

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA REQUEST**

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Kate Dean, Commissioner, District 1

DATE: May 28, 2024

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for 10,000 Years Institute WCCRI grant application

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Jill Silver, Executive Director of the 10,000 Year Institute (10KYI), has requested a letter of support for the organization's project application titled "Pulling Together: Jobs in Restoration and Resiliency, Phase 6" – in application for funding to the Washington Recreation Office's Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WCRRI) program. We're currently in the 9th year of successful program implementation.

ANALYSIS:

10KYI has been a long-term community partner to Jefferson County, performing weed management, revegetation and workforce development opportunities on the west end of the County. It is in the interest of the County to support their funding requests as it benefits residents and ecology alike.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the County.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the attached letter of support and consider signing it.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator


Date



Board of County Commissioners
1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Kate Dean, District 1 Heidi Eisenhour, District 2 Greg Brotherton, District 3

May 28, 2024

Review Committee
Washington Coastal Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WCRRI)
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Re: Letter of Support for WCRRI Project: #24-1602, Pulling Together in Restoration—Phase 6

Dear Committee Members,

The Jefferson Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is pleased to provide a statement of local support for the 10,000 Years Institute's Pulling Together in Restoration—Phase 6 project for funding through the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (see attached Local Support Document). From inception of WCRRI in 2015, the Pulling Together in Restoration (PTIR) has been crucial in providing persistent and continued protection to forest health, aquatic ecosystems, habitats, and climate resilience across the world-renowned watersheds of west Jefferson County.

The BOCC appreciates that PTIR provides invasives prevention and native revegetation support to restoration projects across Jefferson County watersheds in Goodman Creek, the Hoh, Upper Bogachiel, Queets, and Upper Quinault rivers, reducing management costs and improving restoration outcomes and resource productivity; and contributes to restoration projects developed under the Hoh Restoration and Resiliency Plan (#18-2005) including the Lindner Complex project (#22-1375) and Upper Hoh Riparian Restoration project (#23-1140). Each year, PTIR contributes over a thousand restoration hours to protect west county rivers and lands from degradation by non-native Scotch broom, knotweed, reed canarygrass, blackberry, and toxic tansy ragwort - with trained local crews stewarding the natural resources that support our county's economy. The program also expands relationships at west end sites for Jefferson County programs including the Conservation District, Noxious Weed Board, Washington State University Cooperative Extension, and Public Works/Roads.

Jefferson County roads carry visitors from around the globe to visit the world-renowned Hoh, Queets, and Upper Quinault rainforests, rivers, and wild coastal beaches. Through coordination between the Jefferson County Public Works staff and 10KYI in the Hoh watershed, county roads are models for weed-free transportation corridors. And in the watershed, fish and wildlife enjoyed by recreational, hunting, and fishing enthusiasts, the Hoh Tribe, and for local subsistence all depend on healthy native plant communities which require the level of stewardship provided through the 10KYI's commitment to continuous invasives prevention and control work.

WCRRI funding will enable 10KYI to continue services and education to the local community as a valuable partner to Jefferson County and many others in restoration and resiliency on the coast.

Sincerely,

Kate Dean, Chair, Dist. No. 1

Heidi Eisenhour, Dist. No. 2

Greg Brotherton, Dist. No. 3

WASHINGTON COAST RESTORATION AND RESILIENCY INITIATIVE LOCAL SUPPORT DOCUMENT

The intent of this form is to document support by a local organization for a project being proposed for funding through the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WCRRI).

Project Name: #24-1602, Pulling Together in Restoration – Phase 6

Project Sponsor: 10,000 Years Institute—Jill Silver

Supporting Organization: Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners

Signing Representative: Kate Dean, Board Chair

Title: District 1 Commissioner

Contact Information: kdean@co.jefferson.wa.us (360) 385-9100
1820 Jefferson Street, PO Box 1220, Port Townsend, WA 98368

By signing below, the above-named organization affirms it is in support of the project as it is currently proposed. Furthermore, said organization agrees that the project is likely to have a net benefit to the local environment and community.

Signature: _____ Date: 5/28/2024

The space below may be used by the supporting organization to provide comments, or additional documents may be attached, if needed.

The BOCC voted in approval at _____ Commissioner's Meeting.