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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 3, 2023
TO: Linn County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Ryan Vogt, Executive Director
RE: OCWCOG Linn County Updates

Community and Economic Development Updates

Transportation

Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO)

- Staff attended the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Designing Cities 2023: Denver Conference.
- After a long planning process, AAMPO formally adopted a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the first of its kind in the region. This effort involved significant public outreach, data analysis, and multiple rounds of review and comment. It identifies improvements across AAMPO's region and prioritizes projects for local member use.
- The draft [Regional Transportation Plan](#) is available for public review after a year-long development process. Available on AAMPO's website, it contains proposed projects for regionally significant corridors over the 20-year planning horizon.
- The 2024-2027 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan was approved by the governor and began on October 1, 2023.

OCWCOG Receives \$2.4 Million Grant for Mobility Hubs

- The Oregon Transportation Commission approved the recommendation of the Public Transportation Advisory Committee to fund the construction of the Linn Benton Community College (LBCC) and Oregon State University (OSU) Mobility Hubs.
- Construction is on track to begin in the summer of 2024.

Cascades West Ride Line

- Between March 2023 and August 2023, Cascades West Ride Line provided 52,504 trips to residents of Linn County and 15,835 reimbursements for mileage, meals, and lodging.

Cascades West Transportation Options

- The Get There Challenge runs October 1st through 15th and allows workplace teams to compete for great local and state prizes by telecommuting or traveling to work via foot, bicycle, or bus!

Planning

Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD)

- The three-year Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant began in April 2023.
- OCWCOG continues to serve our rural communities. We actively participate in the Regional Solutions Team meetings and visit our rural communities to hear about their pressing infrastructure needs.
- The Childcare Working Group is helping market the Growing Care program to our region. This program provides training for in-home childcare and offers up to \$15,000 grants.
- OCWCOG has been called into the discussion around Innovation Hubs. Venn Collaborative was hired to complete Phase 1 of Business Oregon's Innovation Hub program. CWEDD will most likely be selected as the governing model for our four-county Economic Development District (EDD) to apply for Phase 2 of the Innovation Hub. This would position the EDD to add traded sector business and entrepreneurship as a focus to our next Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).
- The Broadband Feasibility Study has been completed by Solarity. Linn County has a total of 5,481 identified Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSL) according to the FCC Fabric map, which will be used in identifying the areas eligible for BEAD funding, along with other grants. There are 588 unserved (no service or lacking up to 25/3mbps) and 4,893 underserved locations (speed ranges from 25/3mbps to 100/20mbps, which is the new minimum speed designation).

Linn and Benton Brownfields Grants

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected 7 Oregon projects to receive brownfields funding to expedite the assessment and cleanup of multiple brownfield sites in the state. Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments is the recipient of \$1 million in brownfield funds to support a variety of projects in Linn and Benton Counties. We expect to sign the cooperative agreement by October 2023.

Lending

Cascade West Business Lending

- We were awarded \$1,000,000 from the Business Oregon Community Lender Loan Loss Reserve Program. This program will assist us in getting much needed capital into the hands of small businesses that may not qualify for conventional lending. This includes accessibility of capital for SEDIs and SEDI-owned businesses in our region.
- A loan was approved for All Star Auto Sales and Service, Inc. in Sweet Home to purchase four additional tow trucks to replace their aging ones. Umpqua Bank declined the loan due to the business owner's lack of a personal credit score. The business had existed for 15 years, and the owner had a good amount of personal net worth. He has simply always paid cash for purchases. All Star Auto was enrolled in the Community Lender Loan Loss Reserve Program and was accepted. Lending staff coached the owner on easy ways to build a personal credit score.
- A loan was approved for KL JAMCO LLC, a locksmith company in Corvallis, to purchase an additional locksmith company Albany. Citizens Bank declined the loan based only on the cash flow of the existing business. Lending staff was able to get the loan approved based on the new companies' debt service coverage which was very good. This is a great opportunity for them to expand their footprint and hire additional staff.

