

Meeting Summary
Central Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee
August 10, 2017
10:00 – noon
OSU Cascades Dining Hall, Room 207

Regional Solutions Committee

Mike Hollern, Convener
Mae Huston, Jefferson County Commissioner
Tony DeBone, Deschutes County Commissioner
Betty Roppe, Prineville Mayor (via conference call)
Erin Borla, Roundhouse Foundation
Becky Johnson, OSU Cascades
George Endicott, Redmond Mayor
Dennis Scott, La Pine Mayor
Melanie Widmer, Madras Sanitary
Karen Friend, COIC
Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Susanna Julber, City of Bend (alternate for Bruce Abernethy)
Wally Corwin, Jeldwen, Inc.
Carey Schmid, Seven Peaks Ventures

Regional Solutions Team

Annette Liebe, Governor's Office
Tom Rowley, Business Oregon
Tom Schnell, Business Oregon
Robert Ault, Business Oregon
Brian Wagner, Arts Commission, Business Oregon
Gary Farnsworth, Department of Transportation
Della Mosier, Department of Transportation
Scott Edelman, Department of Land Conservation and Development

I. Legislative De-Brief

A. Governor's Office and Regional Solutions Budget – Annette Liebe

Annette Liebe provided a high level overview of Governor Brown's 2017 legislative accomplishments. Priorities for the Governor were education, transportation, health care and cost containment.

Annette also updated the committee on the 2017-19 Regional Solutions priority project funding. The governor's requested budget contained \$11M in lottery bond revenue for Regional Solutions priority capital projects; the legislature awarded \$4M. Annette indicated that the approach for identifying projects will be two phased. The first step will be to solicit

projects using the newly revised priorities. From there, the team/committee will prioritize the projects. The initial solicitation is scheduled to be made in September. Thereafter, the RST will review in November; the committee will review in December. Once committees have identified priority projects, the governor's office will assess whether to request supplemental funds in the 2018 session. Once the final dollar amount is set, there will be a more in-depth application requested from highest priority projects identified by the committee.

B. OSU Cascades – Becky Johnson

Becky Johnson shared that OSU Cascades received only \$9.5M from the legislature for the next biennium. This was well below both the OSU Cascades requested amount of \$69.5M and the \$20M that the governor had requested. Becky indicated there may be an opportunity to request additional funding during 2018. Becky also highlighted the commitment made by the students and the community to the continued growth of the OSU Cascades campus. Specifically, the students voted to increase student fees to contribute \$5M to the student success center. Additionally, \$9M out of the \$10M in philanthropic funding has been secured. Those \$10M in philanthropic contributions are at risk if an additional \$39M is not secured by December 2019. OSU Cascades is adding 300 in state students per year.

C. Economic Development Programs – Robert Ault, Business Oregon

Robert Ault provided an overview of the Business Oregon budget. Key investments in the Business Oregon budget for 2017-19 are:

- \$30M for Special Public Works Fund (of this \$10M is for levees)
- \$120M for seismic retrofits of public buildings (\$100M for schools, \$20M for emergency services buildings)
- \$5M for the Eastern Oregon Economic Development Region (Vale, Nyssa, Ontario)

Robert also highlighted the recent Business Oregon reorganization and summarized key areas of the agency's strategic planning. The agency will continue to deploy staff to serve the distinct regional economies. The agency has combined the duties of the Business Development Officers and the Infrastructure Finance Officers into one Regional Development Officer position. Goal is to better serve the needs on the ground in an integrated manner. One area of increasing emphasis is support to small businesses and minority, women and veteran owned businesses.

D. Transportation Package – Gary Farnsworth, ODOT

Gary Farnsworth provided an overview of the legislatively approved transportation funding package. Gary also noted the Transportation Commission's desire for transparency, openness and accountability in the way that projects will be selected. Gary's presentation is available on the website as meeting materials for this meeting. Gary noted a couple of

earmarks for Central Oregon: Cooley Rd (2021-23 construction timeframe), Tom McCall roundabout and north side connector from McCall Road to the Prineville Airport. There was also discussion about the bill that establishes a new governance structure for COIC and transit funding in the region. COIC will be doing a transit master plan update. Committee members were very supportive/appreciative of the new transportation funding.

E. Madras UGB - Scott Edelman, DLCD

Scott noted that the bill to bring the industrial land that is at the Madras Airport in to the urban growth boundary passed. DLCD has been providing technical assistance on other approaches to ensure that the city has permitting control and taxing authority. These avenues will no longer be pursued. DLCD will be doing rulemaking to implement the legislation.

