

Agenda Item Number 10.B.

Recommendation to Lane County Regarding Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council

- Presenter:** Michael Meyers, Lane County Community & Economic Development
John Falzone, Coast Fork Willamette WC
- Action Recommended:** Recommendation to Lane County that it officially recognizes the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council
- Issue Summary:**
- Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council seeking official recognition by Lane County.
 - As part of formal recognition process, Board of County Commissioners is to convene a local government group comprised of elected officials of interested cities, counties, water supply districts, and sewer districts.
 - The purpose of convening the local government group is to consider whether the watershed council is comprised of a sufficient balance of interested and affected stakeholders in the watershed, and whether it assures a high level of citizen involvement in the watershed action program.
 - If watershed council meets above criteria, the local government group shall designate the watershed council as a recommended watershed council to the Board of County Commissioners.
 - LCOG requested by County to be local government group.

Background:

The Board of County Commissioners has recognized five river basins in Lane County: the McKenzie, the Middle Fork of the Willamette, the Coast Fork of the Willamette, the Long Tom, and the Siuslaw. The Coast Fork of the Willamette is the only basin of the five that does not have an officially recognized watershed council.

The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council is requesting to be officially recognized by Lane County. The proposal by the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council for official recognition is attached to this memorandum.

The Lane Manual provides the process by which watershed councils can become officially recognized by the County. The entire section of the Lane Manual dealing with watershed councils is also attached.

According to Lane Manual section 3.508(1)(a), in order for a watershed council to be considered for official recognition by the County it must meet a specific set of criteria as outlined in LM 3.508(2) *and* it must come recommended from a local government group convened by the Board as described in LM 3.508(1)(b) and 3.508(1)(c).

LM 3.508(1)(d) states that the Board may use the services of LCOG as the local government group. As stated in Board of County Commissioners Order No. 02-11-13-4 (attached), the County is requesting LCOG to be the local government group.

The Board Order also requests that LCOG make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners as to whether the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council is comprised of a sufficient balance of interested and affected stakeholders in the watershed, and whether it assumes a high level of citizen involvement in the watershed action program, per LM 3.508(1)(c) and ORS 541.388(2).

The Coast Fork Watershed Council by-laws indicate that its meetings are open to all interested parties. Existing partners include various state and federal agencies, Weyerhaeuser Company, the cities of Creswell and Cottage Grove, landowners, volunteers, and students. The Watershed Council has demonstrated that it meets the intent and letter of Lane Code regarding involvement of local governments and other affected stakeholders.