

## City of Detroit

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**From:** <woodward-ken@...>  
**Date:** Friday, September 25, 2015 7:39 AM  
**To:** "Detroit City" <detroit@wvi.com>  
**Cc:** "Flanders, Shari"  
**Subject:** Sewer

### Detroit City Council

I read the Sanitary Survey of On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems in Detroit and Idanha written by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality completed in 2003.

Following are some highlights in the Survey. I urge everyone to read the Survey.

The study points out on page 3, that in 1992, the communities of Detroit and Idanha started discussions related to replacing the existing on-site sewage disposal systems with a joint community sewage collection and treatment system. Many of the existing on-site sewage disposal systems are reported to be cesspool and other types or configurations of systems not considered under current standards to adequately treat waste water before disposal into the soil. In 1995, the Cities of Detroit and Idanha contracted with a consultant to prepare a feasibility study for sewage collection and treatment facilities. The feasibility study and subsequent addendum concluded that the use of "both approved and substandard on-site sewage systems in the area has raised concerns about public health and water quality, especially during the peak recreation period from June to September, when the area population increases dramatically"

Then on page 4, they talk about the small lots. Northeast of Highway 22 with the lot sizes of approximately 0.3-0.5 of an acre in size, the majority are in the 0.1-0.25 acre range. The lots located Southwest of Highway 22, including the Detroit business district and Lake front properties are approximately 0.1-0.25 of an acre in size. Many of the developed lots located in the business district of Detroit are built upon or covered by asphalt to, or near the limits of the property boundaries.

Back then, the Commercial facilities located in Detroit included three restaurants, four stores, three motels, one bed and breakfast, one gas station, two marinas ( each with small stores and housing, and one with a bar and recreational vehicle spaces ), three offices, and one school currently used as a community center.

Page 5, A public meeting was held on February 19, 2003 to outline the intent and potential consequences of the sanitary survey to residents of the communities.

Page 5-6, In an effort to increase participation in the sanitary survey, representation from the regulatory agencies reinforced the desire to minimize any enforcement-related activity resulting from discovery of failing systems.

Page 7 has a lot of local data.

Page 8, Results of the sanitary survey are summarized in table 4. The initial field work for the sanitary survey began on March 21, 2003 during the period when the highest precipitation

occurred. This factor was expected to contribute to higher groundwater levels and saturated soil conditions that were expected to result in a higher number of observed system failures. Observations made during the March sanitary survey did not support those expectations. The extremely wet conditions during March made observations of existing systems difficult. In addition, the number of tourist and seasonal residents had not begun to arrive in significant numbers so many of the systems evaluated during that time had not been in use. Many of the systems noted as Existing Nonconforming were being impacted by pavement, vehicular traffic, or had foundations and other structures constructed over them. Paving or soil compaction resulting from vehicular traffic reduces pore space in the soil. Together with the restricted potential for gas exchange, reduced pore space adversely affects the ability of the soil microorganisms to aerobically treat waste water and may inhibit movement of water through the soil. Most of the Existing Nonconforming systems appeared to be cesspools or other receptacles receiving Raw sewage without receiving initial treatment through a septic tank. These systems were not observed to be failing on the survey dates, but because of age or configuration of the systems, coarse and rapidly permeable soils, and the existing high development density cannot be expected to provide treatment of sewage to a level that is protective of public health and waters of the State.

Page 9, There were indications of Suspected Failing systems that because of systems siting or impacts resulting from paving or vehicular traffic may not be performing well during the wet season when groundwater levels are highest or during periods of peak use. Many of the commercial facilities located in the Detroit business district are suspected to be periodically failing. Some of these systems must be carefully operated until other alternatives are presented. Interviews conducted with the owners of the business indicated that Extraordinary measures are taken during the wet seasons and peak tourist seasons to prevent more frequent problems with the systems. Evidence of this is found in several locations in the area. Although many of the sanitary survey questioners were completed and returned, only 24% of the owners of developed properties in Detroit participated in the field evaluations. Four percent of the systems evaluated in Detroit were observed to be failing, and all of those consisted of either broken sewer pipes or deliberate gray water discharge to the ground surface. Some of these discharges were occurring very close to the surface waters and it is likely that waste water discharge to these surface waters occurs during high rainfall events. Three percent of the systems in Detroit were suspected to be periodically failing due to the age and/or poor construction of the system or due to the location of the system. Many systems that were included in the unknown and especially the existing Nonconforming categories would be failing if they were being subjected to normal household water usage all year. Seasonal residents made up 31% of those who participated in the field evaluation.

The commercial facilities located in Detroit survey area conduct most of their business during the May through September season and some even close for the remainder of the year. Systems connected to these commercial facilities were notably stressed during the survey period and there is No doubt that if these commercial facilities were operated all year long without measures being taken to reduce flow or waste water strength to the sewage disposal systems, the observed failure rate among these systems would have been Very High. As a result of the effects of the waste water loading-demands placed on some of these commercial systems in Detroit, periodic hydraulic failures occur that, in at least in one instance, results in a non-permitted discharge into a storm drain that empties into Detroit Lake very near a public boat ramp and marina facility. The systems as they currently exist have been cobbled together as repairs over the years with the main intent of trying to make do until a better solution is found off lot. None have been constructed using enhanced treatment technologies to remove nutrients or reduce the high organic loads associated with food-service establishments.

**Recent comments:**

Resident/small business owner comment: There is little support for a Sewer system unless the City comes up with the money for the facility, lay the pipe, have property owners install a pump into their existing septic tank, then charge a small hook up fee and monthly maintenance fee.