Senior, Disability, and Community Services Updates

Senior and Disability Services

Linn County Coordination Group

- Senior and Disability Services has joined the Linn County Coordination (MAC) Group, which is a group of local community partners and representatives from the Governor's office.
- This group collaborates on efforts to obtain funding and works through projects related to the Governor's Executive Order on Homelessness (eo-2302).

Adult Protective Services

- Adult Protective Services (APS) data continues to show higher numbers of referrals/complaints that remain consistent with numbers experienced in 2022, which are 29% increase in overall complaints received at the beginning of the pandemic in 2019.

Linn County Data

Month	Complaints	Community Investigations	Facility Investigations	Community Non-Abuse	Facility Non-Abuse
January	157	46	15	71	25
February	129	37	22	48	22
March	189	39	15	95	40
April	151	30	17	84	21
May	188	45	22	99	22
June	161	38	11	83	29
July	171	32	26	71	42
August	172	39	9	104	20

Supporting Community Programs – Grants provided to 16 Organizations

Supporting community partners and leveraging local resources is a major component of the Older Americans Act. The focus is to serve the most vulnerable and underserved. The Senior and Disability Services Advisory Councils are pleased to announce the disbursement of \$165,000 in grant funds to thirteen local agencies. These agencies are working to improve the quality of life of seniors and people with disabilities by providing programs to promote healthy aging, reduce isolation and loneliness, and increase the overall health and wellbeing of the people they serve. The agencies that will receive grant funds for FY 2024 are:

• Albany Helping Hands: Get that van moving (transportation)	\$12,000
• Albany Parks & Rec: Monthly engagement/reduce isolation	\$ 6,000
• Corvallis Community Center: Fitness classes	\$13,329
• Corvallis Daytime Drop In Center	\$15,000
• Dev NW: Focus on Senior & Disabled Dev NW residents (outreach, housing, financial education, +)	\$15,000
• Grace Center: (scholarship programs)	\$10,000
• Lebanon Senior Center: Evidence Based Exercise Programs	\$15,000
• Lebanon Senior Center: I-Pad program	\$10,000
• Lumina Hospice: Transitions Counseling	\$10,000
• Lumina Hospice: Grief Education & Support Group	\$ 6,000
• NESS: Evidence Based Programs & transportation	\$15,000
• Newport 60+: Hotspots (connectivity) for I-pad program	\$ 7,640
• Samaritan Health Education: Tomando Control de su Salud	\$ 5,000
• Synapse Fitness: Evidence Based Program for Parkinson's	\$15,000
• YMCA: Better Bones and Balance – Evidence Based Program	\$10,000

Community Services Programs

OCWCOG offers Behavioral Activation intervention to local Veterans

- OCWCOG, together with the Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative (OAHBI), is currently piloting a virtual six-week course with local veterans from Linn and Benton Counties.
- As an evidence-based depression treatment approach, Behavioral Activation has been found effective for the alleviation of overt depressive symptoms. In a clinical setting, Behavioral Activation is considered a 3rd wave treatment, utilized after medication and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) have been attempted and failed to provide adequate support.
- The Tele-BA for homebound older adults is delivered via videoconferencing by both OCWCOG staff and OAHBI specialists in a virtual group setting to ensure professional, real-time sessions with group camaraderie, as well as individualized follow-up coaching. At the end of the final session, an estimated 80% of participants will report successful goal completion and improved mood.

OCWCOG AmeriCorps Team Attend National AmeriCorps Convention

- Staff participated in the National AmeriCorps Convention in Washington D.C. in May.
- Staff were able to meet with Senator Wyden's office and share how the Senior Companion Program and Senior Health Insurance Benefit Assistance (SHIBA) volunteers are making a difference serving the region.
- Alicia Lucke, OCWCOG Community Services Program Manager, led a conference workshop on federal match requirements with two fellow National Senior Corps Association Board members.

OCWCOG Programs Awarded Samaritan Social Accountability Funding from Linn County Hospitals

- OCWCOG's Meals on Wheels (MOW) and Stand By Me (\$BM) financial coaching Programs were awarded \$40,000 in grants in late May from Samaritan Health Services' Social Accountability Funds.
- The MOW funding is specifically supporting hot, nutritionally balanced meals served and delivered from our Albany, Lebanon, Sweet Home, Brownsville, and Mill City sites.
- The \$BM funds are supporting Linn County residents with navigating personal financial wellness through 1:1 individualized coaching. Part of a collaborative ask, the \$BM project is working in tandem with local non-profit Casa Latinos Unidos, prioritizing the creation of budgets, reducing debt, increasing savings, and improving credit for local Linn County Latino residents.



