



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
City of Newport, Oregon
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Newport, OR 97365
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MEMO

DATE: January 13, 2023

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Spencer Nebel, City Manager

SUBJECT: Status Report for the Four-week Period Ending Friday, January 6, 2023

The past few weeks have flown by as we celebrated the holidays, closed out 2022, and are initiating efforts to move forward in the new year. One of the issues that we will be working on is the City Council's annual goal setting session scheduled for Monday, January 30. This is an important time for the Council administration and staff to evaluate the operational plan for the fiscal year that will begin on July 1.

I extend best wishes for an enjoyable, happy and healthy 2023. I am hopeful that some sense of stability will return after the very challenging three years which was heavily influenced by the worldwide pandemic, politicized divides, and economic challenges.

Highlights of activities over the last four weeks include the following:

- Participated in an Emergency Preparation Committee meeting. The group is working on an ordinance requiring hotels and motels to make certain preparations for tsunami evacuations for their guests.
- Mayor Sawyer, Aaron Collett and I participated in an update with Dig Deep Research and Drake Wood from Water Strategies, LLC, regarding what the authorization through WRDA for Big Creek Dam actually means, and what next steps will be required. As we have indicated to the City Council, the \$60 million authorization will allow federal funding in the amount up to \$60 million appropriated for the replacement of Big Creek Dam. This is not an appropriation, but sets the framework to allow for future appropriations to be made to the City for this project. Drake Wood has indicated that the City should be prepared to send a small group to Washington D.C. in March to begin the process of requesting funds to be appropriated for this federally authorized project. The cleanest and most effective way for funding would be for Congress to earmark an appropriation specifically for the dam project, otherwise the City will be working directly with the Army Corps of Engineers to have the Corps prioritize this project for federal funding as part of its appropriation request. The WRDA bill was a major hurdle for the City to get over,

however, there will be much work in future years in obtaining the appropriation for the Big Creek Dam project. This will likely be done over a series of federal fiscal years. From a funding standpoint, the \$14 million in state funds that have been appropriated, will fund activities over the next two to three-year period. Beginning the appropriations process now is recommended to secure federal funding for this project.

- Steve Baugher and I had a meeting with our Bond Advisor, Piper Sandler, regarding the possibility of the City utilizing PDQ revolving loan funds for the water storage tank which is proposed to be built on SW 10th Street as a back-up plan, in the event that the Health District is unable to get the federal FEMA funding for this project. This project would build a water storage tank on top of the hill above the hospital that would function as part of the City's water system, however, in the event of a water emergency that water would be stored specifically for emergency use to allow the hospital to continue addressing medical emergencies during the time of the water emergency. The Council will be meeting in a work session on January 17 to discuss these issues.
- Met with Steve Baugher to discuss a modification of work schedules in order to accommodate various schedules in the Finance Department.
- Steve Baugher, Rebecca Morrow and I met to review potential modifications to the water and sewer utility billing ordinance.
- Participated in special City Council and Urban Renewal Agency meetings on Monday, December 12 that included two executive sessions.
- Participated with Mike Cavanaugh and Erik Glover in a forum we scheduled on childcare in the Greater Newport area. Representatives from a number of agencies and providers participated in this meeting. Overall it was a good discussion. One of the surprising factors is that there is capacity among childcare providers to handle more children, five years and up. There is a lack of services statewide for children under the age of five. There is a lot of frustration with the State of Oregon oversight of childcare programs. The childcare issue may be more related to affordable childcare versus available childcare. I will be scheduling this topic for a City Council work session this spring inviting the State and other participants to discuss this issue with the City Council.
- Participated in a meeting with Lincoln County City and County Managers with Ernest Stephens, consultant with Morant McLeod, who has been hired by Lincoln County to prepare a five-year homelessness strategy for the County. This consultant also met with the HB 4123 Advisory Committee the following day to introduce themselves and outline the process they plan to pursue to develop this strategy. This work will be conducted on behalf of the seven cities and Lincoln County who are participating in this process.
- Erik Glover and I participated in the first Water Conservation Work Group meeting. Jan Kaplan participated in this meeting as a Council liaison. In addition, Aaron Collett, Dave Powell and Steve Stewart attended the meeting, as well. The first meeting is to outline the process the Committee will follow in order to provide the required reports to the City administration and City Council. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 31 at 1 PM.
- Steve Baugher, Linda Wertman, Aaron Collett and I met to review the beginning fund balances for various projects as of July 1, 2022. This was incorporated in the

supplemental budget that was adopted by the City Council at the January 3 City Council meeting.