Owners of multiple properties/rentals: It should be up to the developer.

After reading the survey, I can see where the most troublesome problems are. The public has found out that building on a small lot is possible if you choose to pay for an ATT system starting at \$20,000, or buy enough lots together that would support a basic system. Most property owners cannot afford an expensive system. I did an amortization based on charging the same fee to everyone, putting it on the backs of everyone. **I was Wrong**. The businesses might want to meet to see what they can do together, ask the city for permission to use the City's park as a drain field. Talks about a sewer system started 23 years ago.

Ken Woodward  
Sewer Committee

## Assessment and Business Mix/Analysis Recommendations

- ◆ The primary and secondary market segments are currently not being serviced in Detroit, a “passage way” community, that marks the halfway shopping point between Bend and Salem.
- ◆ Downtown amenities such as public gathering spaces, bike racks, restrooms, public seating, and waste receptacles are needed. These will encourage visitors to stop, get out of their vehicles, and spend time in the community.
- ◆ There is an opportunity to create a stronger business district by working with existing businesses and recruiting new businesses. A good opportunity for market expansion is through the visitor market. Strong visitor numbers and the downtown’s location next to, but not on, the highway make this a viable area for expansion.
- ◆ Detroit’s identity has moved from a timber-based economy to recreational and eco tourism. Detroit needs to aggressively market itself as a year-round destination resort with water sports and hiking in the summer, and skiing and snowmobiling in the winter.
- ◆ Retail stores need to do a study their merchandise mix to capture and retain much more of the visitor spending on sports.
- ◆ Small conferences could be taking place in Detroit. This potential should be fully explored and marketing done to capture a portion of this market. There are rooms at the Lakeside Motel, and meeting rooms at the Korner Post Eatery.
- ◆ The vacant school building could be a potential small business or manufacturing incubator in addition to housing city services, the post office, and other office spaces.
- ◆ A positive self-image and attitude are important. It is important to recognize the fact that in order to successfully promote and sell your community to others; you must be fully bought into yourself!
- ◆ Detroit has major infrastructure projects it will be tackling in the next few years. Small projects like fixing, painting and updating the visitor information kiosks by city hall is an example of an easy, quick and effective project for downtown that can be done *today!* It is important not to overload volunteers with too many projects. It is more important to pace yourselves and produce high-quality projects.

**SUMMARY OF SEPTIC/SEWER SYSTEM EFFORTS IN THE  
NORTH SANTIAM CANYON AREA**

- 1996** Upper N. Santiam River Canyon, Sewage Treatment Feasibility Study completed by Curran-McLeod, Inc., Consulting Engineers. Funded by CDBG and Lottery funding through Water/Wastewater Program (Grant #Y01001). Recommended a combined sewage system for Detroit, Idanha, State Parks and USFS, that would utilize gravity-flow and pressure sewer pipes, with a combined lagoon treatment system at French Creek. Total estimated cost = \$5.6 million.
- 2000** North Santiam Canyon Economic Opportunity Study completed. Funded by OECDD, prepared with assistance from MWVCOG staff. Identifies the need for a sewage system in Detroit and Idanha as a major barrier to attract and accommodate new development and "*... the single most important immediate need in the region to improve the viability of commercial, and to a limited extent industrial properties, in the cities of Detroit and Idanha.*"
- 2001** Funds Awarded for a Public Sewer System. The Cities of Detroit and Idanha were awarded ~\$8 million in funding from USDA-RD and OBDD-IFA to design and build a public sewer system.
- 2001** Upper N. Santiam River Canyon Sewage Treatment System Engineering & Design Report completed by Curran-McLeod, Inc., Consulting Engineers. The proposed treatment process was a non-discharge system that used the treated effluent to irrigate forestland. Upon further investigation, the original project cost estimate was found to be too low.
- 2002** 2002 Value Engineering Study/Conceptual Design Review prepared by Tetra Tech/KCM. A value engineering session was held to update the project cost estimate and develop alternative solutions to the problem. The non-discharge solution estimate was discussed and a new estimate of \$16 million was identified.
- 2005** Public Sewer System Funds Deobligated. Detroit deobligation of Rural Development construction set aside. (Idanha de-obligated their funding in 2009.)
- 2008** Detroit Economic Development Proposal. DEQ, City, COG, and IFA meeting with Doug DeGeorge, hotel owner, on proposed "The Lodge at Detroit Lake". Proposal included utilizing the existing septic tank & drain field area on the city owned old elementary school site\* and constructing a new wastewater treatment facility that would service residents and businesses located west of Highway 22 down to the lake. Project design and construction estimated at \$2 million.
- \*Note: The City of Detroit received a \$206,925 CDBG award to demolish the old school gymnasium expires. Use of the site is restricted by program rules until Jan. 2014.
- 2009** City of Detroit Wastewater Feasibility Study completed by HBH Consulting Engineers. The study looked at the feasibility of constructing a community onsite wastewater facility system in Detroit that would allow for development and redevelopment of commercial properties within the City. The study found the Old School site is a viable option for siting a community wastewater treatment facility.

## Summary of Discussion

Detroit City Council Work Session – Sewer/Septic System

August 29, 2012

**History of N. Santiam Canyon Wastewater System Efforts** - Suzanne Dufner, MWVCOG provided a summary of the wastewater system efforts of the past and provided an outline of these events (attached). A new document, City of Detroit Wastewater Feasibility Study by HBH Consulting Engineers, that was completed in 2009 was added to the list.

