

LANE COUNTY FY 10-11 BUDGET COMMITTEE COMMUNITY FUNDING REQUEST INFORMATION FORM

Due Date: March 31, 2010

Instructions: Complete all questions and submit to:
County Administration Office, 125 E. 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401
Contact Person: Judy Williams, 682-4527

Agency/Organization Name: Watermaster District 2, Oregon Water Resources Department

Contact, Title: Michael J. Mattick, Watermaster **Email:** Michael.j.mattick@ wrd.state.or.us

Mailing Address: 220 5th St, Springfield, OR 97477 **Phone:** 541 682-3620

Amount Requested from County: \$ 2,000

Please note: Due to Oregon Public Contracting laws, the county may be required to hold a competitive selection process in order to award funds for this project/service.

Project/Service Name and Description: Watermaster Support

This request is to partially fund a limited duration, part time Watermaster assistant. The position was partially funded in 2009 by carry over funds dating back to the 2005 when federal dollars became available during reconstruction of Fern Ridge Reservoir. Those monies were more than exhausted in 2009. The position was funded only by Linn County in 2008.

The position mainly assists with the research of water right and well construction documents for the general public, and provides support to the Watermaster with records maintenance; stream flow measurements, well inspections; dam safety inspections; review of development plans; and coordination with local governments and watershed councils.

The primary function of the office is to enforce Oregon Water Law which usually entails settling water use disputes when there is not enough water to satisfy all demands. This is done through the use of water right records and the application of the Prior Appropriation Doctrine (the oldest right gets to use water the longest during a time of shortage). Much of this activity is centered on protecting instream water rights for the benefit that accrues to the public of continuing to have water in streams. In Lane County, most of this activity occurs in the Lake Creek Basin, a tributary to the Siuslaw River and in the Mohawk River Basin, a tributary to the McKenzie. This regulatory activity may take 2 weeks or two months each year, depending on the timing and amount of precipitation. However, the office responds to complaints County wide on a year round basis. The other high importance focus of the office is trying to protect ground water resources through the enforcement of well construction, maintenance and abandonment standards. By far, the most time is spent responding to public inquiries regarding water right documentation, new applications, well construction records and water resources in general. Many inquiries are related to property transactions.

This one person office serves most of Lane, Linn, and a small portion of Benton Counties. Lane County already provides office space, telephone and internet access. A need exists for office staff to assist the public and local government staffs, when making decisions which rely on or impact water resources and to protect surface and ground water resources of the region. A part time assistant will help meet that need.

Advisory Committee Assigned for review: _____

Advisory Committee Recommendation: _____

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Project/Service Name: Watermaster Support

Project/Service Budget:

- Include/describe other revenue sources that will be leveraged to implement this project/service.
- If this service has been provided in the past, please provide historical data of funding sources and project expenses.

Revenue	FY 08-09 Actual	% of Tot	FY 09-10 Actual	% of Tot	FY 10-11 Request
Federal					
State					
Cities					
Other: Linn County	3629	100	0	0	2000
TOTAL					
Expense					
Personnel	3629	100	3731	100	
Materials & Services					
Other					
TOTAL					2000
Net Request					2000
FTE	0.2		0.2		0.1

Do any other entities, public or private, provide this service? Yes Who? I am employed by the Oregon Water Resources Department (a State Agency). Linn County has provided financial assistance from 1998 until 2008. I am making the same request to them in hopes that the two counties will again support the position at a minimal level.

Describe the demand for this service and the impact on citizens/customers if this service is not provided.

Timely water right and well construction information is crucial to land owners facing water shortage problems. As they say “You don’t know the value of water until your well runs dry”; and, real estate transactions will be delayed or cancelled, small dams may fail, important decisions will sometimes be made with weak knowledge of water resources. Even with this funding, staffing levels will still result in delayed responses, they will just not be so long.

If this is an ongoing service, how do you plan to sustain the service beyond June 30, 2011?

I anticipate a larger budget request in future cycles as the economy improves.