

Print

Community and Economic Development Grant Application FY2024-25 - Submission #2632

Date Submitted: 11/24/2025

Name of Applicant Organization*

Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District

Mailing Address*

PO Box 2273

City*

Newport

State*

Oregon

Zip Code*

97365

Person Completing the Application

Name*

Billie Jo Smith

Email Address*

bjsmith42@hotmail.com

Phone Number*

541-961-8335

Name of Your Project*

Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance (LCWSA) 50-Year County-wide Water Supply and Implementation Plan

Total Project Budget*

\$31,000 for January 1-June 30, 2026

This includes all anticipated sources of funding

Amount Requested from this Program*

\$15,000 for April 1 - June 30, 2026

(max \$15k for Standard, \$60k for Impact)

Pool of Funds Applying to*

- Standard (\$15K Max)
- Impact (\$60K Max)

Project Description*

The Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance (LCWSA)(Alliance) has been established to develop and implement a 50-year County-wide Water Supply and Distribution System Plan (Plan) that incorporates local and regional plans, provides long-term water security, and achieves significant protection for our rivers, streams, and watersheds. The LCWSA is named as the leader for this Plan in the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership (MCWPP) Action Plan, and has the endorsement, informational support, and access to the agencies and professional water resources of the MCWPP.

Cities, water districts, and self-supplied water users in Lincoln County are experiencing serious water shortages and limits during the dry summer months. Not only are the water sources decreasing, infrastructure deterioration and replacement costs are beyond the means of our small cities and districts, as separate entities. 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.

Projected population and economic growth throughout the county will be limited unless we combine our resources to address the increasing water challenges. New housing and business development will require additional water supplies and distribution systems.

The Alliance will:

1. compile data on existing water resources in the county;
2. apply models that predict future water resource availability;
3. review water supply and delivery options, including new technologies;
4. evaluate the feasibility of each option relative to water quantity and quality, environmental and cultural criteria, costs, and projected community need;
5. develop the 50-Year County-wide Plan;
6. coordinate and assist water suppliers to secure funding for implementation of the plan;
7. establish regional water supply and distribution systems that provide long-term water security throughout Lincoln County while achieving durable protections for rivers, streams, and watersheds.

The funding requested from the Lincoln County Community and Economic Development Grant for this project will provide intense contracted coordination for the Alliance beginning on April 1, 2026, and continuing through June 30, 2026. The Coordinator(s) will confer with the LCWSA Governance Committee for guidance as they provide the following services: calling and facilitating meetings; planning agendas; implementing Alliance goals and objectives; engaging with advisors and consultants; managing finances and engaging with the Financial Agent; coordinating communications and meeting arrangements among Alliance members and consultants; identifying funding sources and developing grants to fund the Alliance and projects approved for the 50-Year County-wide Plan; and maintaining a newsletter and, when funds are available, a website for Alliance members, the public, and water users.

Contracted coordination is absolutely vital for this project to be successful. In the early 2000s, a group of Lincoln County cities and water districts attempted to join together for water planning. Some plans were developed, but the group fell apart and the participants went their separate ways due to the lack of funded coordination. The entities do not have the staff or dedicated time to facilitate the extensive communications, information gathering, grant writing, and research required to develop and implement a plan which will include the water requirements of all communities.

What is the project and what will it do for community and/or economic development? What tangible items or results will the project deliver? How will the success of this project be judged? IMPORTANT: This fund is not intended for staff or operations. Please describe the economic impact of the project and how it creates or retains jobs in the community.

Funding*

Grant funding for the absolutely vital coordination that will make the Alliance successful has been extremely difficult to find. Funding for employees and operations is generally excluded. We are grateful that this Community and Economic Development grant can fund a contracted coordinator which is filed with a Form 1099. This will work well for us.

A Team from Oregon State University received a \$28,000 interdisciplinary grant that helped us initiate the project through several focus group meetings at the County, in Yachats, and with the CTSI. They have also received two additional grants of \$50,000 and \$250,000 to study the Siletz River and watershed, which are not directly related to the development of our 50-Year plan.

The LCWSA coordinator funding (\$138,000 for 2 years) was selected and recommended by the MCWPP for the 2025 Oregon State Water Package in response to a request by Representatives Ken Helm and Mark Owens, Co-Chairs of the House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water Committee. Our proposal was included in a water funding bill, passed by the Committee, and sent to the Ways and Means Committee - which had hundreds of proposed bills to consider. The legislative session ended before our proposal was considered by Ways and Means, even though it was championed by our Senator Anderson and Representative Gomberg, both members of Ways and Means.

At the October 29, 2025, LCWSA member meeting, the representatives recommended that each member entity should submit funding which would finance January through March of 2026. That request is for \$2,000 per member entity. The response to this proposal is expected in December 2025.

If applicable, please describe status of other funds which you plan or have applied to and whether received. Please give the name of the fund, source of the funds, and when you expect to received an answer regarding funding availability. Also, list any other funds for which you have applied but were not funded. How much did you ask for, from whom, and why was the application not funded?

Collaboration*

This project was proposed by Senator Anderson when he was Mayor of Lincoln City. It was initiated in 2021 and has been developed and coordinated by two volunteers through numerous meetings and discussions with city officials, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI), the Lincoln County Commission, the MCWPP, Oregon State University, and others.