**Wastewater System Options** – Patrick Curran of Curran-McLeod provided information on why the original site was chosen and suggested that a membrane system can be phased into use which would allow the City to double and even triple the size. He related that the HBH study brought forth technologies that are well-founded and will work with the conditions found in Detroit. The 3 Basin Rule was brought up and it was stated that Mill City found a way around it. Patrick indicated that the analysis that was done previously can be fine tuned to be used – and that the sewer system has been designed.

Alan Haley, Marion County Public Works Administrative Manager, is responsible for the County's sewer system. He related that membrane technology has really been improved and related that the City of Coburg spent approx. \$20 million and the City of Dundee approx. \$25 million on membrane systems.

Tim McFetridge, DEQ Engineer, referred to the 3 Basin Rule and stated that the City cannot discharge to surface water and set forth the following options:

- Change the rule – this would NOT be easy. The City could ask either DEQ or the Legislative to change the rule.
- Construct a community sewer system with a discharge site approved by DEQ.

Ken Woodward related that the work that was done in 2010 was trying to address commercial water usage. There are currently 19 businesses and 389 water hook-ups. It was suggested that Detroit could do a system similar to Mill City which was a septic system and leach system.

The group also discussed the possibility of utilizing a STEP system for downtown businesses that could potentially be expanded in the future to serve a larger area. Constraints with this system include the costs to individual businesses would likely be high (e.g. \$200-300/month per business) and the former Elementary School site currently owned by the city may not be a large enough drainfield site to serve the downtown business area.

**Funding Resources** – It was felt that the City really needed to look at a system that would meet the long-term best interest of the entire community – which would include letting the community know what the options are. It was suggested that the City could do a feasibility study (grant money is available for this phase) and could do a sanitary survey.

Michelle Bilbery, of Business Oregon related that the City of Detroit does not qualify for grants. The City may qualify for other low interest low programs such as the Water/Wastewater Program.

Marion County is still looking into the phantom \$15 million.

The question of whether or not the city would be able to procure some federal land for use as a drain field as the city is circled by federal land was brought up.

Bob Haberman, DEQ Project Officer, stated that the Special Public Works Fund currently has a 3.7% interest rate for 20 years and that the City would need to be the applicant. If the system were to be city-wide, there might be some grant fund that's would be available. This would require a financial review. DEQ has a state revolving loan fund program – as well as loans for planning purposes which are less than a 1% loan and can be for no more than 20 years. USDA Rural Development also provides loans and grants for wastewater systems.

One additional funding source was brought up which was to go directly to Congress and it was mentioned that the cities of Turner and West Fir were successful in doing this.

A one-stop meeting was discussed which is where the City meets with state and federal funding agencies (e.g. USDA, IFA and DEQ) to determine funding possibilities which could combine a number of different sources. This meeting would occur when the City had developed a plan and an estimate of the related cost.

**Next Steps** – It appeared to be the consensus of the group that the next step was to complete a feasibility plan – which typically takes between 6 to 8 months. The State Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) can award technical assistance grants for up to \$20,000 for the development of the plan. Due to the work that has already been done previously for the City of Detroit, Pat Curran indicated that he thought the plan would cost around \$30,000.



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

**SANITARY SURVEY of ON-SITE SEWAGE**

**DISPOSAL SYSTEMS in DETROIT and IDANHA**

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
1102 Lincoln St., Suite 210  
Eugene, OR, 97401  
July, 2003



## Detroit eyes sewer system

Sep. 12

statesmanjournal.com

To learn more

To learn more about future meetings and a possible sewer system for Detroit, call Detroit City Hall at (503) 854-3496.

With an eye toward economic development, the city of Detroit is looking at investing in a new sewer system.

The latest effort is being championed largely by the Detroit Lake Recreation Area Business Association and Detroit City Council members.

The council held a work session Aug. 29 to explore possible funding sources and location options, as well as which system would be most feasible for Detroit. The city is in a purely exploratory phase at this point.

The city limits of the small town of Detroit, with its seasonal economy that relies on Detroit Lake, encompass 0.9 square miles, with 0.3 of those square miles in water. The city's adopted budget for 2012-13 is \$109,465, according to city recorder Christine Pavoni.

An effort to install a sewer system here has been attempted several times in the past.

A feasibility study for sewage treatment for the upper North Santiam River canyon was completed by Curran-McLeod, Inc., consulting engineers in 1996. It recommended a sewer system for Detroit, Idanha, state parks and the U.S. Forest Service with a lagoon treatment system at French Creek for an estimated cost of \$5.6 million, according to a summary prepared by the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments.

The same consulting firm completed a sewage treatment system engineering and design report in 2001 that found the original project estimate was too low.

The cities of Detroit and Idanha were awarded \$8 million in funding from two federal sources to design and build a public sewer system in 2001, but the sewer system funds were de-obligated in 2005 and set aside.

An economic development proposal prepared in 2008 after a meeting with Lodge at Detroit Lake hotel owner Doug DeGeorge suggested utilizing a drain field area on the old Detroit Elementary School site at an estimated \$2 million for the business corridor on Main Street.

But officials said that site alone might be too small to serve a whole city.

The neighboring city of Idanha adopted a wastewater plan in 2010 that proposed a septic tank effluent pumping system as a preferred alternative to a sewer system.

There are grants and low-interest loans available at several levels of government, but for such a grant as Marion County's Community Block Grant Program, Detroit does not qualify because 51 percent of a city's residents must live there full-time, officials said.

People talked about the scale and location of any kind of sewer system Aug. 29.

"Focus on what you want to do. If a sewer system that serves 19 businesses is completely different thing than serving 389 homes. That's a huge difference," DEQ engineer Tim McFetridge said.

