

MEMO TO BOARD: Agenda Commentary for April 5, 2023

Action Items

- a. **Presentation of FY21-22 Annual Report & Audit:** This meeting is serving as our required Annual Meeting, at which we are required to present our annual report and audit to the public. The board decided that we might do a celebration of sorts later in the year, but we wanted to get the legal requirement taken care of. The WyEast RC&D Council expressed interest in holding a joint celebration if we do so.
- b. **Mosier Million #2 Driller Pool Award & Update:** We received one proposal from Jensen Drilling. Our technical review team is in the process of reviewing it and will provide a recommendation to the board.
- c. **District Cost-Share Program** – We have fully expended our budget for the year; however, we have one request I want to discuss with the board. Jim Olson has donated the use of his property for the 15mile MUS pilot project. Part of the project plan included building a bridge over 15mile Creek to eliminate a stream ford and provide easy access to the site. We are currently using Shawn Sorensen’s bridge, but that is not a viable long-term solution. Our staff has discussed cost-sharing the bridge with Jim, and he’s started purchasing materials. I would like to make the grant budgets go further and suggested we apply for District Cost Share. Jim has paused moving forward on the bridge at this time, and I’d like to ask the board to grant an exception to pay for materials already purchased. Jim did say that he doesn’t mind waiting until July and a fresh budget to be reimbursed.

Wasco County Tax Assessor Update – Jill Amery will brief the board on how current revenues are looking overall, the projected outlook for assessed value as well as discounts/compression/uncollectables for the coming year, and any major updates or outlooks for things like the enterprise zone funds.

Lower Deschutes Weed Control Update – Tyler Holeman, Program Coordinator for the Lower Deschutes CWMA, will provide an update on their project, which the District provides \$10,000 a year in support of. Their annual report is included in this email for your reference.

Updates

- a. **Next Regular Mtg, May 3, 2023 1:00 PM USDA Service Center (Budget committee meets Wed, May 3 at 10:00 AM)**
- b. **15mile MUS** – The basin is complete, and we are working through the shakedown testing.
- c. **Highline Ditch**– Josh will provide an update.
- d. **2020 White River Fire & 2022 Miller Road Fire** – Josh will provide an update.
- e. **Tree Sale** –The tree sale was held on March 18th and Scott will provide an update.
- f. **Weed Control** – Scott will provide an update. We’ve been awarded a few grants through the state and there is tremendous potential to expand the program. I’d like to start the conversation, which we may want to bring to next month’s budget committee meeting.
- g. **SDAO Best Practices Program** – This year’s topic is emergency preparedness planning. If we complete the 5 required items, we will get 10% off on our insurance premiums.

Routine Reports: Committees, Agencies, Manager

Shelah Olson