



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

**Greater Eastern Oregon Regional Solutions**  
**Advisory Committee Meeting**

*Representing Gilliam, Wheeler, Umatilla, Morrow, Grant, Harney and Malheur Counties*

**Thursday, August 15, 2019**

**9:00-11:00 am**

**Treasure Valley Community College**  
**Laura Moore Cunningham Science Center**  
**Hanigan Board Room, 115A**  
**650 College Blvd**  
**Ontario, OR 97914**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**9:00 am**      **Welcome and introductions – Rep. Lynn Findley, Convener**

Rep. Lynn Findley called the meeting to order and everyone went around the room and phone to introduce themselves.

**9:05 am**      **Public Comment**

Peggy Lynch asked if there would be an update on the Grassy Mountain Mine project and Courtney Warner Crowell assured her that during the project update section the RST team would provide an update on the project.

**9:10 am**      **Approval of previous minutes**

Rick Minster made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Bill Elfering seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**9:15 am**      **Legislative Update- Rep. Lynn Findley and Regional Solutions Staff**

Rep. Findley gave an overview of the legislative session and mentioned key legislation that passed this session and that he was involved with. Courtney Warner Crowell gave an update on key Regional Solutions legislation, notably that the Regional Infrastructure Fund was not funded. Courtney also gave updates from the budget bills for Eastern Oregon, including \$14 million for rehabilitation of the Wallowa Dam and \$1 million for the Umatilla Basin Basalt Bank pilot project. The rest of the RS team gave updates on legislation that affected their agencies.

Courtney additionally gave updates on staff changes to the RS team including Randy Jones coming back to the team to cover DEQ and that there will be a new RS director coming on board this fall. Courtney ended the legislative update with an updated on the Secretary of State's audit of the Regional Solutions program and that the audit would not be moving forward. As soon as there is final confirmation, Courtney will send that information out to the committee.



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9:45 am **Regional Priority Presentation and Project Updates- Regional Solutions Staff**

The Regional Solutions staff gave a powerpoint presentation to update committee members on the current regional priorities and the projects associated with those priorities. During this time, the RS team members gave updates on the following projects:

- Pendleton UAV industry
- Milton-Freewater Wine Production Facility
- Oregon Torrefaction
- Grassy Mountain Mine
- Umatilla Basin Basalt Bank
- Harney County Workforce Housing Pilot project
- John Day Innovation Gateway
- Treasure Valley Reload Facility

The RS team members also gave a presentation on proposed recommendations for new regional priorities.

10:30 am **Regional Priority Discussion and Recommendation- Committee Members**

The committee had a good discussion about the proposed priorities that the RS team provided and decided that they didn't feel adding an agricultural based priority was needed but felt that calling out broadband as its own priority was needed. Mike McLoughlin made a motion to approve the following language for the regional priorities:

The following priorities are all required to advance the regional economy and help support current and emerging businesses in Greater Eastern Oregon. Support for traded sector, small business and entrepreneurial job growth and retention is the overarching goal of these priorities.

**Natural resources utilization**

Support forestry, agriculture, mining, and recreation sectors.

**Water management and development**

Secure agricultural, industrial, and municipal water supply.

**Promoting workforce development**

Helping promote the regional workforce development opportunities to meet current and future industry needs and address issues related to workforce availability such as child care, training and education.

**Workforce housing availability**

Increase housing availability across types and values.

**Competitive rural communities**



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Access to services that create competitive rural communities including broadband, child care services, an engaged entrepreneurial ecosystem, downtown revitalization and multi-model transportation to attract growth, development, and workforce.

**Infrastructure for marketable industrial lands**

Increase availability of sewer, water, roads, and other investments to be competitive in attracting business development opportunities.

**Broadband**

Support rural Oregon broadband development as a key economic development driver for rural communities.

Rick Minster seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Public Comment**

Peggy Lynch wanted to update the committee that SB 2 passed which changes land use rules in Eastern Oregon. Peggy also updated the committee that there is a group meeting to look at a long term water vision for the state and how we can address the challenges and opportunities in the future.

11:00 am      **Rep. Lynn Findley adjourned the meeting.**



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**Meeting Attendance**

**Advisory Board Members**

Rep. Lynn Findley  
Mike McLoughlin  
Pete Runnels  
Bill Tovey  
Rick Minster  
Peter Mitchell  
Bill Elfering  
Scott Myers  
Liz Farrar

**Regional Solutions Team Members**

Courtney Crowell  
Scott Fairley  
Ken Patterson  
Nancy Breuner  
Melisa Drugge  
Randy Jones

**Visitors**

Tamra Mabbot  
Tiffany Bennett