Josephine County Library District
Facilities Master Plan (Phase 1 Report)

Prepared by Penny Hummel Consulting
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Executive Summary

After functioning as a nonprofit organization for a decade, the Josephine County library system is now benefitting from the passage of a library district in 2018. Recognizing that the library needs appropriate space—for collections, for people, for programming and for functional operations, the Josephine County Library District (JCLD) and its support organization, the Josephine County Library Foundation, have established facilities improvement as a top priority. Since serious deficiencies in three of the four Josephine County library facilities compromise the quality and level of service that can be provided, improving the library's facilities is critical to the success of the library system in the future.

Prepared by Penny Hummel Consulting, this Phase 1 report provides a service evaluation of the four Josephine County libraries, as well as a set of recommendations to improve each of them. The goal is to provide a foundation to support the work of the architectural firm chosen for Phase 2 of the process, which will include evaluating the structural needs of existing facilities, estimating costs of renovation or replacement, and assisting in site selection where appropriate.

A summary of the recommendations for each of the four Josephine County libraries is below.

Grants Pass Library

- Replace the existing library with an estimated 36,909 square foot new facility (location to be determined). A detailed program for this new library is included in this report.

- Analyze current use of the Grants Pass collection, with the goal of maximizing return on shelf space.

Illinois Valley Library

- Explore the viability and cost of expanding/renovating the library, with the goal of adding a meeting room and improving the computer/media room.

- Analyze current use of the Illinois Valley collection, with the goal of reducing its overall size to free up space.

- Evaluate the library's mechanical systems (plumbing, lighting, heating and cooling) and roof to identify and prioritize repairs and improvements.

- Evaluate the library's existing safety and security systems and make needed improvements.

- Improve the library's Internet bandwidth and reliability.

- Update furniture and fixtures as is appropriate to the building's mid-century look and feel and explore the viability of minor renovations.

Williams Library

- Replace the existing library with an estimated 2,791 square foot new facility at the current location. A detailed program for this new library is included in this report.

- Analyze current use of the Williams collection, with the goal of maximizing return on shelf space.

Wolf Creek Library

- Analyze current use of the Wolf Creek collection, with the goal of focusing the collection on high-interest materials.

- Evaluate the library's mechanical systems (plumbing, lighting, heating and cooling) and roof to determine if there are maintenance issues that need to be addressed.

- Evaluate the library's existing safety and security systems and make needed improvements.

- Improve the library's Internet bandwidth and reliability, potentially partnering with other community organizations to reduce costs.

- Update furniture and fixtures as is appropriate or a priority for the library system.