The city could look at a membrane bioreactor plant, an expensive option, officials said.

A septic leach system with a community drain field could also be a viable possibility.

"If you can find some location suitable for a drain field, then a community drain field might be your best option," McFetridge said. "The technology could be really simple not just to design and build but to operate the plant."

Detroit is also surrounded on all sides by Forest Service and state park lands, as well as two bodies of water that sewage cannot be discharged into: Detroit Lake and the North Santiam River, officials said.

Dean O'Donnell, who owns Mt. High Grocery and serves as president of DLRABA, said the vacant buildings and long-empty lots in Detroit are served by inadequate or failing septic systems, which he believes is a hindrance to new business.

"The No. 1 challenge we have as a business community is year-round business," O'Donnell said. "The main reason we can't sell businesses on Main Street, like the hardware store that has been sitting there for years, is that there's no septic system that could accommodate any type of business. Ultimately, fixing that problem will keep Main Street from being a ghost town. If we can fix the problem then maybe we can turn vacant businesses into thriving businesses year-round, and give people a reason to stop on Main Street other than going to Mt. High Grocery for a bathroom break."

Bob Franz, a treasurer for DLRABA who is retired and owns a cabin in Detroit and a home in Portland, said he supports a sewer system because then he could expand his property.

"I'm all for it. My wife and I own a cabin here that is on a smaller, regular lot and we're fairly limited in what we can do," Franz said. "It's 752 square feet. If we wanted to add a bedroom or a bathroom, we couldn't with what we have. (A sewer system) would open up all kinds of possibilities for us."

Nobody attended the Aug. 29 meeting who opposed a sewer system.

Acting Detroit Mayor Sharyl Flanders said a sewer system would allow businesses to expand.

"Main Street can't grow the way it is now," Flanders said.

The next step for the city is looking into developing a facilities master plan, Flanders said. That will likely take at least six to eight months.

RESOLUTION NO. 509

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NEED TO CREATE A SEWER/SEPTIC COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Detroit adopted Resolution 506 on September 11, 2012 to research funding & various technologies for a Sewer/Septic system to support growth within the community; and

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit finds it necessary to create a Sewer/Septic Committee to research such funding and various technologies.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The City Council of the City of Detroit shall assign no more than two (2) Citizens At-Large, two (2) DLRABA members and two (2) Council members to serve on a committee to act as representatives regarding a sewer/septic system, known as the Detroit Sewer Committee.

SECTION 1: Creation of a Sewer Committee:

- A. The Committee shall have no vote or power to commit the City of Detroit to anything.
- B. All projects and phases must be reviewed by the City Council before involving any contracted employees, such as City Engineer, Attorney, and Planner.

SECTION 2: Committee Purpose:

- A. Meet as necessary
- B. Seek Funding
- C. Research various technologies

SECTION 3: Required City Council Coordination:

- A. Committee Representatives shall report to the City Council, at its regular scheduled meetings.
- B. Committee representatives have no authority to commit or expend City funds without prior council approval.
- C. Committee Representatives shall not have the authority to commit the City of Detroit to any contract, implied or written.

PASSED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DETROIT, MARION COUNTY, OREGON on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October 2012.

Effective date: October 10, 2012

Ayes:   3  

Nays:   0  

Absent:   0  

Signed: Sharyl Flanders  
Sharyl Flanders, Acting Mayor

ATTEST  
By: Christine Pavoni  
Christine Pavoni, City Recorder



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Department of Environmental Quality

Western Region - Salem Office

750 Front Street NE, Suite 120

Salem, OR 97301

PH (503) 378-8240

FAX (503) 373-7944

OTRS 1-800-735-2900

May 17, 2013

Mayor Sheryl Flanders  
City of Detroit  
PO Box 589  
Detroit, OR 97342

**RE: WQ-City of Detroit Collection/Treatment System**  
Marion County  
Need for Infrastructure

Dear Ms. Flanders:

The Department of Environmental Quality received a letter from your contract engineer, HBH Consulting Engineers, in regards to potential funding related to the evaluation of a sanitary sewage system for the City of Detroit. Specifically, a request was made for DEQ support of such a project and what aspects would need to be addressed to move such a concept forward.

The DEQ has been working with the City of Detroit for almost 20 years in an effort to design, construct, and fund, a new sanitary sewage collection and treatment system. The entire city is, and has been, served by individual on-site septic/drainfield systems since the City was located at its current site in 1952. The DEQ has long held the position that the elimination of the on-site systems and the construction of a new collection/treatment system would provide many benefits to the City, and the environment. Such benefits include:

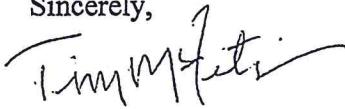
- The elimination of failing and/or near failing drainfields, thereby better protecting public health;
- The elimination of subsurface flow of sewage to surface waters and ground waters thereby improving the area's water quality;
- Providing the infrastructure necessary for the growth of existing commercial businesses and providing capacity for new business;
- Providing the sewage service required for the development of new residential and commercial real estate, and home/business construction, thereby increasing the local tax base.

A wastewater feasibility study is the first logical step in the evaluation of a new collection/treatment system for Detroit, and eventually the development of a Facilities Plan. There are many challenging aspects that will need to be evaluated as part of such a study, including:

- The evaluation of collection system alternatives (conventional gravity, STEG, STEP, hybrid, etc) and the likely layout of the conveyance system;
- The evaluation of treatment system alternatives and the location of various structures;
- The evaluation of treated water discharge alternatives and the challenges associated with the Three Basin Rule (OAR 340-041-350);
- Consideration of the needs of the City of Idanha in terms of similar infrastructure;
- The evaluation of the funding mechanisms most likely to be available for the project, the anticipated debt service, and an estimate on the likely sewer rates;
- How each of the potential alternatives would need to be permitted by DEQ.

