

RECAP

Interagency Sustainability Coordinators Network



Meeting Date: May 13, 2009

Time: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Location: Mt. Mazama Conference Room
General Services Building
1225 Ferry Street SE, Basement
Salem, OR 97301



Attendees: Elin Shepard, DAS Facilities
John Fletcher, OHCS
Marjorie Lifsey, ODOT
Ruben Ochoa, WRD
Bob Simonton, OUS
Robin Straughan, ODOE
Stella Transue, DHS

Mark Brady, ECDD
Jeff Kohlleppel, DAS Facilities
David Livengood, DEQ
Gabrielle Schiffer, DCBS
David Solomon, OPRD
Ken Tibbs, DPSST

Guests: Kate Brown, SOS
Lori Koho, ODOE
Nick Hill, DOJ
David Furr, Salem-Keizer SD

Jane Bacchieri, OWAY
Archana Thapa-Campbell, DOJ
Norm Clark, OPRD
Shawn Range, State Library

I. Call to Order & Welcome

1. Call to Order

- Elin Shepard called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

2. Welcome and Introductions

- Everyone present introduced him or herself.

II. Oregon Sustainability Board

1. OSB Transition and New Projects

- Kate Brown, the new Secretary of State and new Chair of the Oregon Sustainability Board, introduced herself and briefed the ISCNS on her background.
- Kate mentioned how impressed she is with what the state agencies are doing in the area of sustainability. The SOS's office does not currently have a sustainability plan, but they are working on one. The Department of Justice is working on a plan and the Attorney General is committed to making it the most green law firm in the country.
- Kate, having been a legislator, shared that she is a firm believer of making sure that boards and committees produce concrete results. The OSB has several projects in the works:
 - The first project, chaired by Kate, the updates and performance assessments of agency sustainability plans. The performance of state agencies has been measured since the early 2000s. Kate is looking at this project as a way to determine how to deliver services more efficiently and effectively. Kate is curious about the impact of the sustainability plans on service delivery and conservation efforts. Kate wants to tie this in with the Performance Excellence Committee that she also chairs.
 - The second project is on the ecosystem services, SB 513. Kate thinks the Natural Resource Institute will provide the staffing. The project will look at how to implement the bill and how to influence policymaking. Sara Vickerman will chair this subcommittee.
 - The third project was the expansion of the OSB awards program at the Oregon Business Council Conference. John Ledger will chair the subcommittee with John Miller and

Annabelle on the committee. Elin Shepard and Mark Brady will provide support. Kate hopes these awards enhance communication within cluster organizations, as others follow the example of the winner.

- The fourth project was a long-term project on solar power. Susan Anderson will chair a committee to provide a mechanism for the implementation of HB 2626 and to encourage solar power use through the same mechanism. Trey Senn and Annabelle Jaramillo will be on the subcommittee. The homeowner will pay for the energy efficiency loan through the utility bill and the loan stays with the property.
- Kate mentioned that the OSB would also attend a biomass, fast pyrolysis project groundbreaking ceremony in Douglas County in August.
- Kate wants the work of the OSB to assist the ISCN with their work. She then asked for input from the ISCN. John F asked Kate if her definition of sustainability included the human services and community services aspect and if the OSB was planning to pursue projects along those avenues. Kate confirmed that her definition did indeed include those aspects, but with the current project load, the OSB currently had no plans for projects in those areas. Elin also mentioned that the OSB chose their projects carefully as not to overlap with other boards and committees.
- Elin asked the ISCN's opinion performance assessments and the measuring of plan effectiveness. These assessments and measurements would provide proof to the Legislature and increase the likelihood of the Legislature increasing funds for sustainability. ISCN members expressed concern about assessment flexibility for all agencies and situations. Elin stressed the point that the assessments are looking for the strategies that are successful and promoting them, and for areas in which agencies may be having problems and need the assistance of the OSB or SOS.
- Kate wanted to know what other barriers and issues, besides funding, kept the agencies from doing their jobs in a more sustainable way. The ISCN suggested that Kate as the SOS, write to the agency Directors, addressing the issue of sustainability and its importance. This reminder may increase the awareness and priority of sustainability within each agency. The ISCN suggested that sustainability be more of a way of doing business, rather than a specific program. The ISCN suggested making sure to share resources and information between the agencies.
- Kate and ISCN members agreed that the unfunded sustainability mandate gave the issue less importance and expressed interest in a plan for a future funded mandate. Kate emphasized the fact that while funding may not increase, state agencies need to deliver services in a more creative and efficient ways with the best quality possible.
- Kate plans to return for another meeting with the ISCN.

