

WORK SESSION MINUTES

July 27, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Room 32, Courthouse
535 NE Fifth St.

PRESENT: Commissioners Casey Kulla, Mary Starrett and Richard L. “Rick” Olson

STAFF: Ken Huffer and Carrie Martin. Christian Boenisch participated via telephone

GUESTS: Abisha Stone, SEDCOR

TOPIC: Discussion of projects for Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MWVCOG) and Regional Solutions Team (RST)

Commissioner Kulla called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Abisha Stone presented an overview of a list of eleven existing projects to be presented to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for funding consideration.

Commissioner Olson suggested projects such as rural broadband and expanding weekend transit services to be considered. Commissioner Starrett asked about West Valley water issues in Willamina and accessing funding for infrastructural projects in addition to funding support for the expansion of the Willamina Relief Nursery for high risk children. Commissioners Kulla and Olson agreed that Willamina water is a vital and basic need which would benefit both Yamhill and Polk Counties. Ms. Stone noted that a project detail request was due by July 31st to identify prospective projects relating to regional need. Ms. Stone noted that the Willamina water project has already been recognized by COG and was currently on the list.

Commissioner Kulla addressed the forecasted need for childcare during the school year. Ms. Stone suggested reaching out to contacts at Head Start and the Early Learning Hub to see if they had an existing framework for workplace childcare. Other project ideas were also suggested including the Newberg/Dundee Bypass Phase II engineering, Phase III design and the Westside Road bicycle improvement project, which was part of the Transportation System Plan (TSP). Commissioner Kulla noted the TSP calls for improving road seismic capabilities, bike lanes and overlay due to heavy traffic.

Mr. Huffer highlighted a forecasted downturn to video lottery funds which have been used in the past for grant programs, SEDCOR contracts and chamber memberships and anticipates a larger drop in revenues than the projected 11%. He suggested an expansion of a grant development program project, acquiring outside funding sources for the support of county economic recovery organizations.

Ms. Stone updated the Board about the Immediate Grant Relief Program. She has submitted regional grant requests for business direct grants and has received, to date, in excess of one million dollars for the benefit of business direct grants in the tri-county region.

The consensus of the Board was to direct staff to coordinate with Ms. Stone to compile information for the submission of a project list to the EDA.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Carolina Rook
Secretary