The Department is eager for the City of Detroit to embark on this challenging endeavor. We look forward to playing an active role in the process. If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact me at (503) 378-4995.

Sincerely,



Timothy C. McFetridge, P.E.  
Senior Environmental Engineer  
Western Region-Salem Office

TCM:

x:\tmcfetr\DetroitFS

cc: City of Idanha  
PO Box 430  
Idanha, OR 97350

Robert Henry, P.E.  
HBH Consulting Engineers  
2316 Portland Road, Suite H  
Newberg, OR 97132



Leveraging grassroots resources,  
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503.871.5188

P.O. Box 673 • Mill City, OR 97360

info@growsantiam.org • www.growsantiam.org

NOV 29 2013

MARION COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Marion County Board of Commissioners  
PO Box 14500  
Salem, OR 97309

November 24, 2013

Dear Commissioners Carlson, Milne and Brentano:

GROW•EDC is pleased to be one of several agencies and organizations that support a shared sewage treatment system in the Detroit Lake area.


In a region that is already economically distressed, the individual septic systems on which the City of Detroit must rely make it virtually impossible for current businesses to expand, or for new businesses to set up shop. Nearly every economic and business development scenario we run up the flagpole is stopped in its tracks by the wastewater treatment issue. Future residential development is also in jeopardy, including vacation properties.

This situation not only poses a threat to the economic vitality of the City of Detroit. With its location near the east entry point of the North Santiam Canyon corridor along Highway 22, the Detroit Lake area is a prime tourism destination and an important link in a growing tourism economy. If Detroit cannot grow and meet the needs of these visitors, our regional tourism industry cannot grow easily and effectively either.

The communities of the Upper North Santiam Canyon have worked hard to crawl out of the economic hardship they have experienced since so many acres of timberland were taken out of production in the mid-1990s. No matter what the roundtable or workshop is, the resounding clamor remains the same: we need a sewer in Detroit to make that happen.

We therefore support the efforts of the Marion County commissioners to secure funding for a shared sewage treatment system in the Detroit Lake area.

Sincerely,

  
Allison Ford McKenzie  
Executive Director  
GROW•EDC

RECEIVED

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MARION COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Detroit Lake Recreation Area Business Association**

The primary purpose of DLRABA is to stimulate, promote, encourage and develop economic health, tourism and vitality of the greater Detroit Lake area.

November 27, 2013

Marion County Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 14500  
Salem, OR 97309

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to express the interest of local business owners in developing a shared wastewater system in the area around the City of Detroit.

Economic development is severely limited due to the lack of a wastewater system and the danger of waste seeping into the lake continues to build unless we can improve waste management in the area. We need a better system than the collection of individual septic systems currently in place. Also, we need the US Forest Service and Oregon State Park at Detroit Lake to join in building a shared system.

Members of DLRABA joined a November 19, 2013 meeting in the City of Detroit to learn of new potential funding that could bring the project to reality. My fellow business owners join me in asking Marion County Commissioners for continued assistance in developing a shared wastewater system. From prior attempts, we learned the City of Detroit cannot develop a wastewater system affordable to property owners without sharing the cost with our state park and forest service neighbors.

The conversations of our November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were very encouraging. We appreciate the support of Marion County in trying to secure the federal funding approved in 1996 with the creation of the Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area. With Marion County's assistance in appealing to the State of Oregon for funding support, we hope a renewed effort can be successful if we all work together.

Thank you for your interest and support. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Dean O'Donnell  
DLRABA President

c: City of Detroit  
U.S. Forest Service, Detroit Ranger Station  
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
North Santiam Economic Development Corp  
Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments



P.O. Box 589 Detroit, Oregon 97342 • (503) 854-3496

**November 27, 2013**

**Marion County Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 14500  
Salem, OR 97309**

**Dear Commissioners,**

**This letter is to express interest in developing a shared wastewater system in the area around the City of Detroit.**

**Without improving the wastewater system in the area, economic development is severely limited and the danger of waste seeping into the lake continues to increase.**

**At a meeting I convened on November 19, 2013 in the City of Detroit, members of the Detroit City Council met with home owners and business owners to discuss wastewater options for developing a better system than the collection of individual septic systems currently in place. Also joining in the conversation were representatives from the DLABRA business association as well as the Ranger and staff of the U.S. Forest Service Detroit Ranger District, and managers of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.**

**Elected officials of the City of Detroit join me in asking the Marion County Commissioners for assistance in developing a shared wastewater system. We have learned from prior attempts that the City cannot develop a wastewater system which property owners could afford without sharing the cost with our neighbors at the state park and forest service.**

**The City is moving forward with a project to scope the feasibility of a commercial downtown and/or a citywide system for the City of Detroit. The funding for the study restricts the study to the City of Detroit. However, the City is supportive of researching all means to a wastewater system in the area that is financially feasible and beneficial to the residential and economic needs of our community. While we are moving forward with the current feasibility study, the City is supportive of all efforts for addressing sewage flows and economic development with our neighbors.**

