



*Siletz River at Moonshine Park*

## LINCOLN COUNTY WATER SYSTEMS ALLIANCE

### **If We All Join Together, Long-term Water Security Is Possible!**

*The Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance (LCWSA or Alliance)* is being created in order to establish a 50-year county-wide water supply and distribution system plan that incorporates local and regional integrated plans to provide long-term water security for the entire county and significant protections for the environment. Its success will require the participation of Lincoln County cities, water districts, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, the County of Lincoln County, and the support and involvement of conservation and water organizations. The development and realization of this plan will be enhanced through a partnership with Oregon State University.

The *Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership Water Action Plan* names the LCWSA as a leader in the development of the county-wide plan, and the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership (MCWPP) is positioned to support the LCWSA through information sharing and enhanced coordination with state and federal entities regarding regulations, permits, and funding.

**MISSION:** Review options, develop a 50-year plan, secure funding, and establish water supply and distribution systems which will provide long-term water security for our entire county, while achieving significant protections for our rivers, streams, and watersheds.

Cities, water districts, and industrial water systems in Lincoln County are already experiencing water shortages and limits during the dry summer months – and climate change projections indicate that this will get worse for all of them. These systems must also prepare for earthquake and tsunami resilience, and meet new federal and state stream flow regulations for endangered fish species and stream ecology.

Lincoln County cities and water suppliers, as separate entities, have struggled to adequately fund the development and maintenance of the available local water resources. Now, these water sources are not only decreasing, the infrastructure deterioration and replacement costs are beyond the means of local taxpayers. **Applications for state and federal permits and major infrastructure funding will be strengthened when they demonstrate the benefits to and support of the entire region.**

## **PHASE I**

The LCWSA will engage with OSU partners to gather information on existing water studies, data, recommendations, new technologies, untapped water sources, and environmental conditions and projections. A digital decision support system which rates the feasibility and impacts of possible solutions to the long-term water supply needs of the county will be developed and applied. This model decision support system will be transferable and valuable to other regions in our state and nation. Grant funding through OSU has been awarded to initiate the project, to be followed by applications for additional grants to develop and apply the decision-making system. The study should include:

- **City and Water District Water Management and Conservation Plans and other active or proposed water projects.**
- **Reviews of existing reports on proposed regional water supply projects.**
- **Recommendations and data from the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership (MCWPP).**
- **Recommendations, and data from meetings with community water suppliers, users, and representatives of conservation and water organizations.**
- **Studies on projected effects of climate change on instream flow requirements and out of stream water availability.**
- **Water use records and projections for cities, water districts, and large water users.**
- **Possibilities for: water conservation, conservation pricing, new technologies, new water sources, distribution systems, and water reuse and reclamation processes.**

## **PHASE II**

The LCWSA, with OSU partners, will review the Phase I report, evaluate the viable options and their estimated costs, pursue additional data and possibilities, if necessary, and formulate plans which can provide water security in Lincoln County for the next fifty years. The plans must include the input and requirements of state and federal regulatory agencies and recommendations for significant and sustainable protections for the environment.

## **PHASE III**

The LCWSA will coordinate with the cities, water districts, and conservation organizations to secure funding for the realization of the plans. State and federal funding will be essential. Local tax measures and/or water rate increases to residences and businesses may be required.

## **PHASE IV**

This final phase will be the implementation of the county-wide water systems plan. This will include the permits, land acquisition and water rights, design, engineering, construction, and operation of the required infrastructure.

### **Supporting Signatories**

Senator Dick Anderson, Oregon State Senate  
Penelope Kaczmarek, LCWSA Support  
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