



**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE  
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN**

**Regional Solutions Advisory Committee: Mid-Valley  
Meeting Minutes – FINAL DRAFT**

Friday, July 29, 2016

8:30-10:45am

Location: Independence City Hall

555 S Main St, Independence, OR 97351

**Regional Solutions Advisory Committee members present:** Senator Jackie Winters, Mayor Kathryn Figley, Commissioner Craig Pope, Commissioner Kevin Cameron, Commissioner Stan Primozich, Mayor John McArdle, Jody Christensen, AJ Foscoli, and Kristen Retherford. **Not in attendance:** Chad Freeman, but was represented by AJ Foscoli; Steve Powers, but was represented by Kristen Retherford.

**Welcome, Introductions and Logistics**

The Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RAC) started the meeting with brief self-introductions. The additional meeting participants also introduced themselves, including the Regional Solutions Team (RS Team); a few representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) – Erik Petersen, Kathryn Warner, and Dustin Bengtson; John Stadter – FCR, CEO; Jennie Messmer – Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments; Jim Trett – Mayor of Detroit, and Shawn Irvine – City of Independence. Sen. Winters, RAC Convener, and James LaBar, RS Coordinator, made a few logistical announcements about the meeting, our locale in Independence and the food and coffee from Ovenbird Bakery.

Sen. Winters presented the minutes from the RAC's March 18, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Cameron made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Commissioner Pope seconded the motion. The RAC unanimously approved the minutes.

Mr. LaBar provided an overview of the Regional Infrastructure Fund Rulemaking process, which included a current, open comment period. He encouraged everyone to review the rulemaking and, if they had comments, to submit them by the August 1, 2016 deadline. Mr. LaBar talked about how the proposed rulemaking had been drafted to provide sideboards that addressed many of the concerns with the fund in previous years. The rulemaking has been modeled after the Connect Oregon process. A couple of the significant changes include a better alignment between the timing of fund distribution and project identification, a total fund allocation of 55% across the 11 RS districts and 45% available under a competitive process, and a fund

review committee that includes representatives from the Oregon Business Development Commission and Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) Board. Members of the RS Advisory Committee applauded Regional Solutions for initiating the process and stated the new rules would hopefully create a better nexus with economic development and to create greater clarity, equity and fairness in distribution of funding. Commissioner Cameron asked when the review committee would be established, and Mr. LaBar said that was unclear as the rules were still in a draft format and that he would follow-up with an answer.

- **Action Item:** *Mr. LaBar will follow-up with Regional Solutions about the timing of the creation and work of the review committee for the fund.*

### **Woodburn's UGB Process: Lessons Learned**

Mr. Hallyburton started off the discussion by recognizing that the UGB process appears to be a constant topic of conversation, especially in the Mid-Willamette Valley. Lessons learned from recent years, including the process in Woodburn, led the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to amend rules for UGB reviews and the formation of two pathways for communities to pursue - the traditional route and a new simplified, streamlined process. The new streamlined process is so new that no community has gone thru it yet. Mayor Figley stated that it was with sheer perseverance and with the help of mediation that they finally made it through the process. She felt that having all parties at the table earlier on could have really helped their multi-year process. RAC members expressed an interest to be involved with future policies to make the connection between local governments and state agencies. Sen. Winters stated that she and her colleagues eventually were so frustrated with the rigidity of the process and how difficult it was to assist communities that a legislative fix was needed. The RAC expressed interest in Mr. LaBar working with Mr. Hallyburton and DLCD to set up a working group outside of the RAC's meetings to continue to work on the issues discussed thru a lessons learned document.

