Clackamas SWCD might cut the funding to NCWC, and other Watershed Councils, threatens to undo that growth. OLWS asks that you reinstate Watershed Council funding in 2020-21 at the same level as 2019-20.

This funding is particularly critical to our Council because, due to the date of our founding, we are ineligible for OWEB Watershed Council Capacity grants. Therefore, the CSWCD is currently the primary source of funding for Core Mission Support to keep the basic operations of our Council running. Without these funds, we will be far less able to sustain our work.

With the District's support, NCWC has:

- Restored riparian vegetation on 163 private parcels with 159 different landowners, in four watersheds, revegetating 18,031 feet of riparian habitat.
- Conducted the first Bio-Assessment of Kellogg/Mt. Scott, River Forest, Boardman, Rinearson creeks, and a stretch of the Willamette. We are now developing a Watershed Action Plan that will prioritize restoration projects for years to come and will pre-design high priority projects so they can advance to implementation.
- Convening stakeholders to advance the removal of Kellogg Dam, and restore fish passage to Kellogg and Mt. Scott watersheds. We've engaged the Governor's Natural Resources Office, the Congressional Delegation, federal and state agencies, Metro, the City of Milwaukie, and private investment to move this high-priority project of regional significance forward.
- Conducted many public volunteer stewardship projects on the Willamette River, Rinearson, Boardman, Mt. Scott, and Kellogg Creeks, working in partnership with the District on our Watershed Cleanup and Stewardship Day and restoration of Olson Wetlands in partnership with a low-income housing nonprofit, and to restore the headwaters of Mt. Scott Creek.



But most importantly, we are the locally based, non-governmental stewardship partner for an area of 163,000 people — equal to Oregon's 4th-largest city, equal to Eugene. To *not* have an effective Watershed Council for a population this large that supported the District at the ballot box would be large step backwards.

In the current crisis, the Council anticipated that many general-purpose philanthropic foundations and project partners will cease funding Watershed Councils in order to instead respond to COVID-19. CSWCD funding is therefore even more critical to our survival and ability to implement our programs than ever. It would be a terrible loss to the community if we had to abandon what we've built together.

I ask that you reinstate this funding for both the North Clackamas Watershed Council, and for all the Councils in Clackamas County.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Kevin Williams

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Kevin Williams

Board President, OLWS

DocuSigned by:

Sarah Jo Chaplen

7E54C2288F114EC...

Sarah Jo Chaplen

General Manager, OLWS

Comments submitted from Clackamas SWCD Website regarding North Clackamas Watersheds Council

Jordan Hudson

Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

4/22/2020

Kellogg Creek runs directly through my back yard and I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year . As a taxpayer, I have benefited from this program through a riparian restoration, including invasive species removal, stewardship projects, stewardship events, and healthier streams as a result of my local Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watershed Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Cutting this funding would be a great loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the coming year.

Thank you

Nancy Weintraub

Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

4/22/2020

Hello, on this 50th Earth Day, I'm writing to you as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year. We and our planet have all benefitted from this program through riparian restoration, including invasive species removal; stewardship projects and events; and healthier streams resulting from your funding of our local Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watershed Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find additional funding for restoration and stewardship projects.

Cutting this funding would be a great loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this critical funding for the coming year.

Thank you

Shanna Pittman-Frank

Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

4/22/2020

My name is Shanna Pittman-Frank . I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year .

As a taxpayer, I have benefitted from this program through a riparian restoration, including invasive species removal, stewardship projects, stewardship events, and healthier streams as a result of my local Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watershed Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Cutting this funding would be an ENORMOUS loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the coming year.

Thank you

Wendy Wagner

4/22/2020

I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year.

As a taxpayer, I have benefitted from this program through a riparian restoration, including invasive species removal, stewardship projects, stewardship events, and healthier streams as a result of my local Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watershed Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Healthy watersheds are a huge component of what makes Clackamas County such a great place to live. I hope you can restore funding this wonderful community resource.

Thanks!

Mark Evans

Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

4/22/2020

My name is Mark Evans. I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year . As a taxpayer, I have benefitted from this program through a riparian restoration, including invasive species removal, stewardship projects, stewardship events, and healthier streams as a result of my local Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watershed Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Cutting this funding would be a great loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the comin year.

Thank you

Serena Royce

Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

4/22/2020

My name is Serena Royce. I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year . As a taxpayer, I have benefitted from this program through a riparian restoration, including invasive species removal, stewardship projects, stewardship events, and healthier streams as a result of my local Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watershed Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Cutting this funding would be a great loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the coming year.

Thank you

Rob Kappa

4/22/2020

My name is _Rob Kappa

_. I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year . As a taxpayer, I have benefitted from this program through a riparian restoration, including invasive species removal, stewardship projects, stewardship events, and healthier streams as a result of my local Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watershed Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the

Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Cutting this funding would be a great loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the coming year.

Thank you,

(Name), Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

Andrew Collins-Anderson

Past Executive Director of the North Clackamas Watershed Council

4/22/2020

My name is Andrew, and I'm a past Executive Director for the North Clackamas Watershed Council. I'm writing to ask you to maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Working with the Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District was a highlight of my time with NCWC, and the partnership grant program was essential to the success of the organization and projects. There are many small watershed councils in the district, and many of them do not receive OWEB capacity grants. The CSWCD Partnership funding is often the only support funding that allows councils to spend staff time to write grants and develop projects. Without the CSWCD funding many projects would go unfunded and unrealized.

Cutting this funding would be a great loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the coming year.

Thank you,

Andrew Collins-Anderson

Steve Berliner

Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

4/22/2020

My name is Steve Berliner. I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer, and also as a Founder of North Clackamas Watersheds Council in 2009. These recent past years your funding of the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program has been a critical link for the Councils, serving as a

bridge between contract riparian-restoration work we perform for WES and OLWSD and our many other functions such as public outreach and education, attendance at public events, and even advocacy for conservation measures by the public; most of which cannot be billed to anyone and occurs at our own expense and risk. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects. When the District mounted a campaign for stable public funding, we were there for you, delivering and placing lawn signs and doing outreach in the course of our regular public contact.

Cutting this funding would severely impact our ability to perform many of our usual watershed functions, and will ultimately also impact the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the coming year.

Thank you,

Steve Berliner

Katherine Pate

4/22/2020

My name is Katherine Pate. I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year.

My property is next to the Rinearson Creek watershed, and my workplace overlooks the Kellogg Creek watershed. I directly benefit from the work of the NCUWC .

I strongly support the work of the North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council to restore vital salmon habitat and support the health of our waterways. Their work improves the quality of life of all. Please continue to support their important work. Thank you!

Paul Hanrahan

Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

4/22/2020

Please do not cut funding for the Watershed Council. This is a critical cause that is even more important in this day of global crisis. We must do even more than we are doing now, but cutting funding would be short sighted. They do important work for the environment furthering the cause for a healthier planet. Thank you

My name is Paul Hanrahan. I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year .

As a taxpayer, I have benefitted from this program through a riparian restoration, including invasive species removal, stewardship projects, stewardship events, and healthier streams as a result of my local Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watershed Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Cutting this funding would be a great loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the coming year.

Thank you,

Paul Hanrahan

Heather Schiffke

Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

4/22/2020

I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner and taxpayer to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year . As a taxpayer, I have benefitted from this program through riparian restoration, invasive species removal, stewardship projects and healthier streams as a result of my local Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watershed Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Cutting this funding would be a great loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the coming year.

Thank you,

Heather Schiffke

Luke Johnson,

Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

4/22/2020

My name is Luke. I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year . As a taxpayer, I have benefitted from this program through a riparian restoration, including invasive species removal, stewardship projects, stewardship events, and healthier streams as a result of my local

Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watershed Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Cutting this funding would be a great loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the coming year.

Thank you,

Luke

Rebecca Banyas

4/23/2020

I urge you to continue supporting the North Clackamas Watershed Council and the important work they do. I'm particularly interested in the removal of the Kellogg Creek dam, and also support all the work this great group does to support our riparian areas. Please continue to support them! Thank you.