- Barb James, Peggy Hawker, Erik Glover and I made the rounds to the various City departments to deliver candy in appreciation to our employees in advance of the holiday season. The stops included the water and wastewater treatment plants, Fire Department, Library, Public Works, Parks and Recreation Department, Parks Maintenance, 60+ Center, and City Hall.
- Participated in a meeting with the PUD on several issues. This included the dark sky initiative, the possibility of rate differentials for different levels of services for incorporated cities, and the status of the franchise agreement negotiations. The PUD Board is not interested in taking the lead in financing or coordinating a dark sky initiative in the City of Newport. If the City wants to pay for and coordinate the project, they would certainly work with the City to that end. They are also not interested in revisiting their price structure for streetlight charges to the cities. One of the challenges in working with Ameresco on the dark sky initiative, is that the PUD charges four times more for streetlights than Pacific Power or the Columbia River PUD where these projects were done before. In defense of the PUD, the corrosive nature of providing streetlights on the Oregon Coast does make a difference in the cost of that service. If this is something the Council wants to pursue, it would have to be done with the City paying for those improvements. One thing that I might recommend Council do, is to utilize a credit we have coming back from overcharges on streetlights from the PUD to do a street lighting study in the city. We can talk more about this in our upcoming budget discussions. I also talked about the potential of having different rates for cities that choose to have a higher level of service than the basic level of service. This might help to facilitate undergrounding of service lines and other activities. The PUD Board indicated they are not interested in pursuing any differential rates for services. They indicated that it is not their job as a public utility district to finance projects in cities they serve by charging a differential rate to customers in those cities.

Finally, we discussed the franchise agreement which expired in 2018. Following the initial negotiations with Steve Rich, negotiations were paused after Steve became ill. The PUD is of the opinion that the existing franchise will continue until replaced by agreement of both parties. In reviewing this with City Attorney, David Allen, it is David's opinion that the PUD is now regulated by City Code versus the franchise agreement. David has communicated this with the PUD's Counsel. This may create more interest in resuming negotiations on a new franchise agreement. Attached is a copy of the letter sent to the PUD Board of Directors for your review. Following the meeting, the PUD did offer to meet with City Council in a work session to further discuss their position on these issues.

- Mayor Sawyer, Peggy Hawker, Jason Malloy, Jovita Ballentine and I had several meetings in preparation for the arrival of Team Long Road. Team Long Road completed their walk on Saturday, December 17 from Boston to Newport to benefit the recovery of remains of those missing in action from various wars. The American Legion, National Guard, City staff, and others, participated in the planning efforts. A second meeting was held with Cynthia LeHue on the Friday before the arrival to

finalize details for the finish of this walk. Mayor Sawyer did a great job in reaching out for sponsors at this event!

- Participated with Councilors Kaplan and Jacobi in a House Bill 4123 Advisory Committee meeting at City Hall. The focus of this meeting was completing review on the intergovernmental agreement and introduction of Morant McLeod who are the consultants conducting the five-year plan. The Lincoln County Housing Authority has agreed to serve as the Homeless Office for Lincoln County to meet the requirements of providing a centralized office for regional homelessness coordination under House Bill 4123 for Lincoln County.
- Held a bi-monthly meeting with Richard Dutton to discuss IT issues.
- Met with the Dig Deep Research to prepare for the January 17 work session that will involve a presentation on the Wastewater Master Plan, will identify costs that the City will be incurring over the next 10 to 20 years for the wastewater treatment plant, and will discuss the status of the hospital water storage tank project with the City possibly participating through DEQ revolving loan funds to finance this work on behalf of the Health District. The City is looking at significant expenses amounting to \$15 million over the next three years, and an additional \$40 million to address issues of the wastewater system. We will need to develop a strategy as to how we address this work, as well as dealing with the Big Creek Dam project as we move forward in this next decade.
- On Friday, December 16 we held our first in-person Employee Awards Banquet at the Best Western. I appreciate Mayor Sawyer, Councilors Goebel, Parker and Hall who were able to participate in this event. We had a great turnout and a good time recognizing the service of employees to the City of Newport. I appreciate the efforts of Peggy Hawker, Melanie Nelson, Steve Stewart, Jenny Remillard, Sherri Marineau, Liz Gallagher, and Barb James in putting together the various pieces to make this event successful.
- On Saturday, December 17, several hundred people welcomed Team Long Road along Olive Street to Don and Ann Davis Park as the three Marine veterans completed their walk from Boston to Newport on US 20. Mayor Sawyer emceed the event. Councilor Kaplan was present at Don Davis Park to help celebrate the completion of this trip. The Police and Fire Departments escorted the walkers through town. The American flags utilized for various holidays along Coast Highway were provided to people in the crowd creating quite a festive environment for the arrival of the walkers. On Sunday, a spaghetti dinner was hosted by the American Legion and National Guard at the armory that raised over \$2,000 for the group. In addition, folks down at Don and Ann Davis Park contributed \$853 for the benefit of History Flight Inc., an organization that works to recover remains of those missing in action from foreign wars. When I brought the cash to the Oregon Coast Bank in the amount of \$2,901 they rounded up the cashier's check by adding \$464 to bring the cashier's check up to \$3,365 representing a dollar for each mile walked on US 20.

Mayor Sawyer, Jason and Jody Malloy and I handled the cashier's table and helped to set up for the event and helped with service in the course of the dinner. Overall, it was a very nice weekend and generated funds going to a good cause.

- Held a bi-monthly meeting with Mike Cavanaugh.