The LCWSA is a coalition. Members will collaborate to identify possibilities for new water sources and infrastructure, evaluate the options based on agreed upon criteria, and vote on the viable options that will be included in the 50-Year Plan. The County, and the cities of Yachats, Waldport, Newport, Depoe Bay, Lincoln City, Toledo, and Siletz have joined as members by resolution. The Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI) has joined by letter. By-laws for the coalition have been developed, and Intergovernmental Agreements are being developed, which, when approved by each entity, will be submitted to the Oregon Secretary of State. Each entity has appointed a member representative and up to two additional alternates to the LCWSA.

We are in the process of inviting other groups. The Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District is joining and will serve as the Financial Agent for the LCWSA. The water districts, other conservation and economic organizations, and self-supplied water users are being contacted.

If applicable, please list who you are collaborating with and why.

Viability*

By June 30, 2026: Eligible member groups should be invited to join the Alliance; Bylaws and Memorandums of Agreement should be in place, and Intergovernmental Agreements should be approved by members and filed with the Secretary of State; feasibility criteria for water sources and infrastructure should be established; and steps 1 – 4 of the Alliance goals (see above in Project Description) will be well underway.

Future funding will be needed, as this is a long-term project. Because the coordinator role must be continuous for the success of the 50-Year plan, and additional consultants will be required for specific research and data, our member entities are designing a "Planning fee" which they will be bringing to their budget committees for inclusion in their 2026-27 fiscal year budgets and beyond.

The LCWSA and member entities will also need to apply for grants for specific water supply and infrastructure projects as the 50-Year Plan is developed and implemented. Funding requests for these projects will be strengthened because they demonstrate the benefits to and support of the entire region.

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

How will the success of this project be judged? State success measures and timeline. Will this project need ongoing funding? and how will this be secured?

Desired Start Date*

4/1/2026

Desired End Date*

6/30/2026

Budget Documents*

Budget for Community and Economic Development Grant .pdf
Please submit as a PDF file

Letter(s) of Support

Support Letters LCWSA Anderson Yachats CTSI.pdf
At least one letter of support is required for an Impact application.

Name of Chief Executive*

Tyler Clouse

Title*

Executive Director

Chief Executive Email*

Tyler@lincolnswcd.org

Tax ID Number*

93-0954648

Type of Applicant Organization*

Other Governmental Unit

Lincoln County Community and Economic Development Grant

Budget Request

Beginning Date: April 1, 2026

Ending Date: June 30, 2026

Contracted Coordination	\$12,750
Financial Agent Costs @ 15%	\$ 2,250
TOTAL BUDGET	\$15,000



OREGON STATE SENATE

To the Board Members of Lincoln County's Economic Development Alliance:

I am writing to express my long-time support of the Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance (LCWSA). We worked together while I was Mayor of Lincoln City and I continue to support their work as a State Senator. While collaborating with them when I was mayor, I became more aware of the water issues across Lincoln County.

The EDALC Grant Application Request FY2025-26 submitted by **The Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance** through The Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District certainly has my support.

Lincoln County cities and water suppliers, as separate entities, have struggled to adequately fund the development and maintenance of available local water resources. As their water sources are decreasing, infrastructure deteriorating, the facility replacement costs are well beyond the means of local taxpayers.

The Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance was formed to harness the strength of all partners in Lincoln County. The mission of the Alliance is to establish and implement a 50-year county-wide water supply and distribution system plan. The goal of this plan would be to incorporate all local and regional plans and provide long-term water security for the entire county while ensuring significant protection for natural resources.

The LCWSA requests grant funding to advance the development of this plan. This support is essential to ensure the effectiveness and longevity of the water supply needed in all parts of Lincoln County.

Thank you for your attention,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Senator Dick Anderson

As Mayor of Yachats and the city's representative to the Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance (LCWSA), I am writing to express my endorsement of the Alliance's grant application. The goal of the LCWSA—to establish a comprehensive, county-wide water supply and distribution plan for the next fifty years—is essential to ensure our community's enduring viability and prosperity.

The City of Yachats faces a significant issue: a pattern of declining water availability during the summer months. Similar to other municipalities in Lincoln County, our water resources are most stressed at the time of greatest demand. This recurring, and increasingly severe summer shortage presents two primary challenges. It affects the ability of our city to attract permanent residents. It also influences our economy. During the summer, Yachats experiences a substantial increase in visitors, elevating water usage at a time when stream flows are at their lowest. Local businesses, including hotels and restaurants, are dependent on a sustainable water supply to accommodate this seasonal influx. Failing to secure adequate water resources risks undermining the economic foundation that supports our community.

Funding for the LCWSA will enable us to explore and implement sustainable water management strategies for the next five decades. This support will help the development of supply and infrastructure that safeguards water security while preserving the ecological integrity that characterizes our region.

I respectfully urge you to approve this grant request. It represents an investment in the resilience of Yachats, the economic sustainability of Lincoln County, and the ongoing protection of our environment.

Sincerely,

Craig Berdie

Mayor, City of Yachats



Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

P.O. Box 549

(541) 444-2532

• 1-800-922-1399

Siletz, Oregon 97380

• FAX: (541) 444-2307

December 20, 2024

Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance (LCWSA)

c/o Penelope Kaczmarek

P.O. Box 508

Siletz, OR 97380

Dear LCWSA,

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI) is pleased to indicate our intention to be an active partner in the Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance going forward. The water resources of our area need thoughtful, innovative solutions if we are to meet the needs of a growing human population, safeguard fish and wildlife populations, and enhance the ecology of local rivers and wetlands. This important work will require collaboration among diverse arrays of partners, including CTSI.

We look forward to working with LCWSA and Oregon State University in creating an enduring water plan for our future.

Sincerely,

Delores Pigsley

Chairman