III. Agency Sustainability Plans & Programs

1. Department of State Lands Sustainability Plan

- The DSL representative was unable to attend the meeting, so there was no DSL Sustainability Plan presentation.

2. Agency Plans and Discussion

- Elin mentioned her work on statewide procurement and price agreements. She is looking at making procurement greener. Elin would also like to start tracking procurement and policy data. She plans to have the data tracking in place by the end of 2009. This tracking data would prove invaluable when generating reports for the Legislature.

IV. Presentations

1. Status of renewable and conservation project list

- Lori Koho, from the Oregon Department of Energy, provided an update on the renewable energy and the energy conservation project lists. There were two grants: the State Energy Plan (SEP) grant and the block grant. The SEP is approximately \$42 Million and after deducting the allowable administration portion, there will be about \$38 to \$39 million for the projects. The block grant is approximately \$9.5 million with a different set of restraints on it.
- ODOE has a project accumulator on their website. The 830 submitted projects would

require \$2.3 billion in funding. The total number submitted through all means is approximately 900 projects. There are approximately 80 state agency projects for a total of \$37.5 million in funding. The combined savings for the agency projects is 106-megawatt hours. The target savings amount for the grant is 123,000-megawatt hours.

- ODOE is now sorting the projects and is trying to construct the best portfolio of projects to reach the savings goal while taking into account other priorities. These priorities include projects that:
 - save and create jobs
 - save energy
 - are sustainable
 - use renewable sources
 - are innovative
 - help areas that are economically distressed
 - are ready to start or are very close to it
 - use leverage or have people that are willing to take a self-loan
 - makes the money go further, using strategies such as bulk procurement
 - are highly visible
 - contain educational components
 - contain awareness components
 - improve public buildings
 - generate energy

- ODOE also wants to support the K – 12 system and the cities and counties that were not direct recipients of block grant dollars.
- Some of the projects submitted did not include estimated cost savings. ODOE will assist with any of the needed calculations.
- ODOE divided the projects among about a dozen people by economic development districts. This might be an interface path.
- There is still time to influence projects and submit projects. Lori encouraged the group to send in any projects with great savings associated with it or that demonstrates innovation. Lori expects the project cut-off will be in December 2009, with the project funds committed by September 2010 and spent by 2011. Lori expects there to be funds available as projects fall apart during the process. These funds will then be available for other projects. Lori encouraged agencies to keep open lines of communication with ODOE update project costs and indicating project preference and priority.
- Lori and Jane mentioned that there has been talk about another round of stimulus money, but there has been nothing concrete as of yet.
- These projects are high profile and are interactions are between the agency, the Governor, the Federal government and the Legislature. Lori mentioned that they are trying to find a few stellar projects to announce by the end of June, before the Legislature is out.
- ODOE has a mechanism to meet with county, the county utilities and the OCEDD to make sure the projects chosen in that particular county are the most cost effective projects. ODOE will work on a similar mechanism for the state agency projects.
- As for facilities leased from private owners, the private owners may not use the stimulus money, but may still take advantage of BET-C and ETO opportunities.
- Local block grant applicants submitted plans to the federal government. ODOE is available to help the block grant recipients implement their projects. The deadline for submission is June 25, 2009. The largest cities and counties and all Tribes received a direct, predetermined allotment. A submitted application was required for the state to receive the \$9.5 million block grant. The state is required to use at least a 60% minimum portion of the \$9.5 million block grant for smaller cities and counties that did not receive direct awards. The discretionary amount remaining after

this portion, if ODOE decides not to use more or all of it for smaller cities and counties, is about \$3.7 million.

- There is a transportation based component to the block grant, including right turn lanes, bike paths, and video conferencing, all of which are eligible for the block grant.
- Currently there are no funds available for water projects.
- DEQ is working on reconnecting water and energy by calculating the carbon footprint of water processing.