- Participated in a meeting City Attorney, David Allen, and LS Networks on their quest for a franchise agreement with the City of Newport. David Allen is working on review of the franchise agreement with staff. They hope to have this on a Council agenda in the next month or so.
- Met with Laura Kimberly to discuss the Libros conference and book buying opportunity in Mexico, as well as prepared a letter to request the re-opening of the negotiations on the District Library contract before the third year of the agreement takes place. This will be to revisit the use of circulation as a factor in the distribution of funds to support the use of various libraries by district library patrons.
- Erik Glover and I met to review the Vision 2040 letter as part of the Advisory Committee's report to the City Council.
- Met with Guy Faust from the Newport Rotary Club regarding an initiative to clean micro plastics from the beaches in Newport, and to develop a program to create eco-friendly opportunity for visitors. Guy has been in contact with an individual that has developed low tech sifters that help separate plastics from the sand. These are devices that groups can use to pull plastics out of beach sand. In addition, the Rotary Club would like to create a visitor experience by coordinating visitors to conduct this type of operation on our beaches. Guy is continuing to refine these concepts, and if he gets approval from Rotary, he will make a formal presentation to the City Council on this initiative at a later date.
- Held bi-monthly meetings with Derrick Tokos, David Powell, and Barb James to discuss their departmental issues
- Took Wednesday, December 21 off as a vacation day.
- Worked with the various department heads to compile the year-end report for 2022.
- City Hall was closed at noon on Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 in observation of the Christmas holiday.
- Held bi-monthly meetings with Jason Malloy and Lance Vanderbeck.
- Prepared materials for the transitional meetings of the City Council and Urban Renewal meetings, and the regular Council and Urban Renewal meeting agendas for January 3.
- Met with Mike Cavanaugh regarding a contract issue with one of the Parks and Recreation's recreational providers.
- City Hall was closed on Monday, January 2 in observation of the New Year's holiday.
- Held a routine Department Head meeting on Tuesday, January 3.
- Mike Cavanaugh, Barb James and I met regarding a personal issue in Parks and Recreation.
- Barb James, Steve Baugher, John DuBois and I met to review information as to how PERS overtime hours are calculated for firefighters.
- Andrew Grant, Stephanie Kerns and I met with the Rogue Brewery on an update of bringing their pretreatment system into compliance with their wastewater industrial user permit. As you may recall, Rogue initially installed a treatment process that made a significant difference in their wastewater output, but the system acquired is not able to consistently meet requirements. A consent agreement was entered into which anticipated a start of June 1, 2023, of a compliant pretreatment system with the agreement ending after a 90-day

compliance by the end of September 2023. Rogue Brewery has opted to go forward with Cambrian, a company that will provide the equipment and operate the process on behalf of Rogue to bring them in full compliance with their wastewater industrial user permit. Rogue will be requesting an extension for full compliance since additional work is being required by the Port to determine whether the treatment facility can be located on the west end of the Rogue building in proximity to the seawall. This is requiring Cambrian to design the support pilings for the wastewater treatment system that they will be installing. Once these issues are sorted out, then Rogue will propose a modification to the schedule for our review.

- Participated in the January 3 transitional meeting for the City Council and the Urban Renewal agency. Mayor Sawyer was sworn in for a two-year term, and Councilors Parker, Hall and Kaplan were sworn in for four-year terms for City Council. Congratulations on your election to another term on the City Council! Jan Kaplan was elected as Council President for 2023 and Dietmar Goebel was elected as Chair and CM Hall as Vice Chair for the Urban Renewal Agency for the next two years. This meeting was followed with City Council and Urban Renewal Agency meetings.
- Barb James, Rob Murphy, Tom Sakaris and I met with Mark Wolf to discuss negotiations with the IAFF.
- Participated in a Zoom meeting with local officials from the central and north Coast of Oregon with Governor Kortek's transitional team members, Taylor Smiley Wolf, Annalise Dolph and Karen Rockwell, to discuss homelessness efforts. Other local government individuals from Lincoln County participating in this meeting were County Commissioner, Claire Hall, Mayor Rod Cross from Toledo, and Daphnee LeGarza City Manager of Lincoln City. The governor has a prioritized a statewide response to homelessness as a key priority during her first year in office. They are collecting information as to the challenges in all areas of the state, including rural areas to manage this difficult problem.
- Erik Glover interviewed me on our City radio show on KNPT regarding the year-end report.
- Mike Cavanaugh, Steve Baugher, and I met on the Parks and Recreation fee schedule which is being developed for the new fiscal year. We are looking at incorporating some of the recommendations provided in the business plan on fee structures for review by the Budget Committee and City Council that would be implemented with the beginning of the new fiscal year.
- Peggy Hawker and I met on her efforts to develop a policy manual for the City of Newport. This is one of the tasks that I would like to have completed prior to Peggy's final retirement with the City.
- Derrick Tokos, Erik Glover, Jason Malloy and I met to develop the report on changes that will need to be made to the City's Code to specifically provide for rideshare services. We will have a report for the City Council on the January 17 meeting on this issue.
- Held a bi-monthly meeting with Mike Cavanaugh to discuss various departmental issues.

