

Partner Assistance and Conservation Easements Program Overview

Board training 2/2/09

Project Funding Overview:

Staff: Finance and Grants Manager .5 FTE (Note other .5 FTE of Finance & Grants Manager is dedicated to District Financial Oversight)

Budget: \$487,342

Purpose: To make possible a wide range of cost-effective conservation projects. This is done through direct financial support and the support of technical staff.

Approach: To provide critical support to conservation projects through grants and partner assistance, and in the future through conservation easements.

- CLIP (Conservation Landowner Incentive Program) cost share program. Landowners work with CTA staff to identify resource concerns and preferred solutions. If approved by the board of directors, the District may reimburse landowners for 50% of the cost of implementing a conservation practice. Projects in the program's 2 year history include manure sheds, erosion control, riparian restoration and installation of heavy use areas. Future focus could include Farm Road Erosion Prevention and Septic Issues.
- SPACE (Small Projects and Community Events) program provides up to \$1,000 for local needs. The board of directors considers requests monthly and we strive to keep paperwork to a minimum while ensuring accountability. Projects include paying for a bus to take school children to a watershed festival, cleaning up trash along a stream or purchasing plants to install a naturescape at a community center. Future guidelines may be revised to limit projects with maximum \$5,000 overall cost to better leverage funds.
- PIC (Partners in Conservation) program provides larger awards for conservation projects requiring technical assistance or district involvement. Historically, these have been larger restoration projects, water quality improvement work, weed control and other conservation projects that contribute to the District's priorities. Future focus may include Urban Trees and Rain Gardens in neighborhoods with stormwater issues and demographic need, and Invasive Tree Removal and replacement.
- Partnership with Watershed Councils. The District works extensively with the three Watershed Councils in East Multnomah (Sandy, Columbia Slough and Johnson Creek). This has included direct financial support and in two cases representation on councils.

Potential upcoming changes to project funding:

Project funding was identified during the most recent planning process as an area for ongoing work. A committee was formed to review current project funding and make recommendations to the board.

Conservation Easements Overview:

- The FY 08-09 budget has \$2,000,000 available for land conservation. The Board of Directors has formed a Land Conservation committee that is developing a strategy for effective use of these funds.
- As the committee develops this strategy, it currently appears that land conservation may not remain part of the PACE program.
- The committee is evaluating whether additional staff resources will be required for this work.