

## MEMO TO BOARD: Agenda Commentary for September 6, 2023

### Action Items

- a. **Cost Share Requests:** Abbie will present cost share requests for consideration.
- b. **FY2022/2023 Annual Report:** Abbie has drafted our annual report for the last FY. We will share it with the board for review & approval.
- c. **Budget Amendment for GSI Contract for 15mile MUS:** GSI went over-budget on the stakeholder engagement part of the task, due to our requesting their attendance at more meetings than anticipated. At this point, GSI needs to finalize the summary memorandum and submit final documentation to DEQ. They are requesting an additional \$8,000 to complete the contract. I request that the board approve this increase since we asked them to do the additional work.
- d. **Professional Services Contract for Attorney / Legal Services:** Our contract with Campbell Phillips PC expires at the end of August and I suggest that the board extend the end date of this contract. Kristen Campbell is fantastic to work with and has helped us navigate several tricky situations. The only change in the contract would be a rate adjustment as they raised their reduced public sector rate to \$225/hour last January across the board (this is up from \$200 in our original 2019 contract). This is still a significantly reduced public sector rate. Kristen makes it her professional courtesy to not bill for staff or Directors to call to ask a question or discuss a legal issue. This is because she wants there to be an open flow of communication as she gets up to speed on issues and so that we are not discouraged to call if we have a question.
- e. **Cost Share Rate for Mosier Million #2:** We are working on landowner agreements for the first 3 high-priority wells under this project. Two of the top 3 wells belong to the same orchardist. Under the first Mosier Million, we required that commercial operators contribute 10% cost share, while domestic wells were covered at 100% by the district with the state funding. This landowner has expressed that this would be a barrier to participation. There is no requirement attached to the current funding that would require landowners to provide match.

### Updates

- a. **Next Regular Mtg, October 4, 2023, 1:00 PM USDA Service Center**
- b. **OACD Annual Meeting and Conference, October 16-18, Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond** – Oregon Association of Conservation Districts will hold their annual meeting and conference in Redmond this year. I've pasted the agenda on the next page. Please let Jennifer know if you are interested in attending and we will get you registered. You can learn more here: <https://www.oacd.org/2023-10-16-2023-oacd-annual-conference>
- c. **FAST 2023** – Drake will provide an update on the FAST program.
- d. **15mile MUS** – Staff and our consultants with GSI are working on final reports to OWEB & OWRD, as well as coordinating with OSU on some additional testing to be conducted this summer/fall.
- e. **Highline Ditch**– Josh will provide an update.
- f. **2020 White River Fire & 2022 Miller Road Fire** – Josh will provide an update.
- g. **Mosier Million #2** – We'll discuss cost share under action items, which will help guide the next steps in this process.

- h. **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.
- i. **Summer Celebration in Partnership with WyEast, July 20th** - We met at the Dufur City Park and Robert grilled tri-tip. Side dishes were provided by Cobblestone Catering, and we had centerpieces from Dusty Boots Flower Farm. It was a relaxing time, and good to see everyone outside of the office, although not as well attended as we had hoped. We may want to reconsider timing if we do another such gathering.
- j. **Wasco County Fair & 4-H Auction** – Josh set up our booth at the fair, and Jennifer put together a nice swag basket that we raffled off. I attended the livestock auction, which was very well attended. Wasco SWCD got a lot of positive mentions from the auctioneer for our support of the pool. Both Josh and I visited with quite a few landowners on behalf of the district. I feel that fair & the 4H auction were very good outreach opportunities.

Routine Reports: Committees, Agencies, Manager

*Shelah Olson*

**OACD Conference Schedule:**

	16-Oct	17-Oct	18-Oct
7am-8am		Buffet Breakfast /Registration	Buffet Breakfast
8am-945am		Session TBD	SWCC meeting/District Manager Roundtable
945am-1015am		Break/Exhibit space open	Break
1015am-noon		Session TBD	SWCC meeting/District Manager Roundtable
noon-1pm	Registration	Buffet Lunch/Exhibit Space open	Buffet Lunch
1pm-230pm	Annual Membership Meeting	TMDL	
230am-3pm	break/registration	Break/Exhibit space open	
3pm-5pm	Partner/Funding updates	Carbon Sequestration workshop	
5pm-7pm	Registration/Exhibit Space open	Social Event/Exhibit Space open	