



Staff Report

April 15, 2024 Council Workshop Meeting

City and Clark County Lacamas Watershed Management Draft Interlocal Agreement

Presenter: Steve Wall, Public Works Director

Time Estimate: 10 minutes

Phone	Email
360.817.7899	swall@cityofcamas.us

BACKGROUND: The City led an effort between 2020 and 2023 to complete a Lake Cyanobacteria Management Plan ("Lake Management Plan") for Lacamas, Round and Fallen Leaf Lakes. The Draft Plan was presented to the City Council and submitted to the Department of Ecology in Fall 2023 for review. Staff has not received comments back from Ecology staff; however, verbal discussions and emails with Ecology indicate no substantive changes will be needed and that there does not need to be a "formal" approval of the Plan for the City to apply for and receive future grant funding in this regard.

SUMMARY: The Lake Management Plan recognizes that it is not just management of the Lakes that is needed to improve water quality. The overall health of the 67 square mile Lacamas Creek Watershed plays a significant role in the long-term health and water quality of Lacamas and Round Lakes. As the majority of the Watershed is located outside of the City of Camas and is within the County's overall jurisdiction, both parties have recognized a need to partner in the ongoing efforts to manage and hopefully improve the water quality conditions within the Lacamas Creek Watershed.

The attached Draft Interlocal Agreement (ILA) has been jointly drafted by Staff at both agencies with the intent that a long-term partnership is formed, in conjunction with other agencies, organizations, and the public, to help manage and improve water quality within the Lacamas Watershed and Lakes. Through this Agreement, ultimately the Parties intend to identify roles and responsibilities, governance, policy, joint and individual work plans and financial expectations, and to clarify regulatory authority(ies) in support of a shared Vision for the Watershed and Lakes.

Staff most recently reviewed the draft of the ILA with the City Council at the February 20, 2024 Workshop. Since that time, the County Council has had two opportunities to review and discuss the ILA and no changes have been made to the attached draft. However, similar to a request made by the Camas City Council, the County Council has also asked for more frequent updates on the progress being made towards improvements to the Watershed and Lakes. City and County staff are happy to do this but did not feel modifying the terms of the agreement were necessary to satisfy direction by both Councils.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY: Formation of a long-term partnership with the intent to jointly try and improve water quality will benefit not only the residents of Camas, but the broader community that live within the watershed and/or use the Lakes for recreation and other activities. Improvement to water quality will also provide long-term environmental benefits.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES: Overall improvement to the water quality within the Watershed and Lakes will take significant efforts by other agencies, property owners, organizations and the public at large. A partnership between the County and City can help highlight the continued importance of improvements overtime; however, signing of an ILA and the partnership itself will not guarantee success.

BUDGET IMPACT: There are no budget impacts with drafting and development of the Interlocal Agreement. However, as discussed with Council previously, both short- and long-term management of the Lakes and Watershed as a whole will include the potential need for significant tracking and expenditures through time. In the near-term, the draft ILA contemplates the City leading and paying for treatment of Lacamas Lake through use of the 2023 State Budget Proviso funds.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Interlocal Agreement with Clark County be placed on the May 6, 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda for approval.