



REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN

Regional Solutions Advisory Committee: Mid-Valley

Representing Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties

Friday, 12.02.2016

8:30-10:45am

Location: Garmin*

2345 Turner Road SE, Salem, OR 97302

Call in: 1-888-363-4735 Participant Code: 1492861

Welcome, Introductions and Logistics - Sen. Jackie Winters, Convener

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- Approval of Minutes from August 29, 2016 Meeting- Motion by Commissioner Cameron; 2nd by Chad Freeman. Passed unanimously.
- Senator Winters introduced Lane Shetterly to the Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RS Advisory Committee) as the newest member. Shetterly lives in Dallas and will be the philanthropic representative on the committee. Sen. Winters and Shetterly have worked together for a number of years in the legislature and she thanked him for agreeing to serve on the RS Advisory Committee.

Intermodal Transload Facility (ITF) Study

Sen. Winters acknowledged the partnership with Senators Beyers and Johnson to get the \$100,000 study funded and the support from Dept of Ag, ODOT, Business OR, and the South Valley/Mid-Coast Regional Solutions program. ECONorthwest's Sarah Reich and Business Oregon's Melissa Murphy introduced the project and scope of work. The questions of the study focused of where should the state look to support the movement of commodities through the region. The report's findings were only preliminary. ECONorthwest will be presenting it to the Legislature on December 14, 2016. The executive summary and final technical memo will be forthcoming. The final report can be reached here: <http://www.oregon4biz.com/assets/e-lib/IT/ITFrpt1216.pdf>

Interestingly, northern parts of Marion County and Yamhill County were not included in the study as it is already served by the Portland area. Eastern Oregon was excluded as it is already served by the Boardman location. ECONorthwest collected data via other reports, bills of lading, Phytosanitary Certificates, and fact checked with interviews with producers and shippers.

A few of the most important factors identified were time, reliability, and equipment availability. Manufactures/producers seemed to favor trucks even though it was more expensive due to the reliability (even accounting for traffic). Findings were that approx. 38,000 40-ft containers exports were coming from the study area every year. Looking at site characteristic of a facility, they used the Boardman location as an example: 14 acres needed; 3,000 ft of track; ideally near Interstate 5.

Senator Winters stated that, in light of what happened at the Port of Portland's Terminal 6, the state and region need to be looking at alternatives to support these industries in case of the "what ifs". No one knows what rail is going to do. ECONorthwest acknowledged they were the least enthusiastic group to talk to during their interview process.

Concise Economic Development Updates

- Election Results/2017 Session Insights – Sen. Jackie Winters discussed priorities for a transportation package and the need for tax reform as the State cannot run at a deficit. With the rejection of M97, voters are telling the State to "tighten the belt" just like Oregon families have had to do at home.
- Regional Solutions Update: Projects and Priorities – James LaBar provided updates on the
 - Mill Creek Flooding Study – Representative Jody Hack and partnerships with Salem, Aumsville, Sublimity and Turner; and
 - Detroit Lake Marina's recent successes. Still work to be done but a positive step forward in supporting this area and the existing 40+ employees in Detroit.
- James provided copies of the WORK! Document and draft priorities and goals for the RS Advisory Committee in the coming year. The Governor's budget has included a proposed \$11 million- or \$1 million per district. James will be meeting individually with the committee members in the coming months to refine both documents. In total, there are 70 or so projects that the Mid-Valley RS Team is "tracking". In case the legislature asks to see where the budgeted funding would go, this region is ready to respond with the WORK! Document.
- James also highlighted two recent articles from the region that highlight the work of the RS Team and RS Advisory Committee to the public illustrating the good work that is occurring. Sen. Winters also would like to see reports on those projects that have been funded with RS Team money to help tell these "stories" to the legislature.
- Discussion of calendar for 2017 and potential shift to some Thursday meetings due to legislative session conflicts.

Business Perspectives: Garmin

Steve VanArsdale, Garmin, gave a history of their company and the purchase of the previous company in 2003 which brought them to Salem. At this location, Garmin works on the design/build avionics for new planes and retrofits. They have stayed in Salem due to the high level of expertise and knowledge of the engineers and location at the Salem airport. The strong management structure at this location led to the location of a call-center here as well.

A key takeaway from Garmin's conversation with the RS Advisory Committee is that their operation of business in Oregon cannot be more expensive than in other parts of the nation or other locations will become more appealing. Garmin is interested in keeping the high quality of life here in Salem, but brought up shipping, minimum wage, and land costs as factors they and any other company needs to review on a regular basis. Garmin thanked Salem for their partnership and support of their company.

Public Comment

Senator Winters opened the meeting to public comment and testimony and checked to see if there were call-in participants (none). Mayor Trett, City of Detroit, wanted to thank James LaBar, the RS Team, RS Advisory Committee, and Marion County for their work to date. It is much appreciated and he has heard from community members that have tried to get this dredging work done before without success and that they now feel they have momentum in the project.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.