



City of Stevenson

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To: Stevenson City Council
From: Leana Kinley, City Administrator
RE: City Administrator Staff Update
Meeting Date: March 19, 2020

Overview of items staff has been working on over the past month:

Tourism – On February 20 the Washington Tourism Alliance announced they chose Gorge as one of only five areas to receive an assessment to identify assets, evaluate potential and prioritize projects. No word yet on the timeline for the assessment in light of the current COVID-19 situation.

Chamber Events – The Chamber of Commerce notified the City they will no longer hold events such as Blues and Brews and Christmas in the Gorge. They anticipate a two-year transition period as another organization, such as the Stevenson Downtown Association (SDA), takes them over. The Chamber would like to continue to work with the city on marketing and growing the area as a tourist destination. Council may need to discuss options if the SDA does not want to hold events either. A copy of the 2020 scope of work for services the chamber provides is attached for additional information.

Waterfront Mitigation – Susan Ebben, along with County and Port staff, cut willows in Rock Creek for replanting along the waterfront. There will be a planting effort on April 1st and 2nd at the Waterfront for all those that wish to help plant additional willows.

MCEDD – The annual update of the regional project priority ranking for the areas Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was approved, and the Stevenson Wastewater Project remains high on the list for Washington, ranking second. This improves the city's ranking when applying for competitive grants. A copy of the project list for Oregon and Washington is attached.

Permitting Module – In researching other options for tracking permits, the best option remains with BIAS. The plan to move forward with BIAS was put on hold pending a quote from the county software vendor to piggyback onto their system. The annual service fee is \$3,021 (which will be prorated for 2020) versus the over \$15,000 we were quoted for using the county's software. The plan is to implement by the end of March for improved reporting and process efficiencies.

Action Needed:

Approve moving forward with BIAS permitting software as initially planned and approved in May, 2019.