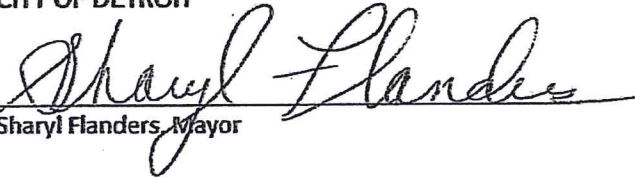


Our conversation on November 19 was encouraging for us. We appreciate the support of Marion County in trying to secure the federal funding approved in 1996 with the creation of the Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area. With Marion County's assistance in appealing to the State of Oregon for funding support, we believe a renewed effort can be successful if we work together.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Respectfully,

CITY OF DETROIT



Sharyl Flanders, Mayor

c: U.S. Forest Service, Detroit Ranger Station  
Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation  
North Santiam Economic Development Corp  
Detroit Lake Area Recreation and Business Association  
Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments

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Tel: 503-854-3496 ~ Fax: 503-854-3232 ~ e-mail: [detroit@wvi.com](mailto:detroit@wvi.com)  
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM – Closed for lunch 12:30 PM to 1:00 PM  
Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Willamette National Forest  
Detroit Ranger District

HC 73 Box 320  
Mill City, OR 97360  
Tel (503) 854-3366  
FAX (503) 854-4239

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File Code: 1560

Date: November 29, 2013

Marion County Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 14500  
Salem, OR 97309

Dear Commissioners:

This is a letter of support for the development of a wastewater facility for the City of Detroit. The Detroit Ranger District works closely with the City of Detroit to expand tourism and visitation both during the summer season and also throughout the year. A major impediment to welcoming visitors to Detroit is the lack of public restrooms. It is difficult to welcome the public with porta potties! The development of a wastewater facility in Detroit is the most critical improvement needed to ensure the City continues to grow as a major recreation destination in Marion County. Detroit Lake is already the most used boating reservoir in the State of Oregon!

An engineering study is needed to determine the appropriate scale, location, and cost involved in constructing the facility. Support to assist with completion of this study would be very helpful for the City. If it is determined that the best location for a wastewater facility would be on Forest Service land, the Townsite Act would allow us to sell the a land parcel to the City to meet their needs.

Thank you for your efforts in assisting with the coordination and support of this project. If there is anything more I can do to assist in any way, please let me know.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Grady A. McMahan*  
GRADY A. MCMAHAN  
Detroit District Ranger



Caring for the Land and Serving People

Printed on Recycled Paper





# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer St NE, Ste C

Salem, OR 97301-1266

(503) 986-0707

Fax (503) 986-0794

[www.oregonstateparks.org](http://www.oregonstateparks.org)



December 6, 2013

Mr. Don Russo, Economic Development Manager  
Marion County  
451 Division Street NE, Suite 200  
Salem, OR 97309

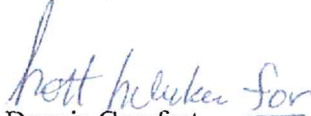
Dear Mr. Russo,

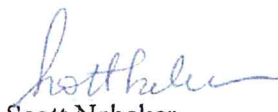
Thank you for your invitation to the community meeting on November 19 to discuss options for development of a community sewer system in the City of Detroit. It was good to see so many community partners from the City, Marion County, a State Legislator, members of the Detroit Lake Recreation Area Business Association (DLRABA), US Forest Service, Oregon State Parks, and community members there to get information and show support. The spirit of the meeting was indicative of mutual benefits we enjoy with many of the communities near our park facilities.

Detroit Lake State Park is somewhat unique in that we manage the park operations on land owned by and leased from the US Forest Service. As we have discussions internally related to how we manage our properties and invest in infrastructure to replace aging facilities, please understand that our lease agreement dictates that we do so with approval from the US Forest Service and in a fiscally prudent manner. While it is not possible at this stage to know the direction a sewer project would take and therefore what our role would be as a tenant, we are generally supportive of the City's efforts to build a community sewer system and will support those efforts in a manner consistent with our long range planning and management of park facilities. As we mentioned in the meeting, one example depending on future project direction is an RV dump station that would attract visitors to the park into the local community in support of local businesses and provide a revenue stream for sewer system operation.

We are happy to support and participate in upcoming meetings to know the best way we can offer assistance. Please include us in any future meeting notices.

Sincerely,

  
Dennis Comfort  
Valleys Region Manager

  
Scott Nebeker  
Engineering Division Manager



**Don Russo - Re: City of Detroit wastewater treatment system**

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**From:** Victor Madge  
**To:** Don Russo  
**Date:** 3/5/2014 4:07 PM  
**Subject:** Re: City of Detroit wastewater treatment system

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During the visioning process with Doug & Elaine DeGeorge for phase II of the Lodge at Detroit Lake, we quickly determined that the lack of a municipal wastewater treatment system greatly impacted our options. The intent was for a full service "Cascade Lodge" style hotel with a two story grand lobby, along with a full bar, restaurant, spa and meeting rooms. To support that level of development, the septic system and primary drainfield would take up a substantial footprint on the property - even with an advanced sand filter system. And, with current regulations, we would need a replacement drainfield as well. We estimated that would take 10,000 SF of additional area; which would be taken out of the current inventory of developable land. That would be contrary to the intent of the City Master Plan for a continuous streetscape of commercial development along Detroit Avenue.

We believe that for the City of Detroit to realize their vision for Detroit Avenue, with the density it would require, there must first be a viable municipal water treatment facility. With such a system in place, we predict that there would be major influx of private investment capital, which could transform Detroit into a year round destination resort.

G. Victor Madge

G. Victor Madge Architect, Inc.

On Wed, Mar 5, 2014 at 2:43 PM, Don Russo <

> wrote:

Victor,

Good to talk with you today about the need in Detroit for a wastewater treatment system.