Upcoming Events:

- City offices will be closed on Monday, January 16, in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Council meetings will be held on Tuesday, January 17.
- I will be on vacation from Friday, January 20, through Friday, January 27. Peggy Hawker will be Acting City Manager during this time.
- The annual Goal Setting session will be on January 30 from 9 AM to 4 PM.
- On February 13 we will be conducting a tour of City facilities for Council. This will be a full day event. Food will be provided.
- City offices will be closed Monday, February 20 in observation of Presidents' Day. The Council meetings will be held Tuesday, February 21.
- The Newport Seafood and Wine will take place from Thursday, February 23 through Sunday, February 26.
- The preliminary budget meeting is February 28 at 6 PM.
- I plan to attend the NW Regional City Manager Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska, on Tuesday, March 28 through Thursday, March 30. This event is usually held in Washington or Oregon but Alaska offered to participate in the rotation this year.
- The LOC Spring Conference will be held in Seaside from April 25 through April 27. Please contact Peggy if you plan to attend.
- The first Budget Committee meeting is May 2 at 5 PM.
- The second Budget Committee meeting is May 23 at 5 PM.
- City offices will be closed May 29 in observation of Memorial Day.
- The final Budget Committee meeting is May 30 at 6 PM.
- City offices will be closed on Monday, June 19 in observation of Juneteenth. The Council meetings will be scheduled for Tuesday, June 20.
- City offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4, in observation of Independence Day.
- I plan to attend the OCCMA Annual Conference taking place in Pendleton from Tuesday, July 18, to Friday, July 21.
- City offices will be closed Monday, September 4, in observation of Labor Day.
- I plan to attend the ICMA Annual Conference in Austin, Texas, from Saturday, September 30 through Wednesday, October 4.
- The LOC Annual Conference will be held in Eugene from Wednesday, October 11 through Friday, October 13. Please contact Peggy if you plan to attend.
- City offices will be closed Friday, November 10, in observation of Veterans' Day.
- City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25, in observation of Thanksgiving.
- City offices will be closed a half day on Friday, December 22 and a full day on Monday, December 25 in observation of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Attachments:

- Attached is my letter to the Central Lincoln People's Utility District regarding ongoing discussions between the City and the PUD.
- Attached is an article in Municipal Water Leader November/December 2022 regarding navigating the funding landscape for water infrastructure projects by Dig Deep Research. Tia wanted to utilize this article to inform Council members and staff about why principle forgiveness loan strategy is key to accessing funds for various City projects. The article also features the Big Creek Dam.

- Attached is an article from Marine Link indicating that the Army Corps of Engineers was successful in a WRDA 2022 reauthorization, as well. In this case, it is \$3.219 billion for the construction of a new Army Corps lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. This project was authorized in 2018 at \$922 million. It is a little concerning to see the significant increase in cost between 2018 and 2023!
- Attached is an article from the Oregonian on the reduced workforce, particularly in rural counties. Lincoln and Curry Counties have the lowest labor participation rates in the state of Oregon.

I hope everyone has a great week.

Respectfully submitted,



Spencer R. Nebel, City Manager

cc: Department Heads



Spencer R. Nebel
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December 6, 2022

Central Lincoln PUD Board of Directors
3211 SW Coast Highway
Newport, OR 97365

RE: Dark Sky Streetlight Initiative, Undergrounding Work and Franchise Agreement

Dear Board of Directors:

Thank you for inviting me to discuss a number of initiatives that the City of Newport is interested in pursuing with the Central Lincoln People's Utility District.

Dark Sky Initiative

The City Council has established a goal to develop dark sky standards for the City of Newport. The first step in accomplishing this goal is bringing the city into compliance with these standards. In 2021, the City was working with Ameresco, which is a company that implements efficiency measures, with those measures being paid, in part, by energy savings resulting from those improvements. Ameresco arranges the design and replacement of fixtures and works to finance the work partially through energy savings. The City has looked at the City of St. Helens and Coos Bay who have recently completed similar-type projects. Two problems were encountered in moving forward with this type of plan in Newport. The first related to the economics of replacing streetlights utilizing energy savings to partially pay for those expenses. Ameresco reported to us that cities within PUD pay about four times the rates for streetlights than what is charged by Pacific Power, or by the Columbia River PUD. It was reported that part of the cost differential is due to the corrosive atmosphere along the Oregon Coast which impacts the lifespan of various fixtures. Unfortunately, the cost differential for monthly rates for LED versus standard streetlights does not cover the purchase, installation, and financing costs for new fixtures. I have enclosed for your review a copy of the communication from Ameresco outlining the differences in rates between Central Lincoln and two other electrical rates for street lighting.

Participate board on —
Nye Beach

Rate Differentials for Different Levels of Service

Central Lincoln PUD provides services to a number of cities and unincorporated areas running from Lincoln Beach to Glasgow on the Pacific Ocean. The PUD has a responsibility to assure that all customers and municipalities are treated equitably in the service levels provided by the PUD based on the rates received for those services. The current rate structure does that.

There are, however, significant differences in the wants and needs of cities like Newport, Lakeside, Toledo, or Florence. During discussions with PUD staff, I raised a question as to whether the PUD could establish different rates for cities, if the governing body of those cities request a higher level of service for that community. As an example, the City of Newport is interested in working to put additional areas of electrical lines underground within the city limits. The cost of putting electrical service underground is an expensive endeavor. It would be the City's desire to consider identifying specific areas where this would occur, as the PUD upgrades the utility system from time to time. If this is only being done in the City of Newport and not in other cities, then it may make some sense to develop a differential rate that customers in the City of Newport would pay for electrical services to accomplish these types of enhancements. It would be important to the Board of Directors that these requests be initiated by the governing body of that City wishing to consider higher rates to pay for enhanced services for that community. While "one-size-fits-all" is always a clean solution, it does not necessarily fit the specific needs of each of the communities served by the PUD. Lakeside is not Newport. The PUD, working at the request of a local municipalities or county, could look at the cost of addressing certain issues that are above and beyond basic levels of service provided by the PUD. Some sort of rate or surcharge could be established to help offset those specific improvements requested in those specific municipalities. This is an issue that we are happy to talk about further, if the Board has an interest in pursuing these discussions.

