



## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

511 Washington St., Ste. 101 • The Dalles, OR 97058  
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*Pioneering pathways to prosperity.*

March 8, 2023

Good afternoon co-chair Patterson, co-chair Smith, and members of the Committee,

We appreciate your time today to inform you about how we have been using the funding graciously provided by House Bill 5202. The scale of this project is unlike any other that has come before and will help to benefit the Wasco County community for generations.

The Wasco County Fairgrounds is over 100 years old and the Board has expressed the need to upgrade the aging infrastructure as part of the master plan. This project will replace the original electrical, water, and sewer, which was installed in the 1940's.

Costs for these upgrades were estimated around \$1 Million dollars but bids for the work came in at \$2.1 Million dollars. The project is moving forward with a reduced scope to accommodate the price difference while we work to find other funding to complete all aspects of the project.

Additionally, this project will address needed upgrades to the facilities necessary for this site to be a shelter facility in the event of an emergency. Deferred maintenance over many years has left the facility functional but not in the greatest shape. The County has designed the Wasco County Fairgrounds as a primary evacuation site for South Wasco County and currently none of the buildings has an HVAC system. This project will install insulation, heating and cooling in two buildings, which will also function as an emergency shelter. We regularly host incident command and fire camp at this facility in addition to many youth groups.

The fairgrounds frequently experience overloading of the electrical system during high capacity usage, which effects attendees, campers and vendors. The electrical service will be upgraded to meet the demands of year-round recreation and adequately serve the needs during the height of the fair. Also, the aging outdoor lighting of the grounds and rodeo will be upgraded to LED lighting, the latest industry standard.

A new water loop will be established and fiber conduit will be dropped into open trenches for future connectivity opportunities. Additionally, a new septic line, pump station and drain field will be established and the new drain field will connect to the existing septic system so that it is not overloaded during high capacity usage.



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Without the funding from House Bill 5202, it would be impossible for the County be able to take on a project of this magnitude. The Wasco County Fair Board and all residents and visitors to Wasco County will forever be grateful to the Oregon Legislature for their investment in our local fairgrounds.

Sincerely,

Ken Polehn, Wasco County Fair Board Member