

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Jon Hutchings
Director**





NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council
The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director

FROM: Gary S. Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager 
Chris Elder, Senior Planner 

DATE: April 26, 2022

RE: Resolution Authorizing Whatcom County Executive to act as the Authorized Representative on behalf of Whatcom County for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Grant

Requested Action

Staff requests that Council adopt the attached resolution to authorize County Executive Sidhu to act as the authorized representative on behalf of Whatcom County for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Grant.

Background and Purpose

Whatcom County Public Works has prepared a grant application for the 2023 RCO PSAR grant cycle. An authorizing resolution from the applicant's governing body is a required grant application attachment.

Staff have provided presentations to Council at the Water Work Session on July 9, 2021, February 15, 2022, and April 19, 2022 of several conservation opportunities that exist in the South Fork Valley to address watershed resilience and enhancement projects. This application to PSAR will provide significant reimbursement funding for acquisition of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest Phase I and Acme Floodplain projects that will accomplish restoration and reconnection of floodplain habitat and active management of forestland for watershed and climate resilience.

This resolution will allow the Executive to act as the authorized representative on this grant. Requests to purchase property and accept any grant funds will come before Council in separate agenda items.

Funding Amount and Source

The grant request is for \$3,700,000 with \$655,000 in local match for a total amount of \$4,355,000 to be requested in the 2023 and 2024 budgets. A source of funding for the matching amount will be developed as part of the budget and grant preparation process. Grant funds will be available July 1, 2023 if funded by the legislature.

Please contact Chris Elder at extension 6225, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.
Resolution