



**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE**  
**GOVERNOR KATE BROWN**

**Central Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee**  
*Representing Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties*

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Monday April 8th, 2019

9:00 am – noon

Redmond City Hall

Room 208

Redmond, OR 97703

Committee Members:

Mike Hollern, Convener

Mae Huston, Jefferson County Commissioner (via conference call)

Amy Tykeson, Tykeson and Associates

Becky Johnson, OSU Cascades

Anne George, Oregon Community Foundation

Steve Uffelman, Prineville Mayor

Betty Roppe, citizen

Richard Ladebey, Madras Mayor

Bruce Abernethy, Bend City Council

John Gilbert, Pacific Crest Affordable Housing

Seth Crawford, Crook County Judge

Melanie Widmer, Madras Sanitary

Michael Preedin, Sisters City Council

Tony DeBone, Deschutes County Commissioner

Tammy Baney, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council

Matt Abrams, Seven Peaks Ventures

George Endicott, Redmond Mayor

Team Members:

Annette Liebe, Regional Solutions Coordinator

Matt Mattia, Business Oregon (via conference call)

Scott Edelman, Department of Land Conservation and Development

Carolyn Meece, Business Oregon

Theresa Conley, Department of Transportation

John Swanson, Department of State Lands

Guests:

BJ Westlund, Sen. Merkley's Office

Carolyn Eagan, City of Bend

Katy Brooks, Bend Chamber

Tom Headley, Century West Engineering

## I. Review/Re-fresh Central Oregon Regional Priorities for economic and community development.

Annette walked through the priorities described as “Option A” in the memo sent out ahead of time. A hand out was posted on the website on Friday and provided to committee members at the meeting that cross walked the priorities and team projects.

### HIGH FOCUS PRIORITIES

#### **1. Grow OSU Cascades**

##### Projects

- OSU Cascades Collaboratory (in operation)
- OSU Cascades Construction, Site Evaluation, Planning and Prep
- Innovation District
- Student Success Center

#### **2. Increase Workforce Housing**

##### Projects

- Partner with employers to increase housing supply (Jefferson County School District Pilot Project)
- Rehab existing housing stock; outreach to La Pine regarding Community Development Block Grant opportunities to support this
- Technical Assistance Grants for Housing Needs analyses
  - Redmond
  - Sisters
  - Prineville
  - Madras
- Complete due diligence on the state owned (DSL) Stevens Road parcel in Bend

Committee requested a follow up discussion about what do we collectively mean by “workforce housing.” Is there a target average median income that this refers to or increasing housing supply more broadly? Some felt that the committee should not be focused on low income housing since that is being addressed by other groups.

#### **3. Employment land and infrastructure**

##### Projects

- Complete due diligence on the state-owned (DSL) Stevens Road parcel in Bend
- Redmond DSL owned large lot site; UGB amendment and infrastructure
- Madras industrial land; UGB amendment
- Market DSL property in Prineville
- Establish regionally significant industrial sites
- Power supply for future expansion in Crook County
- Bowman Dam Hydro Project

**4. Encourage Water conservation and restoration. Improve Water Availability**  
Projects

- Deschutes Basin Efficiency Project
- Policy Tools to meet habitat needs (Spotted frog)
- Prineville Aquifer Storage Project
- Pronghorn Golf Course Water Supply

Mayor Uffelman gave a brief overview of the Prineville Aquifer Storage and Recovery project; he requested a letter of support from the Committee. Annette agreed to provide the fact sheet electronically to the committee along with a draft letter of support.

**5. Integrate workforce training opportunities (ECWIB led)**  
Projects

- Youth Career Connect
- Construction trades workforce initiative
- Warm Springs Commissary Relocation and Renovation

Committee recommended moving this to a “support priority.”

MOVE THESE TO SUPPORT PRIORITIES?

**6. Enhance Transit in Central Oregon (COIC led)**  
Projects

- Transformative Transportation Project
- Regional Transit Plan

**7. Support the Regional Creative Economy**  
Projects

- Creative Economy Action Plan (completed)
- State support for regional creative economy
- Arts in Transit
- Warm Springs Commissary Relocation and Renovation

The Committee supported moving these to “support priorities.”

POTENTIAL NEW HIGH FOCUS PRIORITIES?

**8. Vital Downtown Cores**  
Projects:

- La Pine
- Madras
- Bend
- Prineville
- Warm Springs
- Sisters
- Culver

The Committee supported changing the wording to “vibrant downtown cores” adding this as a high focus priority although some members expressed that if we are successful on the tactical work on some other priorities such as transit, vibrant downtown cores will follow. Councilor Preedin asked that Sisters be added.

