



Work Session Summary Minutes

OREGON

Wildfire Funding Discussion

October 24, 2024. 1:15 PM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Kevin Cameron, Colm Willis, and Danielle Bethell.

Board's Office: Trevor Lane, Alvin Klausen, Matt Lawyer, Jon Heynen, and Jan Fritz.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Summary

Focus on the allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) disaster recovery funds. Key points included the allocation of \$9 million for the sewer project, with an additional \$18 million available. Linn County's peer and hop dollars were reallocated to the sewer system, increasing their hop allocation from \$3.1 million to over \$4.5 million. The board also discussed the potential use of Hop funds for Mill City and Gates projects, emphasizing owner-occupied housing and the need for a detailed plan to secure federal approval. The meeting concluded with a consensus to proceed with the sewer project and further discussions on housing developments.

Action Items

- Prepare a board order similar to what Linn County did, outlining Marion County's plan to use the HARP funds for the sewer project.
- Update the funding spreadsheet to include the additional \$1.5 million in Homeowner Assistance and Reconstruction Program (HARP) funds allocated to Lane County.
- Conduct preliminary engineering on the urbanization of the Ferris property in Mill City and determine the funding required.
- Reach out to the City of Gates to discuss the potential housing development plans and get their input.
- Follow up with Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS) on the timeline for the approval of the substantial amendment to the HARP program.

Outline

Wildfire Funding Discussion Overview

- Letter from Director Andrea Bell outlining the uses of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) disaster recovery funding.
- Three programs: HARP, Homeownership Opportunities Program (HOP) Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Revitalization Program (PIER) and the lack of applications funded by CDBG DR in Marion and Lane Counties.
- Linn County's commitment to use 100% of their PIER and HOP dollars for the sewer system and a substantial amendment increasing Linn County's HOP allocation.

Funding Allocation and Reallocation

- \$25 million gap and the inclusion of Linn County's PIER dollars in the pre-\$25 million gap.
- Reallocation is not on the spreadsheet and HUD's acceptance of the reallocation is expected after the year.
- The IGA \$7 million is not exact due to program money set aside for achieving goals for the year.
- Actual balances and allocation of funds for various projects, including the sewer project and other active projects for 2024.

Project Funding and Budget Considerations

- Allocation of \$9 million for the sewer project and the remaining funds for other projects.
- The budget amount pre the \$25 million ask and the staff-recommended portion of the IGA dollars.
- Allocation of funds for various projects, including the sewer project, Mill City housing project, and other active projects.
- Comfortable in moving \$9 million to the sewer project and discusses the remaining funds for other projects.

HOP Program and Mill City Project

- HOP program's potential for Mill City, including the substantial amendment and application process.
- Rules and restrictions of the HOP program, including income limits and occupancy requirements.
- Mill City housing project importance and the challenges faced in securing funding and support from the city.
- Need a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the city to facilitate the urbanization project and the potential developer requirements.

Gates Project and Infrastructure Development

- Gates project and the need for infrastructure development, including the sewer system and other necessary facilities.
- Discuss the importance of owner-occupied housing and the potential for various housing types in the Gates project.
- Discuss the timeline for the Hop program and the potential for direct awarding funds to the counties.

- Discuss the allocation of funds for the Gates project and the importance of creating a nice neighborhood.

Finalizing Funding Allocation and Next Steps

- Final allocation of funds for various projects, including the sewer project, Mill City, and Gates.
- Need a detailed plan for the sewer project and a meeting with the city of Gates.
- Restrictions on HOP program funds and the potential for using OHCS funds for the Gates project.
- Owner-occupied housing and the potential for using CDBG down payment assistance for homebuyers.

Meeting Conclusion and Action Items

- Confident in having all the necessary funds for the sewer project and the importance of securing state and federal approval.
- Need detailed plan and the potential for letters of recommendation from the governor.
- Proposes drafting a board order for Marion County similar to Linn County's commitment to the sewer project.
- Next steps, include setting up meetings with the city of Gates and finalizing the funding allocation.

Adjourned – time: 2:11 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary White