



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** December 20, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Mt. Bachelor Biomass Project Update

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

N/A

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

On October 20, 2021, representatives from Mt. Bachelor, Inc. made a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regarding the proposed construction of a biomass energy facility to provide heat and snow melt for four buildings in the West Village Lodge complex.

Further review determined that the County's ability to make economic development loans is limited to very small projects; there are not sufficient loan funds available to be able to accommodate a project the size of the biomass facility.

Since then, the project sponsors have been working with other partners, including the US Forest Service, to confirm funding commitments.

Representatives from Mt. Bachelor, Inc. will provide the BOCC an update on the status of the project, partner funding commitments and potential County project funding support. A copy of their presentation is attached to this staff report.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

The County can enter into an agreement to finance the costs of development projects by loaning non-tax revenue to any private corporation per County Code 2.16. The County does make small development loans generally based on projects that add jobs within the county. These loans are funded by video lottery revenue (a non-tax source) and are typically in the \$20,000 to \$30,000 range. As a result, video lottery funds are not adequate to fund a project of this magnitude.

The BOCC could, however, utilize unallocated Transient Room Tax (TRT) funds for this purpose. TRT funds could be committed during this budget year, requiring approval of a separate budget adjustment, or could be included in the budget development process for next fiscal year which will begin soon after the first of the year.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Greg Munn, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

John McLeod, President/General Manager, Mt. Bachelor Inc

Andrew Haden, President/Founder, Wisewood Energy

Meagan Hartman, VP/Director of Business Development, Wisewood Energy