Amber McKenna 4/24/2020

I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask you to maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year. As a taxpayer, I have benefitted from this program through a riparian restoration, including invasive species removal, stewardship projects, stewardship events, and healthier streams as a result of my local Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watershed Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Cutting this funding would be a great loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the coming year.

Thank you,

Amber

Mona Thomason

Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

4/25/2020

My name is Mona Thomason. I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year. As a taxpayer, I have benefitted from this program through riparian restoration, including invasive species removal, stewardship projects, stewardship events, and healthier streams as a result of my local Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watersheds Council. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find funding for such restoration and stewardship projects.

Cutting this funding would be a great loss to our watersheds, and to the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate this funding for the coming year.

Thank you,

Mona Thomason

Marcella & Dennis Lewis

4/26/2020

I am writing in regard of the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program. I own .9 acres in Clackamas County with a creek. This program through North Clackamas Watersheds Council has helped with riparian restoration and some invasive plant control. They planted natives along this area that will help to stabilize my property. We've seen more animals deer, coyotes, a busy beaver along with raccoon, possum and skunk.

We are immensely grateful please re-instate this funding for the coming year. Thank you, Marcella & Dennis Lewis

Hilary Sueoka

4/28/2020

My name is Hilary and I am a former employee of the North Clackamas Watersheds Council. I write this letter in support of the continued funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program. While working for NCWC I gained first hand experience of the condition of the developed (and developing) watersheds within this Council's jurisdiction. NCWC does crucial work in an otherwise fragmented landscape. Beyond traditional restoration and advocacy, they are critical to bring communities and jurisdictional leaders together to make change on a watershed scale. Maintaining the District's funding through the Partnership Grant Program is of upmost importance to their continued work. Without it, the watersheds, wildlife, and natural resources will suffer. Please reinstate full funding for the coming year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Hilary Sueoka

Dale Guenther

4/28/2020

Thank you for taking the time to review my perspective of the North Clackamas Watershed Council.

I have been a board member for the North Clackamas Watershed Council for only 2 years, but in that short time I have come to realize the scope and professional accomplishments the Council has made to this area. From public education, restoring riparian vegetation, stream assessments, improving fish passage, and to public stewardship projects, the council has accomplished an incredible amount of good for our watersheds in the North Clackamas.

I am very familiar with this type of work. I have worked for the US Forest Service for nearly 40 years, working on projects similar to those completed by the Council in support of watersheds. I know the planning, work effort, and funding necessary to be successful, and I am very impressed with the completed projects to date. The council has accomplished an incredible amount with very limited funds, leveraging these funds in order to complete our goals. The funds that you provide ensure these projects and support may continue. I understand that Clackamas SWCD may cut this critical funding. This support provides the foundation for the work we do.

I ask that you reinstate this funding for the North Clackamas Watershed Council, and for all the Councils in Clackamas County.

Randi Thomas

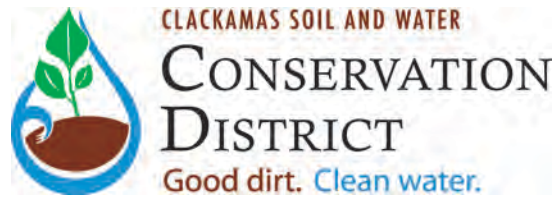
4/28/2020

My name is Randi Thomas. I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, taxpayer and as a Board Member of North Clackamas Watershed Council to ask you maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year. Although I am new to the Watershed Council world I have witnessed the many benefits the councils provide to our communities. From removal of invasive species, stewardship projects and stewardship events together we are building a community interested in improving our local watersheds. The District's unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program is critical in enabling the Council to find other funding for such restoration and stewardship projects. Cutting this funding would severely impact our ability to perform these functions, and will ultimately impact the quality of our natural resources. Please reinstate the District funding for the coming year.

Thank you,

Randi Thomas

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING GRANT FUNDING FOR MOLALLA RIVER WATCH





P.O. Box 867 Molalla, Oregon 97038-0867 503-829-7858

molallariverwatch@gmail.com
www.molallariverwatch.org

Contact Executive Director, Asako Yamamuro 503-559-0885

To: Jeff Becker, Chair, Zone 3 Director
Joan Zuber, Zone 4 Director
Jan Lee, At-Large Director
Roger Fantz, At-Large Director, Treasurer
Jesse Nelson, Vice Chair, Zone 1 Director
Jim Johnson, Zone 2 Director
Don Guttridge, Zone 5 Director, Secretary

CC: Jason Faucera, Budget Committee
Lisa Kilders, Acting General Manager

Dear Joan & Jeff,

Molalla River Watch was recently given distressing news that the District is proposing to cut all Watershed Council Support grant funding for 2020-2021. We are especially discouraged since that funding was anticipated for the last year of our 3-year award. The District's Watershed Council Support Grant Awards are critical to Molalla River Watch's work in the Molalla R Watershed, which is entirely in Clackamas County. The District's support is critical for Molalla River Watch's success because there are limited resources in this rural area of south Clackamas County and the rural cities of Molalla, Colton, and Canby. The Molalla River Watershed is outside of the Metro District. CSWCD's grants have been a crucial and essential help with our small watershed council (1 staff, 5 board members, covers 874 sq miles).

The District's Support Grants have allowed us to reach more community members, participate in more events, work on diverse conservation projects, collaborate with more partners, and educate more community members. While working to fulfill our mission to promote respect and understanding of the Molalla River Watershed through education and conservation for present and future generations, we are also "highly effective in planning, developing, and implementing projects and [our] education programs make a significant positive impact on the local environment, economy, and community" (as quoted from the District's award 2019-20 letter). When the Watershed Councils in Clackamas County receive grants from the District, we are able to substantially help "provide education and technical assistance to urban and rural residents, farmers, businesses, municipalities, and others to meet rising legal and public expectations for healthy and sustainable management of our land, air and water" (as quoted from the 2006 Measure 3-221 which granted a permanent property tax rate limit to the District). Watershed Councils rely on grants, donations, and fundraising. The District's simplified grant application for unrestricted funds have allowed us more time to efficiently work on our mission and less time searching, applying, and competing for other awards.

Because of COVID-19, we are concerned that OWEB funding for projects will be reduced due to reduction of lottery funds. Planned projects may be delayed due to loss of funding and difficulty meeting with grant partners. We were blindsided that our three year plan for

operating/planning/educational/training/river cleanup expenses could be cut due to the District's proposed cut to all Watershed Council Support Grants for 2020-21.

With the District's recent support, Molalla River Watch was able to:

- Rent an office space in Molalla and pay for utilities. Besides a place for our 1 staff to work, the office is a necessary space for meetings, presentations, community engagement, resource center, and storage.
- Update Molalla River Watch's website, www.molallariverwatch.org
- Pay remaining wages for ED not covered by other funding. This included:
 - Collaborating with the District and John Runyon on National Water Quality Initiative work in the Molalla R Watershed.
 - Working with the District's WeedWise folk on the lower section of the watershed adjacent to Molalla R State Park and working on strategies for treating knotweed in the entire watershed. (we also introduced WeedWise to one of our funding sources to possibly help with covering the District's shortfall to treat knotweed on the Molalla).
 - Working with the District's Conservation Team with wildlife habitat, riparian, and upland restoration work on private properties.
 - We've been able to expand our outdoor education work. In addition to Molalla R High School's environmental science class, we also recently worked with the Montessori Earth School and Molalla River Academy. We are continuing to build our relationship with the high school. In addition to leading yearly student field trips in the Molalla Recreation Corridor (often the students' only field trip of the year due to school budget constraints), we were also helping to plan and lead all of Molalla High School's teachers during their in-service day to promote Place-Based Learning in the Molalla Recreation Corridor, while also collaborating with the BLM. We talked to 3rd graders in Molalla River Academy about spring Chinook migration back up to their homewaters in the Molalla. We also emphasized the importance of water conservation and discussed how the water in the Molalla River gets to their tap. We are planning to work with students to make a path to Dickey Creek and plant natives. We want the students to create art projects related to the natives they planted, then write up info about the plants. We would upload their info and photos of their art to our website, molallariverwatch.org, for all visitors to learn from.
 - We have participated in 5 straight years of amphibian egg mass surveys at the beaver ponds in Aquila Vista in the Molalla Recreation Corridor. Without these surveys, we would not have known that this site has one of the largest number of northern red-legged egg masses in Clackamas County. Northern red-legged frogs are on the State's Sensitive Species list. We love monitoring them yearly and letting folks know about this special place.
 - Our twice a year Molalla River Cleanups (this would have been our 28th annual) is no longer supported by our volunteers from Johnson Controls who would gift us with \$1,000 yearly. We provide participants with a volunteer appreciation barbecue and get a good turnout of different participants twice a year. We also started collaborating with Trash to Art participants who create pieces with the trash that was collected in the cleanup.
 - We build partnerships and plan projects (not covered by restricted grants). We are planning and strategizing to find funding for a restoration at Molalla River State Park, which has 450 acres of floodplain habitat. We are currently working on technical assistance and floodplain forest work with OPRD, three funding sources, and three