2. Brief on Oregon Way

- Jane Bacchieri, with the Oregon Way, presented an overview on the Oregon Way. In February, Governor Kulongoski signed Executive Order 09-06, which set up a process to maximize Oregon's green advantage. This green advantage will maximize the amount of competitive economic stimulus money granted to Oregon. After the Executive Order, the Governor put together the Economic Recovery Executive Team to administer the economic stimulus money and manage all of the reporting and tracking. The program managers will facilitate and track the economic stimulus money in the following areas:
 - Education
 - Transportation & Public Safety
 - Human Services
 - Natural Resources
 - Housing & Economic Development
- The technical program administrator is working on developing the OR STATS database and reporting systems based on the federal requirements. The communications manager is working with the Governor's Office and the state agencies to coordinate information.
- The Oregon Way Advisory Group, established by the Governor, consists of twelve members, six public and six private, who will assist those seeking the competitive grants. These proposals must meet the Oregon Way's criteria. This group evaluates and suggests improvements to possible project proposals to make them as competitive as possible for the competitive pots of stimulus money.
- Some pots of money are for predetermined or federal projects. There are opportunities to collaborate with federal agencies. The federal agencies contacted state agencies looking for projects and the federal agencies sent their lists to D.C. The press releases from D.C. identify which projects in Oregon are going to receive funding.
- One of the primary goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is job creation. All of the money going to federal agencies may still result in Oregon jobs.
- The US Department of Energy has several pots of competitive money, as well as the predetermined SEP and the predetermined Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program. The competitive stimulus money information changes often, so Jane encouraged everyone to check the federal websites often.
- The Governor is currently only endorsing Oregon Way projects. These projects are innovative; they are advancing Oregon in the direction the state is heading regarding energy, efficiency, conservation, sustainability, and carbon reduction. These innovative projects may provide scalable national models. These are the "Signature Projects." The Oregon Way Advisory Group considers projects submitted to the Oregon Way and they will work with the project if it has the potential to receive the Governor's endorsement. State agencies and their private partners must submit their projects directly to the federal agencies for funding consideration. State agencies must also submit a letter of notification to LFO notifying them that you intend to apply for the funds directly. The application process varies for each program.
- Some of the programs that Jane knows about are:
 - the Clean Cities program, which is a petroleum-reduction transportation based program
 - the Transportation Electrification or Plug-in Electric Vehicle program
 - the Innovative Technology Loan program
 - the Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate program
 - the Research and Development program through the US DOE
 - the Fossil Energy Research and Development program

- the Science Funding program through the National Lab
- the Transformational Energy program
- the Biomass and Biofuel program
- For the complete list of funding opportunities, go to the Oregon Way website.
- Also on the website is a definition and explanation of what ARRA is and what it is not.
- The on-line forms provide consistent information for the Oregon Way and for database entry.
- Jane mentioned putting any project that may be an Oregon Way project on the on-line form for review. If you cannot fill out the form, then most likely the project will not qualify as an Oregon Way project.

3. Clean Cities Electric Vehicle Transportation Project

- Mark Brady, with OCEDD, presented an update on this project.
- The Clean Cities project is a petroleum reduction transportation based program that looks at alternative fuel sources. For Oregon's application, the focus was on electricity as the alternate fuel. The infrastructure piece plans for 1250 charging stations around the state.
- The application deadline is the end of May and the project has two years to spend the funds. Mark believes the award decision will be late this year.
- The project has about 80 partners from local and county governments, state agencies and private companies and non-profit sources from all over the state, with the Willamette Valley getting most of the focus of the project. Many of the utility companies are involved in this project as well.
- Out of the 1250 charging stations, 850 have officially committed. This leaves 400 stations for strategic placement by the steering committee.
- There will be public outreach and education about the stations.
- This project is working with the ODOT effort on a charging network, including the official sign and the charging station RFP. There will also be a training piece for technicians and electricians.
- Reporting and data tracking will help establish guidelines and an example for other states.
- The business model does not have the rate structure entirely figured out. For at least five years or more it will not be a significant amount of money.
- Oregon also has a proposal in for the Transportation Electrification or Plug-in Electric Vehicle program. This program would complement the Clean Cities project.
- The Clean Cities program allows you to apply for between \$5 million and \$15 million with a 50% match requirement. Oregon's project is approximately \$15 million and with the matching funds well above 50%, the entire project is currently between \$38 million and \$41 million.

V. General Updates

1. SANYO electric bike

- OCEDD will transfer the bike to ODOT. ODOT will bring the bike to the next ISCN meeting and all agencies may have a turn. Sanyo donated the bike to the State.

2. Statewide GHG inventory update and methodologies

- There was no discussion on this topic.

3. DAS statewide policies – Updated

- The new Resource Conservation Management policy came out May 1, 2009. Updates are proceeding on this policy to include dark buildings. There is also a new holiday decoration policy. The new Sustainable Procurement and Internal Operations policy is on the website.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Next meeting:

Wednesday July 8th, 2009, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
 Mt. Mazama Conference Room, General Services Building
 1225 Ferry Street SE, Basement
 Salem, OR 97301