Franchise Agreement

The franchise agreement between the City of Newport and Central Lincoln PUD expired on December 31, 2018. Since that time, the PUD has been operating under the terms of the Newport Municipal Code. Negotiations have been impacted by the illness, and ultimate passing, of City Attorney Steve Rich, transitions with Public Works personnel, and the General Managers at PUD. In negotiations, there were a number of unresolved issues. These included ADA repair/replacement when modifications are made to sidewalk areas, line undergrounding, streetlight inventories and other similar issues. With Ty Hildebrand being in place as General Manager, and the City having positions stabilized with City Attorney, David Allen, and City Engineer Aaron Collett, we are certainly in a position to resume resolution of any remaining issues for a new franchise agreement between the City and the Central Lincoln PUD.

Again, I appreciate the invitation to speak at one of your board meetings. Central Lincoln

and the City of Newport have a vested interest in working together to address these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. R. Nebel".

Spencer R. Nebel
City Manager

Attached: Email

From: Carver, Jason <jcarver@ameresco.com>
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Spencer Nebel <S.Nebel@NewportOregon.gov>
Cc: Glynn, Gerry <gglynn@ameresco.com>
Subject: Streetlight rates

FYI. Newport's rates are about 4x Pacific Power or Columbia River PUD.

PPL Sch51

Pacific Power - Oregon Price Summary
In Effect as of January 12, 2021

Tariff Schedules ¹	Base Rate	Delivery Service							
		93	95	96	97	194	198	299	
Schedule 51									
<i>type</i>	<i>Lumen equiv.</i>	<i>kWh</i>							
Functional Lighting			0.000	0.0011	0.000	0.000	0.023	0.006	4.570
Level 1	0-3,500	8	\$6.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.37
Level 2	3,501-5,000	15	\$6.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.69
Level 3	5,501-8,000	25	\$7.11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$1.14
Level 4	8,001-12,000	34	\$7.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$1.55
Level 5	12,001-15,500	44	\$7.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$2.01
Level 6	15,501+	57	\$9.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$2.60
Functional Lighting - Customer Funded Conversion									
Level 1	0-3,500	8	\$3.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.37
Level 2	3,501-5,000	15	\$3.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.69
Level 3	5,501-8,000	25	\$3.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$1.14
Level 4	8,001-12,000	34	\$4.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$1.55
Level 5	12,001-15,500	44	\$4.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$2.01
Level 6	15,501+	57	\$5.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$2.60
Decorative Series									
Level 2	3,501-5,000	15	\$11.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.69
Level 3	5,501-8,000	25	\$12.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$1.14

St. Helens

Mercury Vapor Lights

Watts	kWh	Lumens	**Monthly Charge
175*	77	7,000	\$7.61
400*	169	21,000	\$15.99

*No new service provided by the PUD

High Pressure Sodium or Metal Halide Lights

Watts	kWh	Lumens	**Monthly Charge
70*	34	5,800	\$3.49
100*	43	9,500	\$4.56
150*	63	16,000	\$6.34
200*	88	22,000	\$8.23
250*	111	25,500	\$10.11
400*	172	48,000	\$15.78

*No new service provided by the PUD

Cobra Head Light Emitting Diode (LED Lights)

Watts	Monthly Charge**
40	\$2.54
60	\$3.47
95	\$4.95
165	\$8.36

Newport

Capital Fee \$700 up front - maintain
 Capital Fee is rolled into the rate structure

CENTRAL LINCOLN PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT

SCHEDULE 500 - STREET LIGHT SERVICE

New LED lights are compliant with dark sky
 (Baytown) / 15-20 years

AVAILABLE:

Throughout our service area in Coos, Douglas, Lane, and Lincoln Counties, to cities and other municipal organizations for dusk to dawn outdoor lighting of highways, streets and parks.

APPLICABLE TO:

This rate is applicable to street and area lighting from dusk to dawn for either conventional overhead or underground systems.

MONTHLY RATE PER LUMINAIRE:

Not Available After January 1, 1980
 (Customer Owned)

	District Owned, Operated, and Maintained	District Furnished Electricity Only
Luminaire Only:		
100W equivalent HPS or LED (ORN)	\$19.01	
100W equivalent HPS or LED (STD)	17.56	
200W equivalent HPS or LED (STD)	19.98	\$2.84
Luminaire & Wood Pole:		
100W equivalent HPS or LED (STD)	21.72	
200W equivalent HPS or LED (STD)	23.66	
Luminaire & Ornamental Pole:		
100W equivalent HPS or LED (ORN)	36.60	
100W equivalent HPS or LED (STD)	46.21	
200W equivalent HPS or LED (STD)	47.74	



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Municipal Water Leader

Volume 9 Issue 10

November/December 2022

Spencer, Sharing this article to help educate Council members and/or staff about why the principal forgiveness loan strategy is key to accessing BIL funds for City projects. Plus, it features the Big Creek Dam! -Tia

**Drought Response,
Partnerships, and Funding
Sources: A Conversation
With Assistant Secretary
Tanya Trujillo**



Dig Deep Research: Navigating the Funding Landscape for Water Infrastructure Projects



The City of Newport, Oregon, sought support from Dig Deep to seek funding for its Big Creek Dam Project.