consultants. It's a large, complicated site. We are anticipating a phased approach to adaptively manage the work done to ensure that the approach is working towards our goals. We will need funds to enable us to plan and apply. In addition to Molalla River State Park, we are planning to collaborate with Clackamas County and apply for a fish passage impediment restoration grant. We are also planning on collaborating with the BLM on a side channel restoration grant in the Molalla Recreation Corridor.

- We started looking into hiring another staff person. With the District's WC Support funding, we would love to search for, hire, and pay a new part-time staff person. Our one staff is stretched very thinly, but we are still trying our best to deliver quality educational and conservation-related projects. Another staff person would ensure quality projects while expanding the number of projects we can take on to reach more of the community.

The Molalla River is the largest, free-flowing Willamette tributary. The Molalla River Watershed has Upper Willamette River spring Chinook and winter steelhead. The upper section of our watershed is designated an Oregon State Scenic Waterway and a National Wild & Scenic River. We also have valuable Oregon chub, Pacific lamprey, western pearlshell mussels, wapato, Oregon white oaks, and northern red-legged frogs. The Molalla River Watershed has relatively high ecological value that we believe is more efficient to protect and enhance than to restore highly degraded systems. Financially supporting Molalla River Watch's education and conservation approaches will go a long way.

We have always greatly appreciated the support and technical assistance from the District. We have lots of momentum to continue to do more with future funding. If the District cuts Watershed Council Support funding, it will critically stunt and undo the growth, outreach, and partnerships we have been working really hard to achieve. We have attached our 2019 Annual Report as an example of the growth of our stewardship work.

We ask that the funding be reinstated for Molalla River Watch and for all of the Watershed Councils in Clackamas County.

Sincerely,



Asako Yamamuro
Executive Director



Bill Taylor
Board Chair

Molalla River Watch

2019 Annual Report



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I hope all of you are finding creative ways to avoid “cabin fever”. Now, I have more time to reflect on 2019. With your help, Molalla River Watch was able to fulfill our mission to promote respect & understanding of the Molalla River Watershed through education, conservation, and for present & future generations.

New 2019 milestones included the Molalla River Geographic Wild & Scenic River designation & we got a new office space. Our regular yearly accomplishments included our 27th annual spring & fall river cleanups & hands-on education with Molalla R High School Environmental Science students. We worked towards restoring important floodplain habitat at the mouth of our watershed at Molalla R State Park. Also, our new partnership with Molalla R Academy allowed us to emphasize the importance of local freshwater conservation to students.

We appreciate all of our supporters and partners. I look forward to meeting more of you. Please join us by volunteering, donating, & signing up for our newsletter!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Asako Yamamuro".

Asako Yamamuro
Executive Director

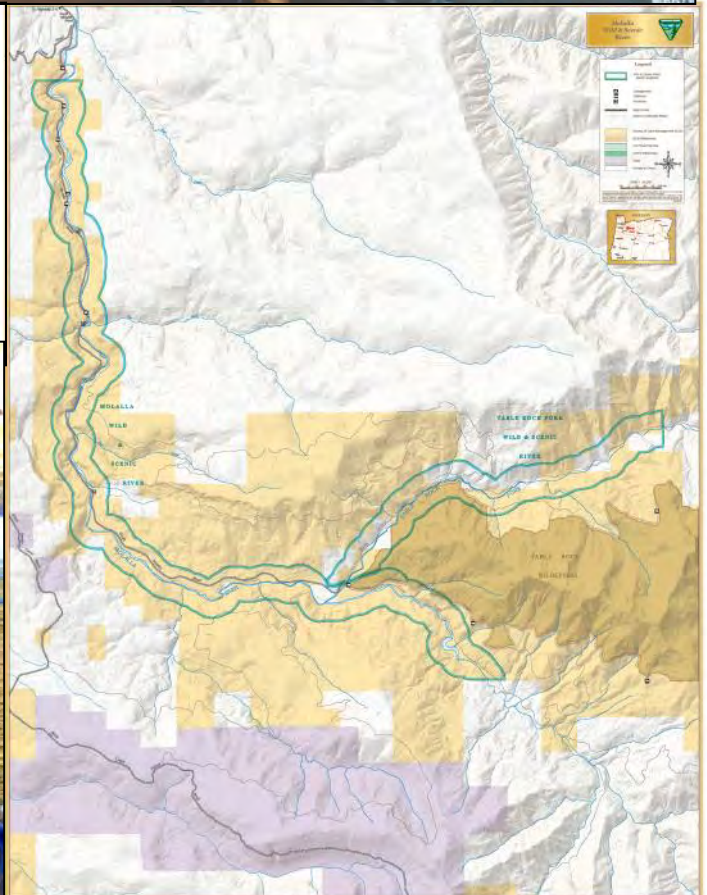


Molalla River: Now a National Wild & Scenic River!

Many partnerships & years of effort have paid off. On March 12, 2019, the upper 15.1 miles of the Molalla River & a 6.2 mile segment of the Table Rock Fork were officially designated as recreational under the National Wild & Scenic River System. The new designation offers more protection for the Molalla River that supplies drinking water to the cities of Molalla & Canby, provides recreational opportunities, & serves as vital habitat for fish & wildlife.



Above: Bill Taylor (middle), Molalla River Watch's board chair, talks to guests at the Molalla Wild & Scenic Celebration. **Right:** BLM map of the Wild & Scenic designated areas in blue outline on the Molalla R & Table Rock Fork. **Below:** Our partners at Molalla River Alliance (MRA) played an integral role in getting Molalla designated. MRA's chair, John Atkinson, is fishing.



Education



Molalla River High School Environmental Science students got to learn hands-on about forest ecology, native plants, & aquatic invertebrates at Aquila Vista.



Molalla River Academy students learned about salmon migration back to rivers & why freshwater is so important to conserve. We discussed things taken for granted like flushing toilets!



Outreach



Welcome to our new Molalla River Watch office! 108 Engle Ave in Molalla.



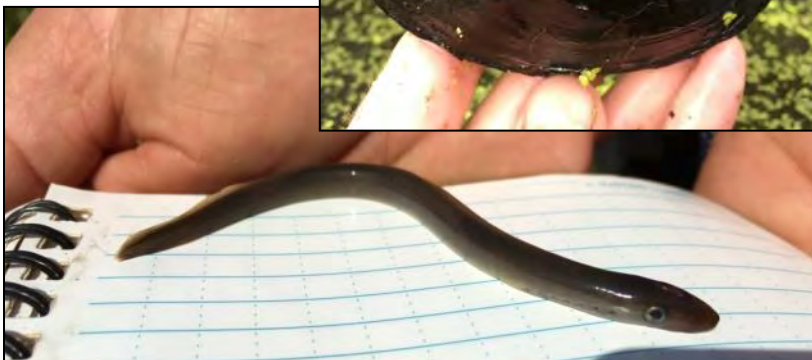
Now, we have a home base to be more available as a resource center for landowners, have meetings with locals & partners, & have more of a presence with the community (like meetings with families while passing out candy on Halloween 🎃).