With your professional experience in working with the DeGeorge project on their Detroit Lodge, could you reply to this note by making a brief statement from your perspective about the importance of wastewater infrastructure in future economic development?

Thank you.

Don

Don Russo

--  
Thanks!  
**Victor**

**Don Russo - Re: Detroit wastewater treatment system**

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**From:** Eric Ellis <  
**To:** Don Russ  
**Date:** 3/9/2014 4:03 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Detroit wastewater treatment system

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Hi Don...

It was nice talking with you on Fri.

As I mentioned, Breitenbush Hot Springs is very interested in supporting a sewer system in Detroit so that we might be able to create a Laundromat business. The Laundromat would serve the following goals:

1. We would be able to laundry blankets and mattress pads from our 42 cabins we use for guests. We serve over 35,000 guests a year.
2. We would be able to support our community's need for a laundromat. We employ around 60 residents in the Winter and around 80 in the Summer. We have limited electricity and space here at Breitenbush so currently only have 3 washers and 2 dryers for the entire community and business. The community is not allowed to use the dryers as they consume too much electricity. So you can see why a laundromat would be so useful to us.
3. We would like to be able to provide a service to the town of Detroit, especially in the summer, where they have many visitors and no laundromat services. We feel this service would help pay for the expenses of creating, running and maintaining the laundromat.

Please keep me posted as to the plans and let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

Eric

Eric Ellis  
 Breitenbush BOD  
 Treasurer

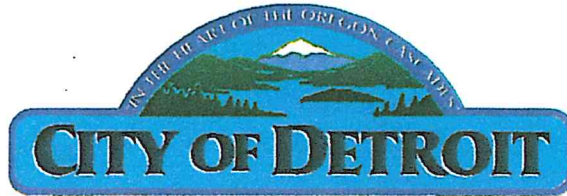
On Fri, Mar 7, 2014 at 3:19 PM, Don Russo <

> wrote:

Eric Ellis  
 Breitenbush Hot Springs & Spa  
 Eric,  
 Thank you for calling today and expressing interest in the City of Detroit wastewater treatment system project.  
 Can you please respond to this email by expressing why Breitenbush Hot Springs & Spa is interested in this project?  
 If you are willing to let us share your story, your story can help build a case for support of the project.  
 Hope we can stay in touch as the project moves forward.  
 Don  
 Don Russo  
 Economic Development Manager

City of Detroit  
Marion County, Oregon

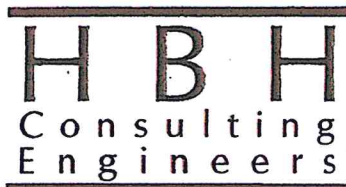
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WASTEWATER FEASIBILITY STUDY

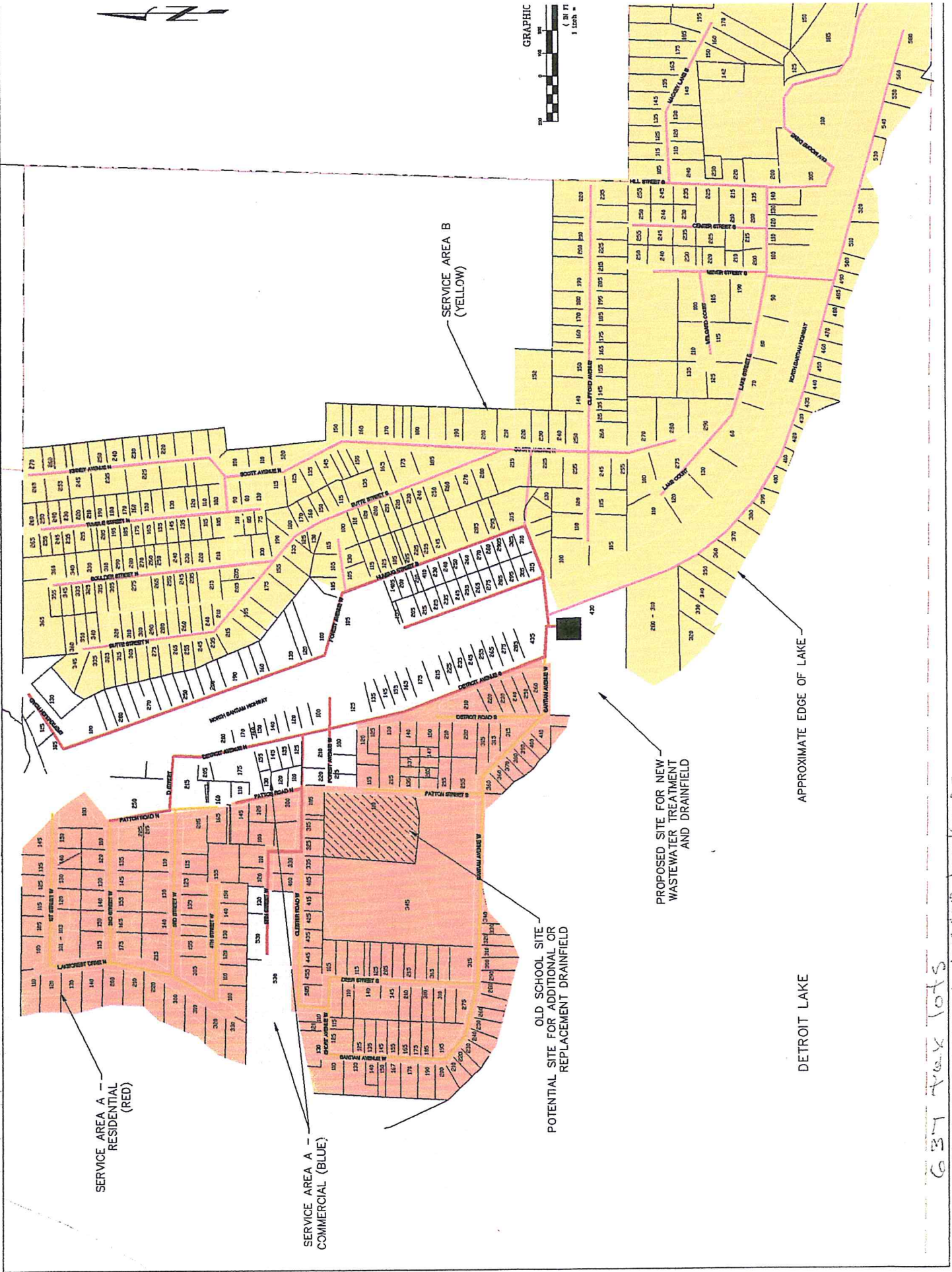
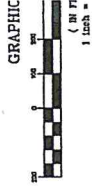
September 2014  
Project No. 2006-07-11