How can local governments and municipal water agencies decide where to focus their efforts when seeking grant funding that best fits their projects? Dig Deep Research is there to help. In this interview, Dig Deep Founder and CEO Tia Cavender shares valuable advice about strategies and expectations for seeking grant funding and tells us about what to expect from the recent Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Municipal Water Leader: Please introduce yourself and Dig Deep.

Tia Cavender: I am the CEO and founder of Dig Deep Research. At Dig Deep, we help local government agencies navigate the funding landscape for water grants. We help clients find and secure water infrastructure funding for drinking water, wastewater, and storm water projects.

Municipal Water Leader: What are the main sources of funding?

Tia Cavender: We are always focused on government grants—federal, state, and local funding sources. We also advise clients about public financing programs that come with incentives such as principal forgiveness funds or grants associated with low-interest loans. For example, much of the water infrastructure investments enacted through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) will be provided to

local governments in the form of principal forgiveness funds. Ultimately, the bottom-line effect is a huge reduction in the overall cost of a project that is financially equivalent to receiving a grant from the government but is tied to a low-interest loan administered by the state.

Municipal Water Leader: What are some of the factors that determine which type of grant an entity should pursue?

Tia Cavender: People usually start a pursuit based on the amount of money available through the grant and the eligibility of the project—for example, whether the project fits the intended purpose of a specific grant program. Something else an agency should consider when deciding whether to pursue federal or state funding is whether it has the organizational capacity to manage the grant if it is awarded. Has it been successful in the past pursuing federal grants? If not, it may want to stick with pursuing only state grants for a while. Many people mistakenly go for federal money when they might not be competitive enough yet to successfully do so. An agency should also make sure the grant timeline fits with the design and construction timeline. That's probably the biggest barrier to pursuing water infrastructure grants. The agency should make sure that its construction project doesn't have to be delayed because it is waiting for funding or because it needs to accommodate specific grant requirements.



Excavations for a water main replacement.

Municipal Water Leader: Do certain funding sources have strings attached in the form of requirements that the recipient agencies must fulfill?

Tia Cavender: Absolutely. To fulfill reporting requirements, you must provide evidence that the money was spent specifically as intended. Federal grants usually have stricter reporting requirements than state grants, and state grants generally have more robust reporting requirements than local ones. People new to grants are often shocked to find out how much time it can take to prepare materials for federal grant requirements in the postaward phase. That's another aspect of the multidimensional analysis that you have to do when you're evaluating whether to pursue a government grant.

Municipal Water Leader: You referred to entities that might not yet be competitive enough to apply for a federal grant. What goes into making an agency competitive?

Tia Cavender: There are many factors that influence project competitiveness. First and foremost, to have a competitive project, you need to make sure that the project will help the funding agency meet its intended goal. It's not enough to be *sort of* similar to what the funding agency is requesting, because there are hundreds of other applicants waiting in line with *exactly* what it wants. Broad community support for the project's completion is another competitiveness factor that applicants sometimes neglect. Competitiveness for federal funds can sometimes be influenced by national priorities, such as economic recovery. For example, the current administration has put an emphasis on using BIL funding to support disadvantaged communities, so projects that can meet the criteria for a disadvantaged community will be more competitive in the search for federal funding than projects in affluent communities.

Municipal Water Leader: Would you elaborate on the expectations that municipalities should have in pursuing grant funding?

Tia Cavender: Especially given the media coverage of the infrastructure funding bills that have recently become law, one of the most important things public officials can do is to temper their expectations. Yes, the total amount of grant funds sounds substantial, but when you break it down by state and then into individual projects, it's still not enough money to address what needs to be addressed. Also, the grant programs are highly competitive, particularly since the recent economic downturn. For instance, one of the grants available right now from the Federal Emergency Management Agency is the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant, which is a great source of federal funding intended to help communities construct expensive infrastructure projects. It was funded in the amount of \$1 billion in 2022, but unless you're among the top 2 percent of the most competitive projects in the entire country, you're probably not going to get funded.

The other thing to realize is that the funds from these infrastructure bills aren't going to be quickly accessible. Unlike the stimulus bills of 2020 and 2021, which went out quickly and were intended to be spent quickly, the new sources of infrastructure funding through the BIL will be distributed over a 5-year period, and some programs haven't even been developed yet. That's another thing we try to help municipalities understand: how long federal funding takes to obtain. If your project must be completed within 1–2 years, it probably has too short a timeline for the new infrastructure funding that's coming around the corner. That's disappointing for many people to hear, especially when there's so much media hype about how much infrastructure funding is available through the BIL.

The BIL funding intended for already-existing programs will be available more quickly, but developing new grant or loan programs takes a lot of time and resources. I'm impressed with how the BIL is currently getting rolled out, at least as far as water infrastructure funding is concerned, in terms of avoiding delays in the distribution of infrastructure investments. For example, instead of everything being distributed through competitive grant programs, local governments can apply to existing loan programs and receive money in the form of principal forgiveness and interest savings. That approach is very different from the typical way federal grant programs are administered, which requires that applicants compete for limited grant funding through peer-reviewed, competitive grant programming. That typical model results in many smaller communities in need being neglected and unfunded simply because they aren't grant-savvy enough to pursue federal funding.