Restoration: Molalla River State Park

Collaborating with Oregon Parks & Rec. Dept. to restore riparian plain habitat at Molalla River State Park is Molalla River Watch's largest project to date. Funding support from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Bonneville Power Administration, & Willamette Water Supply Program has allowed for many accomplishments:

- ♦ Treating extensive invasive knotweed monoculture. In its place we will work to restore a healthier & diverse native floodplain forest.
- ♦ Better understanding the complexity of water temperature, water levels, & restoration potential at the confluence of the Molalla, Pudding, & Willamette Rivers. The State Park has approximately 450 acres of floodplain habitat.
- ♦ Surveying for salmon, lamprey, freshwater mussels, & great blue heron. We plan on restoring natural floodplain functions to increase available habitats.

Found at Molalla R State Park. **RIGHT:** Healthy patch of wapato, an important wetland plant. Indigenous groups eat their tuberous roots. **MIDDLE:** Freshwater mussel, *Anodonta* species. **BOTTOM:** Pacific lamprey juvenile.



Molalla River Cleanups: Our 27th Year!



122 volunteers picked up **1,600 lbs.** of trash & **40 lbs** of recyclable glass!

Trash to Art participants used trash collected to create art pieces.

Amphibian Egg Mass Surveys: Our 5th Year!



270 northern red-legged frog, **2** northwestern salamander, & **61** chorus frog egg masses, plus **28** adult rough skinned newts surveyed by volunteers in Aquila Vista pond, located in the Molalla Recreation corridor.

Molalla River Watershed Facts



The Molalla River is the Willamette River's **longest undammed tributary**.

Molalla's **spring Chinook salmon & winter steelhead** populations are listed as **threatened** on the Endangered Species Act.



Molalla River is the **drinking water source** for Molalla & Canby.

The upper section of the Molalla River is designated **State Scenic Waterway & National Wild & Scenic River**.



Make a Difference in the Molalla River Watershed

Amazing volunteers helped us pick up trash, plant trees, pull weeds, maintain trails, cook for fellow volunteers, & mail out newsletters.

Please contact molallariverwatch@gmail.com to:

- **Volunteer with us.**
- **Make a donation.**
- **Join our mailing list.**





April 23rd, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

We are providing public comment to the budget committee for the 2020-2021 proposed budget.

I am writing on behalf of The Native Fish Society out of concern that Molalla Riverwatch might incur a funding shortfall in 2020-2021 because of the potential for reduced funding from CSWCD. The Native Fish Society exists to cultivate a groundswell of public support necessary to revive abundant wild, native fish across the Pacific Northwest. It is within this capacity that we have had the pleasure of partnering with MRW for over 20 years on a number of projects.

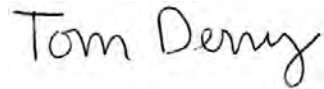
This partnership has seen wild winter steelhead rebound from as few as 150 fish in 1998 to a thriving self-sustaining population today. The habitat work MRW has done in combination with the Native Fish Society's advocacy have made this remarkable recovery happen. The best hatchery is a healthy river and we can't have a healthy river without an active fully funded watershed council.

Of particular concern is a side project we are partnering with MRW on that's scheduled for this summer. Our goal is to keep this side channel de-linked from the mainstem Molalla during low summer flows so they are uninfluenced by elevated mainstem temperatures that exceed 75 deg annually. Instead the side channel is fed by groundwater flowing through a deep gravel lens. This side channel has been identified as the highest priority critical habitat for salmonids in the Molalla basin. This project aims at extending the longevity of this high priority side channel by building point bar jams at the inlet end of the channel to keep the river from reclaiming the channel during high flow winter events.

Our concern is that without funding from CSWCD this important project will not happen. Molalla Riverwatch and Native Fish Society partnered on another side channel project in the summer of 2019 and our monitoring this winter tells us the project is very successful. The mainstem Molalla and the side channel are functioning just as planned.

We hope CSWCD provides the funding MRW needs to keep this momentum going, with our high functioning partnership we have our sights set on long term success.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Derry". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and slightly larger than the rest of the letters.

Tom Derry
Director of Wild Steelhead Funding
Native Fish Society



Molalla River Alliance

www.molallariveralliance.org | PO Box 727, Molalla, OR 97038

April 24, 2020

Board of Directors
Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District
PO Box 830
Beavercreek, OR 97004

By email and U.S. Postal Service

Dear Members of the Board:

On behalf of the board directors and members of the Molalla River Alliance, I am writing to urge the Board of Directors of Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District to continue previously established funding to the Molalla River Watch Watershed Council. Since its inception 32 years ago, MRW volunteers have worked diligently and with much success to protect and restore habitat of the Molalla River and its tributaries.

Over the years, Molalla River Alliance has worked closely with Molalla River Watch to enhance public recreation opportunities in the scenic Molalla River Recreation Corridor, to carry out anadromous fish research, to conduct educational field seminars, and to support management strategies developed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and related agencies.

Molalla River Watch serves as the official Watershed Council empowered by the Oregon Water Enhancement Board and Clackamas County to collaborate with local, state and federal partners and private landowners to carry out conservation programs and projects within the Molalla River Watershed. Some of these activities include

- Semi-annual river cleanups in May and October.
- Trail development, improvement and maintenance for non-motorized travel on BLM land in the Molalla River Recreation Corridor.
- Student wildlife and water quality field studies.
- Tree planting, stream side restoration and fish habitat enhancement projects.
- Stream and habitat surveys.
- Community education through cultural history and geology presentations.

Page 2 of 2

Continuation of these important conservation efforts will be jeopardized if critical funding for Molalla River Watch is curtailed. Please use your discretionary authority to direct budget adjustments so the great work performed by Molalla River Watch can continue unabated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John H. Atkins, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John H. Atkins, Jr., President
Molalla River Alliance

Terre Rogers

4/26/2020

Please continue funding for the Molalla Watershed Council. By supporting the Council you support my community and our activities to protect and enhance water quality and river habitat. The Council recently established an office where community and council members can regularly meet. The office will, I believe have to close and it's one staff person will be let go if Clackamas Soil and Water District funds is eliminated.

Thank you for your consideration and support of our local Watershed.

Sincerely,

Terre Rogers

Becky Wolf

4/26/2020

I am a long standing member of the Molalla River Watershed Council. I am writing to urge the budget committee to prioritize continued funding for local watershed councils. I know you aware of our many accomplishments over the years by our annual report which has been submitted. We could not have made such a positive impact without the generous past financial support of CSWCD. And we thank you. But to continue to be an active partner with CSWCD and their mission, we must have financial support. Thank you for your time.

David Peter

4/26/2020

URGENT - SUBMIT BEFORE BUDGET MEETING TUES 4/28.

I am a local landowner in Canby that has for 10 straight years done county and national grants to be able to perform several significant improvements with 3 acres(1/4 mile) of direct riverside riparian improvement and more recently an additional 8 acres of Oak woodland habitat, from our property along the lower 1/3 of the Molalla River. I have seen and participated in wildlife, fish, salamander, other surveys over the years, and as a result our 24.25 acre property has been designated a wildlife conservation and management area by ODFW since 2014.

The technical support and encouragement that I got along the way from Molalla River Watch helped encourage me to continue to improve the riverside areas more, and to participate to try to encourage other landowners along the river to do the same. Their involvement leads to growing networks of others

interested in active improvements to river and riverside habitats. Their stature and success in the community is well known.

I am very concerned the CSWCD budget committee is proposing to cut watershed support for MRW from their budget for 2021, in the middle of a 3 year commitment.

MRW and affiliates have a number of large projects under way which are in jeopardy.

Cold groundwater-fed side channels provide critical habitat for salmon and steelhead. Fish survival and habitat improvements

are crucial, especially amidst the increased stressors of climate change.

Please consider a modification or reversal of your decision regarding funding to MRW.

Thank You ,

David Peter

Zone 3

Chuck and Cindi Buell

4/26/2020

I have received information about the possibility of the funding being cut for Molalla River Watch.

My husband and I have been the recipients of a grant to help restore our property on the Molalla River from three (3) acres of english ivy back to native habitat. We have worked for the last five (5) years with the Molalla River Watch group to make this a successful project.

We have learned an enormous amount of information regarding habitat for fish, amphibians, deer. Without the guidance of MRW we would not have had the opportunity to see the silvers (salmon) coming up Cedar Creek in the fall, the frogs and turtles in the area.

We also are concerned about the loss of education for the students and the community in our area. In order to maintain the work that has been done on the Molalla River Corridor by MRW it is essential that students and the community are able to get the information that has been provided by MRW. The work that has been done by MRW on the corridor has enabled it to be a National Recreation area and it would be a huge loss to lose the guidance they have provided.

The loss of the funding provided by Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation would greatly affect the projects that are in the works for MRW and the continuation of the works that are in progress at this time.

Loss of funding would mean MRW would not be able to maintain the office they have for meetings, information and community information. The loss of funding would also mean losing the coordinator for MRW, Asako Yamamuro.

We are deeply concerned about the possibility of this cut in funding and are hopeful this will not happen.

Sincerely,

Chuck and Cindi Buell

Melissa Gentry

MRW/WC Board of Director/Secretary

4/27/2020

I am writing to express my concern for the proposed elimination of partnership grant funding for Watershed Councils in Clackamas County in the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District's proposed budget for 2020-2021. I am requesting that you please reinstate the grant awards that allow for the important stewardship roles of protecting and enhancing the tributaries in Clackamas County, carried out by the Watershed Councils, including Molalla River Watch Watershed Council (MRW/WC).

MRW started as a true grassroots organization, in 1988, through the initiative of a handful of local residents frustrated with the amount of garbage being dumped in and around the river. While MRW/WC still holds two river cleanups a year, (with our spring 2020 cleanup the first to be canceled due to circumstances of the Covid-19 Pandemic) we are now able to do so much more in the area of restoration projects, education and community outreach. We now to have an office space in downtown Molalla, for our staff to work, to hold our monthly public meetings and to provide resource materials to the public, due in no small part to the generous grant funding CSWCD has awarded us over the past few years. The staff and board members of MWR/WC have always done their best to meet the guidelines that are required in order to receive the partnership grant funding.

MRW/WC is fortunate to have the dedication of individuals and organizations, from its five Board Members (two of whom have been with MRW for over 20 years,) a passionate and driven Executive Director, the volunteers that show up year after year to pick up trash or plant native flora in the Molalla river Corridor, the local school teachers that use the Molalla River as a classroom for their students, as well as, the many partnerships that have been established over the years with government agencies, private businesses and other organizations.

I am extremely proud and honored to be a property owner on the Molalla River for the past 36 years. I have observed Molalla River Watch act as the agent of conservation to ensure that The Molalla River remains the gem that it is. I have witnessed the improvements in water quality from all too often silt

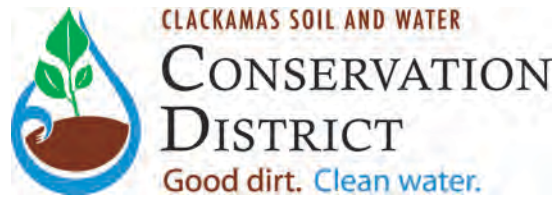
flows years back to now clear flows, from early trash laden river banks with abandoned car parts, major appliances, furniture and of course the never ending disposable diapers to recent river cleanups maybe yielding not much more than a pickup load of trash. After joining the Board of MRW over thirteen years ago, I have seen the organization continue to gain new skills and knowledge, working in collaboration with the ever increasing partnerships of both private and public sectors, to strive to be the best stewards of the Molalla River and its tributaries for the fish and wildlife and for recreational activities, while respecting the history and cultural significance of the watershed. All these efforts have taken the Molalla River from being unprotected to having the designation of an Oregon State Scenic Waterway and a National Wild and Scenic River.

While I know these are extreme times with unknowns in the areas of income for all of us, I am asking that you look to other areas within your budget to make cost reductions and allow for the continued investment in the invaluable stewardship that our Watershed Councils provide, through the partnership grant funding program that CSWCD has so generously facilitated over the years.

Thank for taking the time to consider my request.

Melissa Gentry

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING GRANT FUNDING FOR GREATER OREGON CITY WATERSHED COUNCIL





April 21, 2020

Mr. Jeff Becker, Chair
Mr. Jesse Nelson, Vice Chair
Mr. Roger Fantz, Treasurer
Mr. Don Guttridge, Secretary
Ms. Jan Lee, Director
Ms. Joan Zuber
Mr. Jim Johnson, Director
Members of the Budget Committee

Dear Members of the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District Board and Budget Committee:

This letter is to share with you how essential the District's council capacity grants have been to the work of the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council (GOCWC). We are asking the Board to find a way to continue the funding at a viable level to carry on this valuable collaboration and to further our shared mission to work together towards stronger, more resilient watershed conditions.

The GOCWC has most recently used District funds to conduct habitat surveys on Abernethy Creek, a heretofore unstudied and important link in support of the recovery of native fish species in the Lower Columbia River and Willamette River evolutionary significant units. The District's grants leveraged funds from Portland General Electric and The Nature Conservancy to conduct the surveys that were completed in 2017 and 2019.

The stream surveys are the basis of a pending grant with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (as part of the Clackamas Partnership collaborative) for the preparation of an action plan with a comprehensive strategy based upon scientific data and limiting factors to identify and prioritize projects to improve conditions for Clackamas populations of native fish. The plan will cover the entire Abernethy Creek watershed, including tributary streams that provide habitat for native fish as well as non-fish bearing streams that contribute to water quality in lower reaches of the watershed.

In the course of conducting the stream surveys, important connections were made with landowners, homeowners' associations and a large, private timber company. This outreach activity and the relationships that have been built are critical to the eventual implementation of restoration projects on Abernethy Creek.

The GOCWC collaborated with the City of Oregon City for a water quality project within the historic Mountain View Cemetery and Scattering Canyon. District funds were used to leverage a Metro Enhancement grant. The project, currently in final design using the funds secured by the GOCWC, is planned for construction in the current biennium. The project will enhance new or existing wildlife, riparian, wetlands, forests or river areas by addressing the existing and future hydro-modification issues that have arisen at the stormwater outfall location at the entrance of the Scattering Canyon over the years. The bank stabilization and re-vegetation will help address long term incision of the banks as well as provide water quality treatment in terms of creating additional residence time and decreasing flash intervals through the use of settling pools and a dedicated bypass for peak flows.

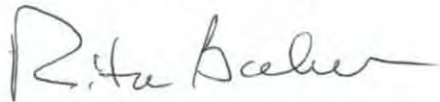
Greater Oregon City Watershed Council, P. O. Box 927, Oregon City, OR 97045 (503) 427-0439
The GOCWC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

The stormwater project will improve the appearance of the Scattering Canyon, where grieving families disburse cremains and supports the attractiveness of the cemetery and the natural area.

The collaborative efforts the GOCWC has painstakingly built over many years with the District, local and regional governments and landowners is imperiled with the loss of these critical funds. We respectfully request that the District reinstate funding to the GOCWC and other watershed councils within the District's boundaries to help us sustain the momentum we have collectively achieved.

Sincerely,

Rita Baker, Coordinator for

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Doug Neeley, GOCWC Chair

To: Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District Board and Budget Committee

From: Doug Neeley
Former City Commissioner and Mayor of Oregon City

I am the Chair of the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council but am also the Chair of Oregon City's Natural Resource Committee and a former Oregon City Commissioner and Mayor, and it is in these latter capacities that I am writing this letter. As your boards contemplate your budget priorities, I wanted to emphasize the important contributions that the watershed councils make to local jurisdictions.

The Greater Oregon City Watershed Council has worked closely with Oregon City's Public Works Department and its Parks and Recreation Department on various projects within the City. These include the designing of a storm water facility to reduce erosion impacts from storm water events on a stream serving one of the oldest regions in the City, planting along vegetative corridors on streams passing through City parks and other City-owned sites, providing stream signage on nine streams within the City, and planting shade-trees on Abernethy Creek outside of Oregon City's City limits as part of Oregon City's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan. These projects have involved City funding and funds from various grant sources secured by the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council including the ones funded by the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District.

