

February 19, 2010

TO: The Dalles City Council

FROM: Bob McFadden, President – The Dalles Sister City Association

RE: Sister City Program Funding

The Dalles Sister Cities Association has been asked to provide information to assist in the Council deliberations regarding the 2010-11 budgeting process.

The City has budgeted \$2,500 each year for the past several years to offset City related costs for the Sister City program. The funds help pay for various activities related to official visitations. This could include travel for City Council representatives on official visitations, gifts for dignitaries of our sister city, and official programs during their visits to The Dalles.

Although The Dalles Sister Cities Association is primarily funded through membership and fundraisers, funding from the City for official visitations, programs and travel has been very helpful in continuing to develop our excellent relationship with Miyoshi City.

The Dalles Sister Cities Association is requesting that the City continue to provide funding for the items mentioned above in the amount of \$2,500. In addition, the City could consider separate funding for travel reimbursement of City Council representatives, which would allow the \$2,500 to be used for more programs in the future.

Thank you for your past support. We look forward to partnering with the City in the future to continue building our relationship with Miyoshi City.

Sincerely,

Bob McFadden, President  
The Dalles Sister Cities Association

# DISCOVERY CENTER BOND FUNDING

## Wasco County

**TO:** Nolan Young, City Manager

**FROM:** Dan Ericksen, Wasco County Commission Chair

**DATE:** March 1, 2010

**RE:** Discovery Center Bond Payment Contribution by the City of The Dalles

**BACKGROUND:** Wasco County, along with the City of The Dalles, the business community, the lodging industry, and economic development organizations representing our area, supported the construction of the Discovery Center in Wasco County. It was portrayed to be of huge economic benefit to the local economy that was struggling at the time the Discovery Center was being considered. The County agreed to purchase property with money that was donated and became the owner of record.

The Ernie Kuck Trust paid to build the Wasco County Historical Museum and the Federal Government through the Forest Service built the Discovery Center portion. There was no money allocated for the infrastructure improvements to complete the project. The County was asked to be the conduit through which Economic Development funds could be secured to pay for the infrastructure improvements such as water, sewer, access, and parking lot. The total debt of \$954,841 in bonds and deferred loan was to be repaid by the operations of the center. Revenues, as forecasted by the Forest Service, were to be more than sufficient to cover the obligation.

In 2008, the Discovery Center had used all of its reserves paying back the debt and could no longer cover the obligation to the County. At that time the City agreed to commit to two years of funding at \$25,000 each to help the County cover the unanticipated obligation. An additional \$30,000 from enterprise zone payments has been used to make the full annual payment. The remaining balance of the two bonds together is \$609,034.79 with a current payment of \$84,675.01 due December 1, 2010. Final payment occurs December 1, 2019.

The Oregon Solutions process identified a permanent funding source for retiring the remaining balance as a 1% County wide transient room tax. To date, members of the Solutions team have met with representatives of the hotel/motel industry on two occasions. An ordinance will be proposed shortly and it is expected that a referendum will be requested. The effective date will depend on whether there is an election or not, but it is anticipated at this time that there will not be money available for the payment due this December.

**REQUEST:** The County would ask that the City participate for this final year with another \$25,000 contribution to help cover the current payment while the County finishes processing the proposed 1% Transient Room Tax.