

02/07/19

In attendance:

Danielle Gonzalez, (Marion County) Shelley Engle, (Detroit) Tim Kirsch, (Mill City) Jim Hensel, (Gates) Daniel Tucker, (Gates) Linda Stitz, (Idanha) Jerry Marr Gates) Greg Shepard, (Detroit) Dean O'Donnell, (Detroit) Jeff Crowther (Oregon Association of Water Utilities)

Recap and updates:

- The group has been meeting since March 2017, regarding the North Santiam Joint Wastewater; each community here has been committed in participating with starting the Special Sewer District.
- Idanha has industrial land but cannot run any type of business due to not having any sewer. They also have an RV Park that has been successful but need more pump out stations. There is a valid concern of cost. They also had some interest in industry growth. They also have some facilities that are not being utilized. They also have the Oregon Timber Trail that goes through the town which is has great recreational opportunities.
- Detroit has small lot sizes. Business need porta potties. The summer influx can be up to 10,000 people with about 300 people trying to handle it all. Federal lands surround the area, not any room for growth. They want businesses downtown to be able to thrive and survive all season.
- Gates was an uncertainty if they wanted growth to happen in their area or not. How do you maintain the quality of life if there is not growth and how will the next generation be able to reside there because of the septic tank problems. They have the lowest taxes in the State, which means it would be difficult to manage any new projects. Concern that DEQ will find issues and the city will be forced to do something regarding sewer.
- Lyons and Mehama have not been included at this point.
- Mill City still has remaining debt. They do have a sewer system that is about 24-25 years old and will be needing updates to their system which could be very costly.
- Started with 10 steps and now how have 11 steps on how to work through the process.
- The communities have agreed Marion County will continue guiding the process. And at this time everyone around the table is still interested in moving forward with the process.

- The proposed amount, without Lyons and Mehama, is 60 million. Initially the cost was approximately 97 million.

Since Last Meeting:

Value of Water – Final Report -

- Mid-Willamette Valley of Governments is working on drafting the RFP for an engineering design work. At some point there will be federal funding and there are a lot of federal requirements. Marion County is paying COG to run the entire RFP process.
- Summer of 2017 the Water Shed Council came to Marion County to work on Economic of valuation of the N. Santiam River. There has been a report published that indicates urbanites are getting away with not taking care of rural communities when it comes to water usage. A value of the water has been set at approximately \$170 million each year.

Statesman Journal Story-

- When ECONorthwest water value report came out the Statesman Journal put out a story on how much the N. Santiam River is worth.
- The water in the River and the Basin is oversubscribed, which means if there were a significant drought or tainted water situation, people with senior water rights could choose to exercise those rights this would make a huge impact on some communities.
- The County is taking a proactive role regarding the Canyon communities' water rights.

Broadband-

- Broadband fiber can be put in right next to water lines and waste water lines. The separation allowed is approximately 6 inches from those lines.
- Next approach to getting broadband in the Canyon specifically, is how to get enough money and traction to help the providers that are already in the area, such as Wave, and Peak Energy.
- The State is going to make rural Broadband a bigger priority. Oregon Broadband Commission is also moving to push the project.
- Presentations and work sessions have been implemented with the Marion County Commissioners regarding Broadband. Next work session will be March 12th.
- RFI's will go out to providers soon.
- There is about 600 million dollars at the federal level specifically for rural areas.

Agenda Items (What? Who?)

- Information will be shared at City Council meetings. Danielle will be presenting to Gates on Feb. 21st.

- At this time taking Willamette Valley Consortium of the list for now.
- Shelly working on grant application and letter to County. It's difficult getting all the information consolidated down to 5 pages, but almost finished.
- Katelynn is working on posting of public notices for upcoming meetings
- Grant application expected to be finished next month.
- Mill City has tentatively agreed to accept the financial fiduciary responsibilities on behalf of the group, but based on what the group decides what the group wants to spend money on. Shelly has been working on a grant app for Marion County. It is easier to go through the grant application process than going through an RFP process.
- **Audio at (52:40) going in and out**
- Ken is working on permits
- Property available in Gates?
- Emailed Linn County about getting assessor records, need to get real market value information, should have soon. Already have Marion County's info. Real market value is important in getting a District set up.
- **58:56 Audio continues to go staticky.**
- Three Basin Rule. Senator Girod released SB 612 again this year. It requires ODEQ to equitably enforce the Three Basin Rule not matter what the population is or the area.
- Janet is working on ADA requirements for Website.

Funding pathways for Task Group – IGA

- Intergovernmental Agreement is in place, 2 year agreement; this will give time to accept money as an organization to start moving projects.

MC FY 19-20 budget

- Carrying approximately 1.9 million dollars for Economic Development, at some point will need to get matching funds. Trying to find at least \$100,000 State funds to put towards engineering and design. Will still move forward with project with or without the State funds, but would be good to have the extra funds.
- Asked for \$375,000 for the next fiscal year and will most likely receive those funds to move forward with engineering and design.
- Some of the grant money will also go towards attorney fees that includes staff cost as well.
- Asked for \$75,000 for Broadband planning pieces, and should not be a problem in receiving the funds.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the past the County has given Grow EDC \$60,000 every year for their work in the Canyon, there will be further discussion with the Commissioners soon as to whether or not the funds should continue to go to Grow EDC or are there other community developments out there that could be funded. • Will also need a consultant who specializes in water.... <p>Part 2 of Audio begins here</p> <p>Liability of septic owners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chrissy Lucas from OSU is an excellent speaker and very familiar with septic maintenance. Chrissy would be willing to come out to City Council meetings or a joint communities meeting, to talk about maintenance. Could also invite several newspapers to come out and report on the subject. <p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IGA's • Add Statesman Journal story to web – Shelley has agreed to work on this. <p>Discussion/Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of good things are happening for the Canyon. • February 19th is the Economic Value of Water meeting at MC Public Works. Please attend if you are able. • Working towards rural Ag and how to utilize high speed agricultural production, as well as working on how to let folks see how important rural broadband is to economic development, agricultural, and timber. The schools have received internet upgrades; they seem to be doing okay with those upgrades.
	<p><i>NEXT MEETING will be March 7, 2019 from 6-8 pm at City Hall in Mill City</i></p>