Municipal Water Leader: What are some of the opportunities available through the BIL that would be most interesting to municipal water providers?

Tia Cavender: They should definitely check out the state revolving fund (SRF) loan programs. Every state has an SRF program for drinking water and another one for wastewater and storm water projects. Those existing funding mechanisms are being used to give out as much BIL money as possible, so a community that might not normally consider applying for an SRF loan might want to reconsider. In general, I think municipalities should give SRF loan programs a second glance because of the BIL funding and the fact that they can get lower interest rates there than on the municipal bond market. A community that usually relies only on general obligation bonds or revenue bonds to pay for capital improvement projects is missing out on the opportunity to take advantage of other financing mechanisms such as the SRF that can ultimately save taxpayer dollars.

Municipal Water Leader: Would you tell us more about the BIL-related principal forgiveness opportunities you mentioned?

Tia Cavender: The principal forgiveness opportunities made possible by BIL funding will vary from state to state, because all states manage their own SRF programs, and the way they choose to administer the funds is often complicated. For example, principal forgiveness for wastewater projects in Colorado is capped at \$1.5 million per project, regardless of how much the project costs. By contrast, a \$10 million drinking water project in Colorado might be eligible for \$4.9 million in principal forgiveness because the state has more BIL money to spend on drinking water projects than on wastewater projects. As someone tracking multiple SRF programs in multiple states, I have great empathy for the state employees charged with figuring out the best and fairest way to distribute BIL funding. For instance, without knowing how many applicants are likely

to come forward, it's complicated to figure out how much they can provide in principal forgiveness funds. The state agencies responsible for distributing the water infrastructure investments are all trying to determine the best practices for distributing and stewarding these federal funds. My guess is that many states will continue to change and refine program requirements and caps each year based on what they have learned, which is another reason we are encouraging all communities to start the application process now, before more and more restrictions become commonplace.

Municipal Water Leader: What else should municipalities know about working with Dig Deep?

Tia Cavender: The earlier a municipality can start planning, the better. It is never too soon to start the grants-planning process for large water infrastructure projects. For example, a grant request for proposals might have a deadline 6–8 weeks after the request is issued. Municipalities that are attempting to plan and prepare an application within that limited time period will always be less competitive than those that have spent a full year preparing. Dig Deep is great at helping municipalities evaluate whether a government grant is worth going after given how much time it will take. Many municipalities underestimate the amount of time it will take to not only pursue but also to manage the grant, and they often neglect to factor that into their return on investment calculations. In many cases, we advise clients to avoid pursuing grants under a certain amount. For a small community with a population of 2,000, for instance, the no-go threshold might be \$100,000, while a community with a population of 10,000 might put the no-go threshold at \$250,000. Our objective is to always make sure the client is aimed at the right targets and is only pursuing grants that they are competitive enough to win.

Municipal Water Leader: How should potential clients get in touch with you?

Tia Cavender: They can reach us through our website, digdeepgrants.com, or by e-mailing me at tia@godigdeep.com or our operations manager, Fernando Gonzalez, at fernando@godigdeep.com. When someone reaches out, we ask preliminary questions about the type of project they need funding for, the construction timeline, the amount of money they need, and so on. That's typically all we need to get started helping them determine whether there's funding potential or not. We're happy to help any time! 🙌



Tia Cavender is the CEO and founder of Dig Deep Research, LLC. She can be contacted at tia@godigdeep.com or (720) 785-4155.



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New Lock at the Soo Reauthorized in WRDA 2022 at \$3.219 Billion

December 29, 2022



The New Lock at the Soo Artistic Rendering depicts how the Soo Locks will look once the New Lock at the Soo is complete in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. (Image: USACE)



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DESIGN

December 2022

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District New Lock at the Soo Project in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan is reauthorized in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2022 on Dec 23, 2022. The project reauthorization amount is \$3.219 billion.

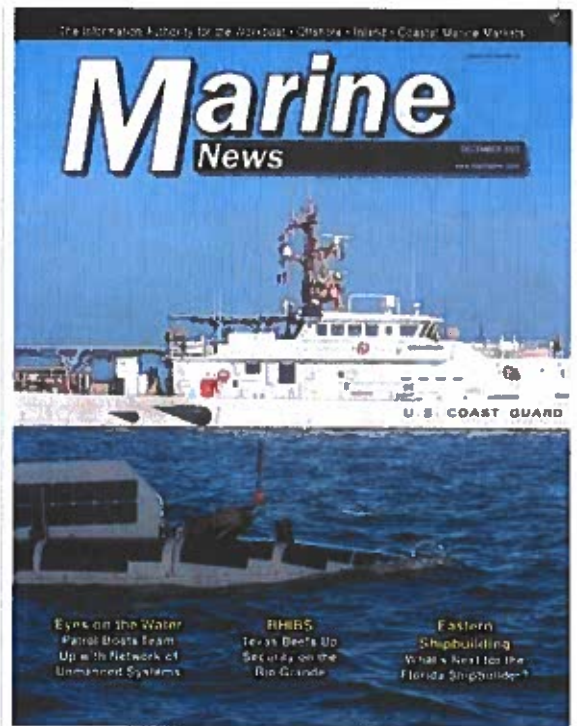
An authorization sets how much money agencies and programs can receive, and how they should spend the money. This authorization makes it possible for the project to maintain efficient funding eligibility. Due to recent cost increases, the project cost was estimated to exceed the previously authorized spending limit.