Linn County Veterans Services

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linnvvet@co.linn.or.us

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Dee Baley-Hyder *DBH*

DATE: September 28th, 2023

RE: Veteran Services quarterly update July 1, 2023 to September 28th, 2023

There has been an additional 211 Veterans that we have been able to serve. This increase is only from April of this year to present. Total Veterans for our office over the years is now 9,311. According to the GDX, Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures for 2022 there are 10,296 Veterans in Linn County. Our monthly incoming calls have grown to an average of 900. The past 3 months total incoming calls is 2,940.

Recoveries

This is awards (money, that is tax free) that the veteran, surviving spouse or family members have received from the claims that we have filed for them.

This quarter we are not able to report September's recoveries. The system that we use, Vetra Spec, is not up to date with our numbers.

- Recoveries from the new quarter July 2023 - August 2023 Total \$363,499.14
- Recoveries last year July 2022 to September 2022 \$ 917,271.19

Transportation

Transportation is still going strong and is keeping us busy. The Veterans very thankful that we are able to continue providing rides for their medical appointments.

PACT ACT

We are still getting calls and walk-ins about the PACT ACT. Last quarter I reported that the VA had received more than 500,000 claims for benefits had been filed. According to administration statistics now, the Department of Veterans Affairs has received nearly 786,000 disability claims under the PACT Act, processed almost 435,000 and approved more than 348,000.

Outreach

In July, we were at the Linn County Fair and met with many veterans and answered many questions about PACT ACT, benefits, medical and many general VA questions.

September, is a busy month for our office with different out reaches that we attend. We did a walk in Lebanon for Suicide Prevention with the local non-profit group Lebanon Area Mental Health Alliance Corp. This year, there were over 100 people that joined us for the walk.

Stand Down, which is for houseless or low income Veterans, was at the Eagles here in Albany. We were able to help a few veterans do the paper work to get their DD214 (discharge papers) mailed to them and once they receive it in the mail, then they bring it to our office and we look to see about getting the Veteran any benefits that they may be entitled to.

We did the Gun show again it was a huge success. Many questions about potential VA benefits and generic VA questions.

Veterans Services had the privilege of driving the South Willamette Honor Flight to Portland. This year there were 21 Veterans from Linn County. We feel honored to be part of this event and look forward to next year.

LINN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

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Board of Commissioners

From: Stacey Whaley, Parks Director

Date: October 3, 2023

Re: Resolution and Order 2023-369

The following item(s) are scheduled to be heard on October 3, 2023:

Resolution & Order 2023-369 Linn County Parks and Recreation is the recipient of a grant from the Oregon State Marine Board with the goal of conducting a hydraulic study at the McCartney Boat Ramp on the Willamette River to determine whether the ramp can be situated in a better location where it will not wash out and is more useable by boaters of multiple types. The ramp has nearly reached the end of its useful life and is partially undercut by scour. The Marine Board is picking up 75% of the cost of the study, and Linn County Parks and Recreation will be picking up the other 25%. Future actions will be based on the outcome of the study.

Financial Impact: The total estimated cost for the study is \$36,021, of which \$9005.25 will be the Parks Department's responsibility.

Staff Recommendation: Approve

LINN COUNTY TREASURER



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To: Board of Commissioners

From: Linn County Treasurer/Budget Officer

Date: October 3rd, 2023

Re: Order # 2023-368

Order # 2023-368 is a Revenue Increase within the General Fund for the Corrections Office within the Sheriff's office. This is a reimbursement for the Covid testing the Jail did during the Covid outbreak in 2020. The State of Oregon was to pay for the testing and it took this long to receive the funds back to the General fund and is owed to Rizelabs for the testing during that time.

For a total of \$ 210,460.

Financial Impact. There is no financial impact.