This partnership serves as an example of how important watershed councils have been to jurisdictions within Clackamas County.



OREGON CITY

Office of the City Manager

625 Center Street | Oregon City OR 97045

Ph (503) 657-0891 | Fax (503) 657-7026

April 22, 2020

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation
District Board and Budget Committee
P.O. Box 830
Beavercreek, OR 97004

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District Board and Budget Committee,

The City of Oregon City would like to convey how valuable the District's Watershed Council Support Grants have been to the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council (GOCWC) and the City. The City appreciates the collaborative partnership we share to improve and enhance our natural environment.

The GOCWC used District grant funds to leverage and match a Metro Enhancement grant for the City-owned and historic Mountain View Cemetery Scattering Canyon Water Quality Project. The Project will stabilize the existing stream channel to improve water quality that flows through the Cemetery into Newell Creek and into the Newell Creek Canyon natural area.

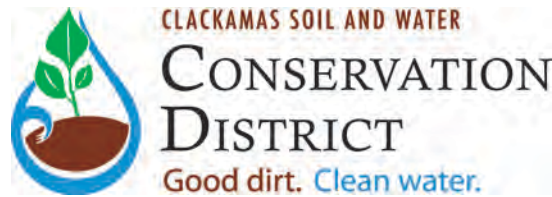
Newell Creek, a tributary of Abernethy Creek that flows into the Willamette, contributes cooler water to the system and provide areas of cold water where native fish can reside when water temperatures are elevated in Abernethy Creek. This is important because water temperature studies in Abernethy Creek have shown that it exceeded temperature criteria 100% of the time during the months of July and August which is not conducive to salmon or trout populations.

Aesthetics and access will also be important in the design of this project, as the project site is used as a spiritual visiting place for patrons of the adjacent cemetery to scatter ashes of loved ones. We hope to continue this mutually important collaboration between the City of Oregon City, the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council and the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District. The work being done with the grant funds provided are invaluable and need to continue to be supported. Please continue to see the value in supporting these grants.

Thank you,

Tony Konkol,
City Manager of Oregon City

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING GRANT FUNDING FOR CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL



Comments submitted from Clackamas SWCD Website regarding Clackamas River Basin Council

Suzi Cloutier

Clackamas River Basin Council staff, Clackamas County resident, landowner, and taxpayer

4/22/2020

My name is Suzi Cloutier. I'm writing as a Clackamas County resident, landowner, Clackamas river advocate, and taxpayer to ask you to maintain critical funding for the Watershed Council Partnership Grant Program in the coming year. As a taxpayer, I have personally benefitted from this program through a riparian restoration, including invasive species removal, and stewardship projects on my own farm in rural Clackamas County. On a professional level, our river basin council has been able to leverage the unrestricted funds that have come to my Council (CRBC) to help me provide care to MANY landowners in the form of education and stewardship activities where there is no dedicated funding to serve them. We are reliant on these funds to extend our service to our precious river basin constituents and their beloved properties. We have helped fish and wildlife, educated the public, boosted overtaxed landowners (such as myself), and helped lift up many finned, furred and clothed residents of the Clackamas Basin.

Please do consider continuing this rare and precious funding source for the counties Watershed Councils.

With gratitude,

Suzi Cloutier

Bill Monroe

Chair, Clackamas River Basin Council

4/23/2020

Dear Mr. Jason Faucera, CSWCD Budget Committee, Board of Directors & District Manager Ms. Lisa Kilders:

The Clackamas River Basin Council deeply appreciates our long and productive relationship with the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District.

Your partnership in the council's efforts, both physical (including volunteers) and financial have greatly benefited the river's environment and fish and wildlife. Your vital support extends throughout Clackamas County and an extraordinary mix of tributaries under CSWCD's protection.

It's with deep concern, therefore, that we've learned of a potential elimination of funding for local watershed councils in the near term.

Your financial participation in our efforts is critical to missions of restoration, enhancement and public outreach.

Three watershed councils operate without any support funds from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and, thus, rely heavily on your grants to accomplish their work. That loss will undermine critical improvements and may even threaten their existence.

In our case, the SWCD grant is the sole funding for our public outreach. It also allows us to leverage additional grants. Without them we cannot carry our important message to nearly half a million users of the Clackamas River, all of us dependent upon a clean and free-flowing waterway.

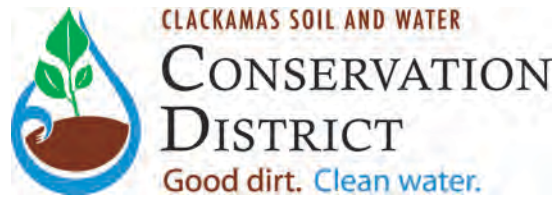
Maintaining our mission for this unique wilderness-to-metropolitan resource requires a strong public outreach effort. We rely heavily on the cooperation and understanding of landowners and water users alike and your funding provides this all-important conduit.

The Clackamas River Basin Council joins others to urge that you maintain this vital funding for county watersheds.

Thank you for your consideration and, especially, your partnership these past years.

Bill Monroe

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING GRANT FUNDING FOR OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL





April 23, 2020

Oswego Lake Watershed Council
PO Box 1015, Lake Oswego, OR 97239

To:

Jeff Becker, Zone 3 Director, Chair
Roger Fantz, At-Large Director, Treasurer
Don Guttridge, Zone 5 Director, Secretary
Jim Johnson, Zone 2 Director
Jan Lee, At-Large Director
Jesse Nelson, Zone 1 Director, Vice Chair
Joan Zuber, Zone 4 Director

Dave Albrecht
John Borden
Steve Fedje
Rennie Squier
Jim Toops

CC: Jason Faucera, Budget Committee
Lisa Kilders, Acting General Manager

The Oswego Lake Watershed Council (OLWC) is a locally organized, non-profit, non-regulatory watershed stewardship organization established to improve the condition and health of the Oswego Lake watershed and its stream network. Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) provides us technical guidance and outreach support, and is a highly valued partner organization. Additionally, CSWCD is the second-largest funder of our Watershed Council. Our annual partnership grant award of \$10,000 is critical to the viability of our organization. This funding empowers us to steward dozens of acres of private land, conduct outreach and education with over 1,000 community members annually, and leverage additional funding from other sources. We were troubled to learn that for the 2020-2021 budget, CSWCD has proposed cutting the majority of grants to partners, including general support for Watershed Councils. We ask that CSWCD not cut funding for Oswego Lake Watershed Council and the other Watershed Councils funded by the district.

Our partnership grants with CSWCD provide us with general support funds, which can be used to cover a variety of non-project specific expenses. Unlike many Watershed Councils in Oregon, OLWC is not eligible for Council Capacity Grants from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Thus, the general funds from CSWCD are especially important for the viability of our organization, and for the support of our core mission. These funds help to pay wages to our two staff members which are not covered by other funding. In turn, we

leverage the support of the district to raise funds for restoration projects, community outreach, and education.

The funding from CSWCD covers watershed education programs, public outreach, volunteer management, website services, project sourcing and meetings, administrative needs, re-certifications, participation in conferences, tools, and software. Some examples of what CSWCD funding supports:

- [Annual Tree Summit](#) brings together 75 community members to discuss the value of trees in our community, and to take action to preserve and restore natural resources.
- A volunteer program that manages hundreds of volunteers, who contribute over 1000 volunteer hours every year to local environmental stewardship with OLWC.
- Our Trees On-Campus program, an environmental education effort providing watershed-based training and tools for educators. In just a few months, this new program has already engaged over 100 students in service-learning work on campus. We are also working to incorporate tree monitoring, soil health, and stormwater education into the Lake Oswego School District curriculum.
- Our [Westlake Oak Woodland Project](#), preserving Oregon White Oak habitat through invasive species removal, and forest management focused on Oak release. This project greatly benefits from CSWCD's technical guidance and expertise, and also from general support funding.
- Utilization of innovative project monitoring approaches, such as the use of drone technology to obtain high-resolution 3D orthomosaic imagery of our Oak Woodland project for long term monitoring.
- Work with Neighborhood Associations to form urban forest communities. We are able to organize passionate community members and empower them to take action to enhance our riparian areas and neighborhood forests.
- Development of a community science program, focusing on monitoring trees and tree health with local residents.
- Staff time for connecting with new landowners, and initiating new projects.
- Staff time for fundraising, and the ability to leverage CSWCD funds as grant match (additional \$74,290 raised last year alone).
- Staff participation in training and professional development (including Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium, Pull Together, Connect conference).
- Technology for staff (equipment, mapping software, volunteer management subscriptions, etc).
- Work on collaborative partnerships such as the urban watershed outreach group in the metro area, and participation in 4-County CWMA meetings.