"With continued funding, the remaining construction work, valued at \$794.5 million could be awarded over the next three years allowing the project to stay on schedule and be completed in 2030." Deputy District Engineer Kevin McDaniels said.

Since the project's authorization in America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, the authorized cost changed from \$922 million to \$3.219 billion. Over the last four years, the project cost has been impacted by labor shortages, supply chain disruptions and material cost increases.

The Corps of Engineers sought consideration of an increased authorized project cost in WRDA 2022 by transmitting the approved Post Authorization Change Report to the House and Senate Authorizations Committees on June 8, 2022. The project received strong bipartisan support while going through both the House and Senate.

The Soo Locks are situated on the St. Marys River at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and allow vessels to transit the 21-foot elevation change at the St. Marys Falls Canal. Over 88 percent of commodity tonnage through the Soo Locks is restricted by



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vessel size to the Poe Lock. This new lock project will construct a second Poe-sized lock (110' by 1,200') on the existing decommissioned Davis and Sabin locks site.

A 2015 Department of Homeland Security study estimates a six-month Poe Lock closure would temporarily reduce the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) by \$1.1 trillion, resulting in the loss of 11 million jobs. This Great Lakes Navigation System critical node is essential to U.S. manufacturing and National Security according to the study.

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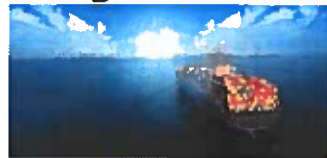
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Business

Workforce participation remains depressed, especially in rural Oregon

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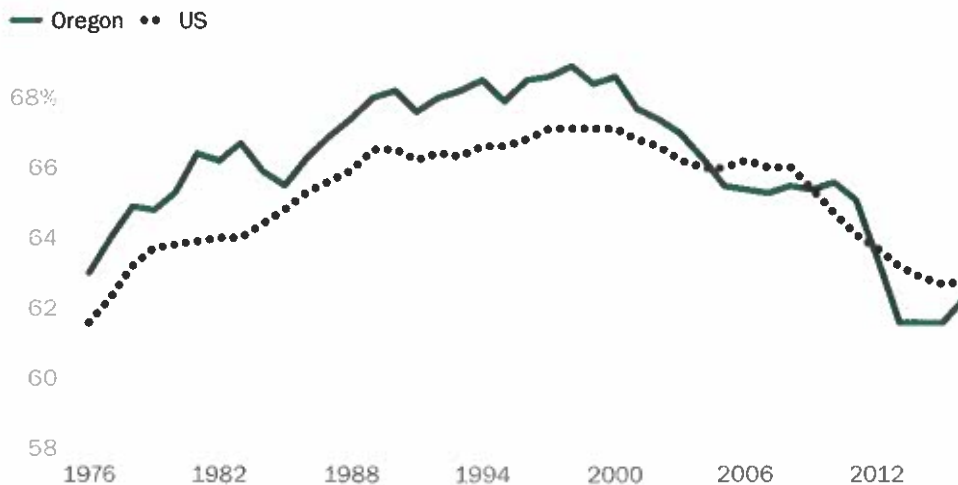
The share of Oregonians in the workforce has remained at historic lows for nearly a decade, a national trend that reflects an aging population moving into retirement and younger people who are taking their time to join the job market.

With Oregon's population flat, or perhaps in decline, workforce participation rates could be a key long-run economic barometer for the state.

The decline in workforce participation is especially pronounced in rural Oregon, which tends to skew older. That's according to an analysis last year by Tracy Morrisette, a statistics coordinator with the Oregon Employment Department.

Labor force participation rates

The percentage of people in the workforce has declined because an aging population has more retirees, and because young people have not entered the job market as quickly.



Source: Oregon Employment Department • [Get the data](#)



Statewide, the workforce participation rate is 62%, down from a peak near 70% in the late 1990s.

Coos, Lincoln and Curry counties have the state's lowest labor participation rates, all under 50%, Morrisette found. More than a quarter of the people living in those counties are over 65 – in Curry County, more than a third. Just 19% of all Oregonians are over 65.

The counties with the highest labor participation rates are Hood River, Washington and Multnomah – all near or above 70%. And all their populations are relatively young, according to Census data.

“Moving forward, overall labor force participation rates will decline, simply due to the aging of the population. As more Baby Boomers enter into their retirement years, the share of all adults working or looking for work will fall as a result,” state economists wrote last fall in [their quarterly revenue forecast](#).

But Oregon continued adding jobs throughout the last two years, and wages have continued climbing – albeit not quite as fast as inflation. Those factors may have contributed to a modest growth in Oregon’s labor force participation in 2021. (Last year’s numbers won’t be out until March.)

In the long run, state economists say Oregon’s challenge will be reviving population growth by attracting workers from outside the state and keeping people in the labor force whenever the next recession hits. They note that “large numbers of discouraged workers” dropped out of the workforce altogether after the dot-com bust and again during the Great Recession.

“It was only once the economy became strong again in the late 2010s and early 2020s have some of those losses begun to be regained,” the economists concluded.

This is Oregon Insight, The Oregonian's weekly look at the numbers behind the state's economy. [View past installments here.](#)

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