Prepared By:



2316 Portland Road, Suite H  
Newberg, Oregon 97132  
503.554.9553  
fax 503.537.9554  
mail@hbh-consulting.com

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SERVICE AREA A - RESIDENTIAL (RED)

SERVICE AREA A - COMMERCIAL (BLUE)

SERVICE AREA B (YELLOW)

PROPOSED SITE FOR NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND DRAINFIELD

OLD SCHOOL SITE - POTENTIAL SITE FOR ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT DRAINFIELD

DETROIT LAKE

APPROXIMATE EDGE OF LAKE

637 Ave K lots  
19 commercial water hookups  
389 residential water hookups

## **Marion County Comments 9/3/2015**

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Joey,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the proposal. I will be glad to share my observations, and that of other environmental health specialists as this very topic has been frequently discussed in my office. We have serious concerns about onsite sewage disposal conditions in Detroit relating to lot size.

Here are the points that I see:

1. My experience in Detroit so far has been that the lots are already too small. Most of the site evaluations I am familiar with have required two lots just to get an ATT. ATTs are the most expensive (\$20,000 range) and require the smallest drainfields. Most of the site approvals and repair permits have been issued with a 2-bedroom limit on the dwelling because the useable area is not big enough for a full size ATT drainfield.
2. While soil conditions in the Detroit area generally provide good infiltration and septic system requirements end up on the smaller side of the sizing spectrum, many of the lots have cuts, fills, and other features requiring setbacks. The topography greatly affects siting and sizing of septic systems.
3. For small lots that were created before 1974, The DEQ Rules for Onsite have exemptions for drainfield size and siting that include seepage trenches, redundant systems and reduced setbacks. Most of the septic permits issued recently have used these exemptions to shoehorn dwellings onto lots that are too small to meet current requirements. These accommodations in the Rules are only for pre-1974 lots. They will not be able to be used to approve smaller septic systems for new lots. New lots will have to be big enough for a septic system large enough to serve a four-bedroom dwelling and can meet all current setbacks.
4. Most of the commercial lots downtown have no repair area, nor do many of the existing residential lots. What will their options be when systems need replacement? Currently there are lots that cannot be approved for any development due to lack of area. If Detroit is going to continue with onsite sewage disposal, I and my fellow staff believe every effort should be made to acquire the areas that remain undeveloped and reserve them for community system drainfields.

I contacted Gary Artman of the DEQ for additional input on this issue, as he has been in the Willamette Valley for a number of years and has done work in Detroit. He agreed with my concerns listed above. He also provided a copy of a Sanitary Survey that was



completed in 2003. The survey report expresses apprehension about the high density of residential and commercial development, the potential impact to quality of groundwater and Detroit Lake, the likely environmental contamination from failing systems, and the lack of available repair area.

Hope this provides the information you need. If you have additional questions, concerns, or want more specific information, let me know.

Regards,

Claudia Hill

Marion County Environmental Wastewater Specialist

**North Santiam River Canyon  
Opportunities for Distressed Communities  
December 4, 2015  
1:00- 2:30 p.m.  
Trexler Farm Café  
20146 Ferry Rd. SE  
Stayton, Oregon**



**I. Welcome and Introduction (1:00)**

Kevin Cameron, Marion County Commissioner

**II. Region updates (1:07)**

**A. Idanha Update**

- **Emergency Water Repair Loan**  
Jeff Yohe, Idanha City Councilor

**B. Gates Update (1:17)**

- **Water Update**  
Jerry Marr, Mayor  
Greg Benthin, Public Works

**C. Detroit Update (1:27)**

- **Detroit Sewer Project**  
Ken Woodward, Sewer Committee Vice Chair
- **Federal Lands Access Program Grant**  
Debbie Ruyle, Councilor and Park Commissioner
- **Detroit Community Center (DLCD TA Grant)**  
Dean O'Donnell- Planning Commissioner, Detroit Lake Recreation and Business Association (DLRABA), Detroit Lake Foundation

**C. Mill City Update (1:47)**

- **Marion County Grant to Mill City for Façade**
- **Update on Mill City Falls Park, Restroom**
- **Railroad Bridge**
- **Salem-Keizer Transit CARTS**  
Thorin Thacker, Mayor  
Michael Long, Councilor

**IV. Regional Projects Update**

- A. Feasibility Study Scope of Work for Water/ Sewer upgrades region approach (2:07)**  
Karen Homolac- Business Oregon- Infrastructure Financial Authority (IFA)