- Outreach and education efforts, including a growing social media presence. We create our own content, as well as boosting CSWCD's social media posts, and those of other partners.
- Building partnerships with local homeowners associations (HOAs) that represent nearly 10,000 residents. Our partner HOAs manage over 200 acres of commonly owned private property, including large natural areas, urban forest, bioswales, rain gardens, and other stormwater treatment facilities. We work with HOAs to leverage additional jurisdictional funding for instream improvements, erosion control, invasive species removal, and revegetation.

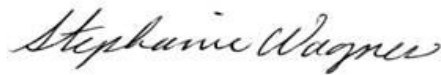
We greatly value our partnership with CSWCD, as we share mutual natural resource goals and similar missions. Regardless of funding decisions, we will continue to boost the message of CSWCD throughout our public outreach and on-the-ground restoration work, to the best of our ability. We know that our three-year agreement with CSWCD represents the **intent** of the district to fund us, and not a promise. However, a significant reduction or loss in funding would cause a ripple effect within our organization, and impact our ability to engage with community members, students, and landowners in Clackamas County. Continued financial support from CSWCD in the coming fiscal year will ensure we can maintain our organizational capacity, and improve our ability to be effective stewards of local soil and water resources.

We ask that CSWCD continue to allocate funding for Oswego Lake Watershed Council and for all the Watershed Councils in the district.

Sincerely,

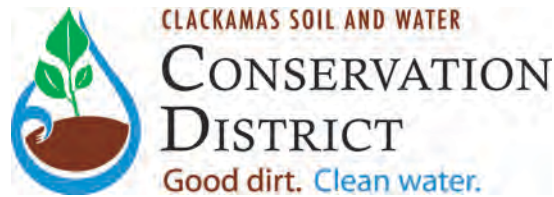


Jack Halsey
Watershed Coordinator
jack@oswegowatershed.org
503-754-8770



Stephanie Wagner
Board President

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING GRANT FUNDING FOR TRYON CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL





TRYON CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL

April 23, 2020

Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District

22055 S Beavercreek Rd.
Beavercreek, OR 97004

Re: Clackamas SWCD Partnership Grant Program

Dear Clackamas SWCD Board Members, Budget Committee, Lisa Kilders, and Jason Faucera,

The Tryon Creek Watershed Council (TCWC) wishes to express our deep appreciation for the Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District's ("CSWCD's") Partnership Grant Program. We ask that CSWCD honor its three-year agreements with participating watershed councils, including TCWC, and please continue this critical funding through the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Quoting CSWCD's award letter for grant funding to TCWC: "The District believes that our local watershed councils are highly effective in planning, developing, and implementing projects and that your education programs make a significant positive impact on the local environment, economy, and community." We could not agree more and we want to continue this great work.

The Partnership Grant Program is uniquely beneficial to TCWC because it provides *unrestricted* funding. TCWC does not receive Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board unrestricted funding, so we count on CSWCD in order to be able to research, apply for, and acquire critical *restricted* grant funding. Such restricted grant funding that TCWC, and other watershed councils, then receive greatly leverage the funding received through CSWCD's property tax dollars.

TCWC would not be able to access restricted grants without the CSWCD unrestricted funding, which allows for staff time for applications and reporting, as well as required match funding. As a result, the CSWCD Partner Funds allow us to accomplish a lot! During the first year of our 3-year agreement, TCWC was able to connect with over 500 community members, recruit and manage over 800 volunteer hours, and produce 14 outreach events including watershed workshops, science talks, and restoration events. TCWC receives \$7,000 annually in unrestricted CSWCD partner funds, and was able to leverage this unrestricted funding to acquire \$46,832 of grant funds to educate community members and engage them in restoration (at a total in-kind volunteer rate of \$23,282), as well as on-the-ground invasive species removal, riparian area restoration, and other conservation projects.

CSWCD's outreach ability is exponentially increased through the Partnership Grant Program. Local watershed councils are more easily able to connect with landowners who aren't willing to work with government entities, including SWCDs. These connections often serve as conduits for the development of conservation plans, as well as larger multi-partner projects. Our watershed council outreach is extensive and we are very pleased to partner with CSWCD to ensure that both of our organizations' messages and tools are shared deeply and broadly.



TRYON CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL

We are natural partners and look forward to a continued and mutually-supportive relationship. TCWC is proud of what we've achieved through our partnership with CSWCD, and we urge you to continue your support for, and commitment to, our community members through your 2020-2021 budget. Historically, the partner funding was distributed in single, lump sums. TCWC recognizes the strains that such a funding mechanism puts on cash-flow, and would like to share that a metered approach such as quarterly payments would still be hugely appreciated and helpful to our organization.

Every organization, including TCWC, is experiencing challenging financial times due to COVID-19 and its economic impacts. Now more than ever we are relying on our partnerships to get us through these hard times without having to abandon our important investments in the land and with people. CSWCD is a local leader in supporting on-the-ground work and we ask that you please include funding for the Partnership Grant Program in your 2020-2021 budget.

Thank you,

Glen Leverich, Chair, Tryon Creek Watershed Council
Clackamas County Resident



TCWC & CSWCD amplify one another's work. Cathy McQueeney, CSWCD Education & Outreach Specialist, was able to speak to over 100 volunteers at Tryon Creek Watershed Council's 2019 Watershed Wide Event about the District's work in Clackamas County.

Left: Cathy speaks to volunteers at Watershed Wide kickoff.
Below: Group photo at kickoff before work parties.



TRYON CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL



Megan & Grant Morlock

Nettle Creek Project Landowners

4/27/2020

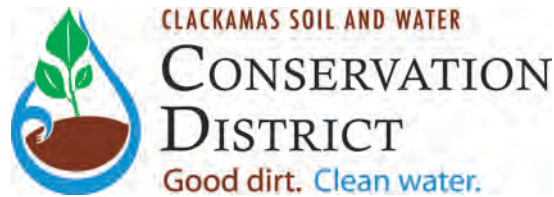
Dear Clackamas Soil & Water District Budget Committee and Board,

My name is Megan Morlock, and I, along with my husband, am writing as a Clackamas County landowner to encourage you to include funding for the Partnership Grant Program for the FY 2020-2021. As taxpayers, we have benefited from this program through a riparian restoration project on our property that included invasive species removal, and bank stabilization through the installation of native plants. The Tryon Creek Watershed Council was able to acquire funding for this project because of the unrestricted funding through the Partnership Grant Program. We appreciate the difficulty of your budget decisions this year and encourage you to continue supporting landowners like us, as well as your watershed council partners, through this critical funding.