II. Regional Priorities Review and Revision

Annette reminded the committee of the role and the significance of establishing regional priorities. The priorities guide the work of the state agency team in seeking projects to address the priorities. The priorities also frame the project solicitations for Regional Solutions priority project funding. Annette provided a high level overview of the dashboard sent out with the agenda. The dash board is intended to respond to the committee's request for a clearer way of understanding the team's work/accomplishments. Annette asked for feedback on the format as well as the priorities. Annette shared updates on two new projects recently taken on by the team: 1) statewide workforce housing initiative with a regional focus on getting the state owned (DSL) parcel that recently came into the Bend UGB in to the queue for development, and 2) aligning state interests and funds to secure federal funds for Deschutes Basin irrigation system modernization/efficiency.

Overall, the committee indicated that the dashboard format was an improvement over the prior memo. Corey Schmid mentioned that what is missing from the dashboard from her perspective is showing how the private sector supports outcomes the public sector cares about. Need to better show that we are a small community and "look at how much we are working together." There was some discussion about the priority "retain and grow jobs" and the recognition that this is really a mission statement. Wally Corwin recommended that the priorities include a focus on integrating workforce training opportunities among the regional training providers and partners. The committee also recommended that the Request for Information highlight that priority projects that address/leverage outcomes for more than one priority will be given some preference. There has previously been consensus among the committee that the top three priorities are in priority order with others not being prioritized. Tony DeBone recommended moving the workforce housing priority to #3. As a result of the discussion, the following list was proposed by the committee. Tony DeBone made the motion to approve, Melanie Widmer provided the second.

Regional Priorities

HIGH FOCUS PRIORITIES:

1. Grow OSU Cascades
2. Retain and grow jobs
3. Increase workforce housing
4. Ensure the region has land and infrastructure available to retain/attract employers
5. Enhance Transit in Central Oregon (COIC led priority)
6. Support the regional creative economy
7. Encourage water conservation and restoration; improve water availability
8. Integrate workforce training opportunities

For High Focus Priorities, the committee, coordinator and team will actively engage in seeking solutions and projects that contribute to successful outcomes for the priority.

SUPPORT PRIORITIES

1. Improve sewer infrastructure
2. Support regional agriculture (COIC led priority)
3. Improve forest health (COIC led priority)

Public Comment

Mike Hollern opened the opportunity for public comment. Peggy Lynch, League of Women Voters, thanked the committee for the opportunity to comment. Peggy mentioned that if the hospital provider tax measure passes at the ballot box, it will be hard to secure supplemental funding for Regional Solutions priority projects in 2018.

After the opportunity for public comment the regional priorities were adopted unanimously.

III. Creative Economy Panel

This was an informational item for the committee. The committee heard from Kevin Barclay, President of the Arts and Culture Alliance (ACA). Kevin summarized the recently completed ACA strategic plan and the Americans for the Arts survey results. Handouts were sent out along with the agenda. Next the committee heard from a panel of “arts” businesses. Goal was to understand their economic impact, challenges and what the committee could do to further their success.

Carol Leone, Museum at Warm Springs, highlighted the value of the regional Arts and Cultural Alliance.

Pam Beezley, Sunriver Music Festival. This is the festival's 40th anniversary. Their budget is \$325k per year and they have 2.5 FTE. Each year 25% of their patrons are new patrons. They also touch 1000 kids with the school programs. Their main challenges are venue accessibility and keeping classical music fresh and relevant.

Christian Brown, The Workhouse. The Workhouse is a studio co-op with eight studio spaces operating on a commission based model. 80% of their revenue comes from the tourism market. They also host OSU Cascades interns. Their challenges are marketing their work and services. Since they are not a non-profit they generally are not eligible to apply for grants.

Jaclyn Abslag. Redmond Art in Public Places. Jaclyn talked about opportunities Redmond has created to increase the amount of public art. Some projects are funded through Urban Renewal. They also feature an "art around the clock" art competition. Members of the public are requested to vote for the people's choice award. There currently is over \$750k of art on display throughout Redmond. Challenges are funding and public awareness.

Rene Mitchell, Scalehouse/Bend Design conference. Original vision for Scalehouse was a space with workshops, a gallery, performance venue and a store. Their focus is on how to use design and creative thinking to solve real world problems. They are engaging with the business community and entrepreneurs. Their operating budget is under \$100k. Challenges are staffing (project coordinators), messaging/public awareness, space and branding.

Jenny Green announced the creation of "At Liberty" in the Liberty Theater venue. The ACA has secured the lease for the Liberty Theater and will provide space to Scalehouse and others.

The meeting adjourned at noon.