## **9. Emergency preparedness/response**

Projects:

- Regional Emergency Response Center (COIC led)
- Prineville airport UAV

The Committee requested that the Wildfire Task Force and Wildfire resilience/preparedness be added to this priority. Mayor Uffelmann noted that the Oregon rail trunk line will be critically important for moving supplies; Mayor Ladebey requested that the City of Madras be included in the steering committee for scoping the regional center.

## SUPPORT PRIORITIES

REMOVE CURRENT SUPPORT PRIORITIES?

### **1. Improve Sewer Infrastructure**

Projects

- South Deschutes County Groundwater/Drinking water protection
- La Pine sewer service to Cagel subdivision

### **2. Support Regional Agriculture**

Projects:

- Regional food Hub

### **3. Strengthen forest restoration and the restoration economy**

Projects

- Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project
- Juniper Utilization

The committee agreed to remove these three as support priorities. Agriculture will be primarily supported by focusing on water; forest health will be addressed by emergency preparedness.

## POTENTIAL NEW SUPPORT PRIORITIES:

### **4. Childcare availability**

Projects:

- Central Oregon Childcare Task Force
- Pilot project to increase supply of childcare

The committee elevated this issue to a “high focus” priority.

### **5. Support Creative Economy (see above)**

## **6. Enhance Regional Transit (COIC led)(see above)**

## **7. Outdoor Recreation**

### Projects:

- Jefferson County partnership re: Lake Billy Chinook hotel
- Oregon Outdoor Rec plan

### Public comment on Regional Priorities:

1. Lisa Dobey, St. Charles (submitted electronically) indicated support for including vital downtown cores as a priority.
2. Carolyn Eagan, City of Bend commented that transit should move up as a high focus priority and vibrant downtown cores should move down to the support priority category.
3. Katy Brooks, Bend Chamber, supported keeping childcare on the list. Availability/affordability of childcare is a barrier to workforce participation and recruitment.

### Committee discussion:

Amy Tykeson noted that childcare and transit are critical to closing the opportunity gap and supported moving vibrant downtown cores to a support priority. George Endicott highlighted that the committee has made significant progress on transit and we should assess how the new state funding is implemented and remaining gaps before elevating transit as a high focus priority. Matt Abrams agreed that if we are tactical on other priorities, vibrant downtown cores will result. Tony Debone supported keeping transit as a support priority and asked Tammy Baney, Exec Dir. COIC for her thoughts since COIC manages Cascades East Transit. Tammy supported retaining transit as a support priority and revisiting once the regional transit plan currently under development is implemented. Anne George, supported keeping vibrant downtown cores as a high focus priority because she is aware of the community focus on this issue and the state tools to support this effort. Matt Abrams asked about including mental health/addressing drug use and innovation/modernization as priorities. Mike reiterated the committee's charge related to economic and community development. Annette mentioned that mental health is within the purview of the Central Oregon Health Council.

Annette clarified the difference between high focus and support priorities: 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. For support priorities, the committee, coordinator and team will monitor, engage and support as needed and requested. The coordinator/team will continue working with communities opportunistically to address support priorities and to serve as a catalyst for their successful accomplishment.

Decision: After discussion the committee supported the following priorities by consensus:

### HIGH FOCUS PRIORITIES:

1. Grow OSU Cascades
2. Increase Workforce Housing
3. Employment land and infrastructure to retain and attract employers

4. Encourage Water conservation and restoration. Improve Water Availability
5. Vibrant Downtown Cores
6. Emergency preparedness/response
7. Childcare Availability

#### SUPPORT PRIORITIES

1. Integrate workforce training opportunities (ECWIB led)
2. Enhance Transit in Central Oregon (COIC led)
3. Support the Regional Creative Economy
4. Outdoor Recreation

#### Follow-up items:

1. Annette will follow up with Matt Abrams to discuss how to focus an innovation priority for the committee's consideration.
2. Annette will send out information about the Prineville Aquifer Storage and Recovery project and a draft committee letter of support for consideration.
3. Committee will have future agenda items related to:
  - a. Defining the workforce housing priority,
  - b. Emergency (including wildfire) preparedness, response and recovery.

## **II. Update on state lands owned by the Department of State Lands in Central Oregon – John Swanson, Property Planner**

John provided an overview of the status of each of the sites included in the employment lands and/or housing priorities above. In summary, the employment site in Prineville is ready to be marketed, the large lot application to expand the Redmond UGB is currently under review by the Department of Land conservation and Development and the Steven road site in Bend is in the due diligence process with an appraisal expected to be completed summer 2019. John's full presentation can be found on the Regional Solutions website.

The next meeting is on Friday July 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.