Thank you for your consideration,

Megan & Grant Morlock, Nettle Creek Project Landowners

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING GRANT FUNDING FOR SANDY RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL





April 24, 2020

To: CSWCD Board of Directors
Jeff Becker, Chair
Jim Johnson, Zone 2 Director
Jan Lee, At-large Director
Roger Fantz, At-large Director
Jesse Nelson: Vice Chair, Zone 1 Director
Joan Zuber, Zone 4 Director
Dun Guttridge, Zone 5 Director

CSWCD Budget Committee
Dave Albrecht
John Borden
Jessica Collins
Steve Fedje
Terry Muilenburg
Rennie Squier
Jim Toops

CC: Jason Faucera, Budget Committee, jfaucera@conservationdistrict.org
Lisa Kilders, Acting General Manager, lkilders@conservationdistrict.org

Dear CSWCD Board and Budget Committee,

I would like to graciously acknowledge the long term and fruitful partnership between the Sandy River Watershed Council and CSWCD. In the last year, the unrestricted support grants the District offers have been instrumental to the Council's ability to conduct outreach in the upper Sandy watershed, including:

- Conducting the annual Timberline Cleanup at the headwaters of the Salmon River, now expanded from one site and 100 volunteers to four sites across the mountain and 350 volunteers
- Expanding the cleanup effort by introducing Stash the Trash bags to Dodge Park and other popular recreation sites along the river
- Further developing the Conservation Oriented Recreation concept and guide -available on our website <https://sandyriver.org/get-involved/recreation-guide/>
- Using this concept to encourage diverse participation in recreation and stewardship activities by hosting events for the LatinX community in the Mt. Hood National Forest
- Participation in regional coordinating groups like the Sandy River Basin Partners

Project specific grants have contributed to funding the completion of two major floodplain restoration projects on the upper Sandy, reducing erosion pressure on downstream properties

17405 NE Glisan St.
sara@sandyriver.org

(971) 325-4224

Portland, OR 97230
www.sandyriver.org

and creating critical fish habitat and kept invasive weeds in the sensitive salmon spawning habitat of the Salmon River at bay for seven years

Consequently, it is with great concern and dismay that I learned about the proposed cuts to watershed council support grants. As the joint letter from the ten Clackamas County watershed council's letter demonstrates, the value of the relatively small investment on the part of the District is multiplied, exponentially, throughout the county; **leveraging nearly \$20 for every \$1 CSWCD spends**, reaching nearly **ten percent** of county residents. Watershed councils are essential to the District's fulfillment of its mission, in particular, improving water quality and quantity, watershed health, controlling weeds, improving habitat for wildlife, and conducting community outreach. Last year alone, the ten Clackamas County watershed councils collectively improved 30 miles of stream habitat, and restored 1169 acres of wildlife habitat.

I am aware that the District is facing difficult funding decisions. I hope that with the information provided regarding how essential District support is to the persistence of many watershed councils, and the demonstration of how watershed councils are able to amplify the District's investment to further fulfill its mission, that the board and budget committee will reconsider, and agree to fund the ten council support grants to the fullest extent possible.

Given the current Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing financial uncertainty, core support such as the District provides is all the more vital to the continuation of this work in the Sandy and in watersheds throughout the county.

With sincere thanks for your ongoing partnership and support,

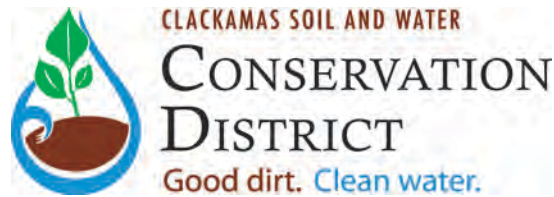
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara J. Ennis".

Sara J. Ennis
Interim Executive Director

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING GRANT FUNDING FOR JOHNSON CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL



PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING GRANT FUNDING FOR BACKYARD HABITAT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM





Backyard Habitat Certification Program - Comments to CSWCD Budget Committee

April 24, 2020

Dear CSWCD Budget Committee,

On behalf of the Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCP), Portland Audubon and Columbia Land Trust would like to express appreciation for the past support received from the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD). We also wish to convey how critical CSWCD's long-term funding is to the program. The steep reduction in funding proposed for FY20-21 would be a significant hit to the program and in turn will require a significant reduction to our deliverables and work in Clackamas County.

The proposed reduction creates significant programmatic instability. A strong funding commitment from CSWCD was integral to our decision to expand into the county. We were very careful and intentional during the expansion planning process specifically because we didn't want to end up in an unstable situation like this, where we would have to reduce our promised services to existing and new program participants. We met regularly with CSWCD staff for 18 months to co-plan the expansion and only agreed to it upon a commitment that long-term funding at the amount negotiated would be provided.

To date, the BHCP has 787 active participants in Clackamas County. These participants are volunteer land stewards, implementing ongoing restoration projects (priority weed removal, planting of native plants, on-site stormwater management, creating wildlife habitat) on their property. The proposed reduction in funding would significantly impact our ability to serve these existing stewards, as well as our ability to enroll the 150+ new stewards previously proposed for FY20-21. It would have major impacts on the long-term restoration work being undertaken through the program. In short, these cuts to the funding promised will severely decrease the soil and water benefits provided to CSWCD's urban and suburban constituents.

As we request a return to BHCP's funding at the previously promised amount, we likewise recognize the funding challenges faced by our partners at the local watershed councils, who are also doing vital work that is important to the health of the people and wildlife of Clackamas County. Our work intersects in ecologically important ways, compounding as Clackamas County residents gain a deeper understanding of the important role they and their properties play in the health of our watersheds.

We appreciate that these are uniquely challenging times, but hope that Clackamas SWCD will be able to find a way to maintain its support for the work plan that we mutually developed.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Dan Roix, Conservation Director, Columbia Land Trust
Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director, Portland Audubon



April 27, 2020

Budget Committee Members
Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District
P. O. Box 830
Beavercreek, OR 97004

Dear Budget Committee Members,

Thank you for your financial support over many years. Our council has been able to accomplish much to further our joint missions with your support.

Johnson Creek Watershed Council and the other nine councils that operate in Clackamas County add great value to the District's mission through restoration, outreach and education. Together, we planted 163,730 trees last year to reduce shade on our streams. We reached 28,443 people through outreach, including information sourcing from the District. This is far more people that could be reached by the District alone with information relevant to furthering the missions of the District and Councils.

Councils were able to leverage funding from other sources in the amount of \$2,318,437.00 last year. That is approximately \$19.00 for every dollar spent on Councils. Any of our organizations would be hard pressed to find such a great return on investment elsewhere!

General support funding allows Councils to pay for costs difficult to obtain through grants: rent, utilities, coordinator salary, Americorps funding. Loss of \$10,000.00 of this unrestricted funding is a significant loss for our Council, but is likely to be devastating for small councils who do not get any general support funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

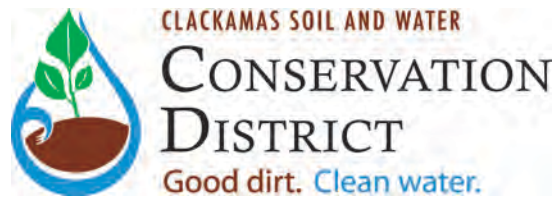
In addition to this loss of general funding, the CSWCD budget calls for a cut to our tree planting (Creekcare) funding from \$10,000.00 to \$2,500.00. This cut will prevent us from recruiting and working on new properties in unincorporated Clackamas County in our upper watershed, something we have been doing consistently for many years. As you know, riparian vegetative management requires many years of maintenance and plant establishment to survive and grow to a stage where trees will provide effective shade. A loss of a single year funding—and we understand that this cut may extend for additional years—will cause weeds to grow back unchecked. This will ultimately lead to greater life cycle costs.

I urge you to reinstate the \$17,500.00 for Johnson Creek Watershed Council and funding for other councils in your FY2021 budget currently slated to be cut.

Thank you,

Tim Crawley, Incoming Board Chair

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING BUDGET FOR CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Clair Klock

Resource Conservationist and interested citizen

4/27/2020

- I would not ordinarily testify at a budget committee hearing, however with the financial situation that has developed in the last year, I felt a need too.
- I would like to voice my support of the 2020-21 Clackamas SWCD proposal budget as written.
- The toughest thing to take with this budget is the loss of the District Conservation and Weedwise implementation funding.
- The 2nd and 3rd items are the proposed loss in funding for the watershed councils and Farmer markets. I am only too aware of what it is like to “live” on grants. The CSWCD did that for the first 10 years I worked here. It makes it far more difficult to get conservation projects done. We did it before and we can do it again until the current financial situation changes. As a conservation educator & farmer I was involved in supporting watershed councils and participated in the start of both Gresham and Oregon City Farmers markets and fully understand the difficulties out running these organizations on little funding.

Thank you for listening.