



Staff Report

For City Council Meeting - 11/4/2020

Subject - Old Business - Necanicum Watershed Council Project Ideas

Synopsis - The Necanicum Watershed Council applied for state revenue sharing funds through the City of Gearhart during the 20/2021 budget adoption process. Funds were awarded in the amount of \$1,000. Coordinator Angie Reseland contacted City staff with a list of possible project ideas that would benefit both the City and NWSC. The list was given to Council at the August Council meeting where questions were asked. Staff researched answers with the NWSC and returned the list to Council in order to prioritize a Top 5 for the September meeting. Last month, the Council expressed interest in revisiting the narrowed list given to the NWSC. Both the submitted list and recently received follow-up from NWSC are attached.

Recommendation: Council confirm the attached list meets priorities, or make changes.

Legal Analysis: N/A

Financial Analysis: N/A

Respectfully Submitted,


Chad

Hello all,

Below are some of my initial thoughts after reviewing the list of potential projects that you returned to me. I have broken my responses up by section to make it easier to follow.

Prairie/Dune restoration projects

I will look into this and think about some potential projects. I think there is the potential for a lot of great projects in Gearhart. Right now, the challenge will be to find funding for the projects. The funding we normally get from State of Oregon (the Weed Board grant, small grants, and OWEB grants) is currently on hold due to the Covid situation and the lower than anticipated lottery dollars. We should know more about when funding will be available, and how much funding will be available, in December or January. Then we can design projects to fit the funding source that have the best chance of being funded.

Projects that reduce contaminants in the water

I am working on a couple ideas for this and have been talking to the Clatsop SWCD about partnering on projects. I think there is a lot of opportunity to find funding for projects with this topic. In addition to State of Oregon funding, there are other grants available from Federal agencies like EPA, NOAA, as well as private funders. That gives us a broader base and more flexibility when it comes to designing a project.

City of Gearhart projects

Let's talk some more about what types of City plans you folks need. The IPM plan looks to be almost finished, so it's probably best for the folks who worked on it to finish it up and finalize it. It will be useful as guidance for the Prairie/Dune restoration projects that we are developing and in helping us identify what projects we want to do. If you want something more comprehensive we could use the current plan once it's finalized as a basis to apply for funding to have a professional consultant to write a larger, more comprehensive plan for you.

So overall - I think there's a lot of opportunity there and in a few months we will have a clearer picture of where the funding for the projects might come from. I am excited about the direction that you folks want to go and look forward to developing some great projects!

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or additional direction for me. Also, if you have any other priorities let me know and we can work that into the mix as well.

Thanks so much for being a great partner and I'll stay in touch!

Angie

List of potential project ideas in Gearhart

This list is not all inclusive and I welcome any additional suggestions for projects. In general, the goal is for the NWC to write grants to obtain funding to complete projects in Gearhart in the following categories:

Prairie/Dune restoration projects

- Invasive species/noxious weed removal – we can work with landowners to remove invasive species and replace with native plant species
- Native plantings
- Riparian vegetation restoration we can remove invasive species in riparian areas and replant with native plants

Pollinator habitat projects

- Bee friendly projects – work with landowners to plant pollinator friendly plantings, do educational workshops on how to build bee homes and bee gardens
- Broader pollinator focus – work with landowners to increase the usage of bat boxes (including outreach workshops on how to build, where to install and how to maintain), design projects that increase bird habitat and forage, etc.
- Work with landowners to design and install year round blooming hedgerows with native plants to benefit pollinators.

Storm drain medallions “where your water goes”

- We are currently designing a project with the City of Seaside to educate the public and discourage dumping into storm drains. We will be ordering metal storm drain medallions that say “Drains to the River” or “Drains to the Ocean” depending on the location of the drain. We can do something similar in Gearhart.

Fish passage barriers

- We will work with landowners and the city public works to identify any undersized or failing culverts that need removal/replacement to improve fish passage.

Projects that reduce contaminants in the water

- Outreach and actions focused on the disposal of dog waste
- Outreach and actions focused on proper disposal of household waste
- Outreach and actions focused on proper disposal of Hazardous waste (such as insecticides, herbicides, paint, electronic waste, etc) could include drop off days
- Outreach and actions focused on catch basins and oil water separators (promoting proper monitoring and cleaning)

Projects to reduce fertilizer usage/water usage

- Landowners, golf course, City properties

Water quality testing/monitoring/turbidity

- Coordinate with Surfrider and/or DEQ to test water quality/turbidity or set up monitoring on water bodies within Gearhart
- Fresh water mussel/fish surveys

List of potential project ideas in Gearhart

Improvements along the Neacoxie

- Potentially install filter strips, guard rails, or increase plantings along the areas that border the creek in order to protect water quality

City of Gearhart projects

- Work with the City to obtain grant funding to complete any management plans, studies, or master plans they want/need. For example, this could be a drinking water master plan or a vegetation management plan.
- Assist with public outreach/stakeholder engagement to get public support/participation in a specific City goal
- City events that are tied to the watershed health