- **Action Item:** *Mr. LaBar will follow-up with Mr. Hallyburton and then RAC members about the group and contents of the lessons learned document.*

### **U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Presentation**

Erik Petersen and Kathryn Warner, COE, provided a comprehensive overview of the COE and the Willamette Valley Project, including an intro to the Willamette System, North Santiam water management, the Willamette Biological Opinion, contextualized 2016 water year, Willamette River Basin Review Feasibility Study and concepts of resiliency. Throughout Mr. Petersen's presentation the RAC asked questions to best understand the COE's operations and perspectives. Most of the discussion was centered upon the current situation and operations of Detroit Lake, the status of the Willamette River Basin Review Feasibility Study, which Ms. Warner detailed, and various resiliency concepts. The RAC committed to continue helping with the COE's outreach efforts with Detroit Lake and feasibility study. The COE is interested in working with Regional Solutions on those engagement efforts and helping with 'resiliency

projects.' Mr. LaBar will follow-up with Mr. Petersen about next steps, including a RAC and/or RS Team meeting in the Detroit area. Both the COE and RAC were thankful for the time each organization allocated for the conversation and to begin a more collaborative relationship.

For a copy of Mr. Petersen's presentation, please see the Mid-Valley's Regional Solutions site at: <http://www.oregon.gov/gov/admin/regional-solutions/Pages/MidValley.aspx>.

- **Action Item:** Mr. LaBar will follow-up with Mr. Petersen about next steps.

### **Public Comment**

None was received from the attendees at the meeting or on the phone.

### **Concise Economic Development Updates**

- **RS Team's Work and Transload Feasibility Study:** Mr. LaBar gave a brief overview of the recent, positive customer service survey and projects list for the RS Team. He highlighted the intermodal transload facility study. Mr. LaBar stated that Phase I of the study is estimated to be completed by August 5<sup>th</sup>. Phase I includes a literature review of intermodal transload facilities, data gathering about the number of containers in the region and Phase 2 scope. Business Oregon's IFA is leading the contractual effort with the consultant, ECONorthwest. The other principal agencies involved are the Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation, Business Oregon and Regional Solutions.
- **MWVCOG CEDS Update:** Renata Wakeley, MWVCOG and RS Team member, stated that they have collected 41 projects to date from the region and are sharing these with the Economic Development Agency (EDA), RS Team and state agencies and private foundations. The MWVCOG also is uploading the projects to the AGORA Investment Platform. In recent meetings about AGORA, private foundations, state agency directors, and non-profits continue to express interest and support. David Porter, regional representative for the EDA, recently conducted site visits to a number of communities, and MWVCOG will work to schedule another round of site visits in the near future.
- **Chemeketa Community College:** Julie Huckstein talked about how the college's current focus is on the nursing program and agriculture complex. They are working with OSU extension and Marion-Polk Food Share on a 30-40,000 sq. ft. facility that they hope to have under construction in 2019. Commissioner Primozich stated his continued support for the Rock Creek Campus and public works facility that will provide classroom operations and job training. Commissioner Pope stated he serves on the CCO Board and encouraged the college to look into some funding options through this program.

### **FCR**

John Stadter, FCR CEO, gave a presentation on his company, which was recently named one of the fastest growing companies in the state as well as one of the top places to work in Oregon, according to the *Oregonian*, for the last four years. Mr. Stadter gave a great presentation and tour of FCR's customer center in Independence after the public meeting adjourned. His

company likes the rural model for location of their facilities as that is where job needs often are located and they can keep the smaller scale of management that they prefer. He commended the City of Independence on their responsive government and positive demographics. He also talked about the challenges of operating in Oregon –high absenteeism and operating costs. He expressed concerns that Oregon is raising many costs of doing business in the state, which is placing Oregon too far out front of the nation and putting FCR at a competitive disadvantage with certain clients. They are opening a location in Montana due to these challenges and to diversify their client portfolio. Locating in Montana also will better protect them from Cascadia Subduction Zone and resiliency concerns.

### **Adjournment**

Sen. Winters thanked everyone for attending and the City of Independence for hosting. Senator Winters went back to the topic of the recent RS Team survey conducted by the State. She acknowledged that RST/RSAC is really a collaborative effort amongst state agencies, local and county governments, and the public. She thanked all those that have participated in the past, stating this is how we engage state agencies and the public and move the “needle.” She specifically acknowledged the Mid-Valley RS Coordinator for all of his efforts and the RS Team for the favorable survey reviews they have received.

Sen. Winters then adjourned the meeting.