



Regional Solutions Advisory Committee: Mid-Valley  
*Representing Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties*

Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (**Draft**) Minutes: Mid-Valley  
*Representing Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties*

Friday, September 20, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Independence Event Center

555 South Main Street

Independence, OR 97351

**Call in:** 1.541.465.2805 **Pin:** 338467#

**Advisory Committee Members:**

Representative Ron Noble, District 24

Mayor John McArdle, City of Independence

Commissioner Craig Pope, Polk County

Commissioner Kevin Cameron, Marion County

Commissioner Rick Olson, Yamhill County

Sofia Torres McKay, Cramoisi Vineyard

Steve Powers, City of Salem

Chris Mercier, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Jessica Howard, Chemeketa Community College

Erik Andersson, Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR) – by phone

**Public:**

Leah Horner, Governor's Office - Regional Solutions Director | Policy Advisor for Jobs and Economy

Peggy Lynch, League of Women Voters of Oregon

Jason Schneider, Marion County Economic Development

Peggy Joyce, League of Women Voters of Oregon

Chuck Bennett, City of Salem, Mayor

Alisha Atha, Oregon State University Extension

Shawn Irvine, City of Independence

**Team Members:**

Jody Christensen, Mid-Valley Regional Solutions Coordinator, Governor's Office

Renata Wakeley, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments

Michelle Bilberry, Business Oregon

Jae Pudewell, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Mary Camarata, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Chris Castelli, Department of State Lands (DSL)

Angela Carnahan, Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)

Pat O'Connor, Oregon Employment Department (OED)



**Agenda Summary:**

**Welcome and Introductions – Representative Noble**

**Board Operations – Minutes/Audit Update/Appointments**

- Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2019 Meeting - The committee reviewed and approved the minutes with no changes.
- Committee discussed the Secretary of State Regional Solutions Program Audit Management Letter.
- Committee Member Appointments: The committee approved the nomination of Chemeketa Community College President, Jessica Howard to the committee.

Commissioners Cameron and Pope asked for a timeline to address the audit management letter recommendations. Regional Solutions Director, Leah Horner provided comments about the next steps for the program.

**Legislative Update – Representative Noble and Jody Christensen**

Representative Noble gave a brief overview of the 2019 session. Christensen provided legislative updates from the Governor’s Office, the Oregon Housing and Community Services, and a 2019-21 Regional Solutions related budget items update.

**Mid-Valley Regional Projects Update and Priority/Strategies Presentation**

Christensen gave an overview of the regional solutions program and the Mid-Valley priorities. All of the Mid-Valley Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) projects were highlighted with updates.

Christensen then presented a review of the current priority and strategies with recommended updates and changes.

**Regional Priority and Strategies Discussion and Recommendations – Committee Members**

The committee discussed the proposed changes. The committee came to a consensus on the recommendations. Representative Noble asked for public comments. No comments were received.

The committee approved the following priority (the vision) and strategies:

The Vision: The Mid-Valley will be a thriving center of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Manufacturing innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship.



**Priority Strategies:**

- Increase access to workforce housing, childcare supply, and talent pipelines
- Promote efficient, effective transportation and multi-model systems
- Support opportunities for agriculture, farmhouse, and hospitality enterprises to highlight corps and value-added production
- Stimulate improved broadband connectivity
- Engage in local government infrastructure to support development
- Foster outdoor recreational opportunities by supporting access to lakes, rivers, parks, and natural amenities
- Identify resources to unlock underutilized sites and land

**Roundtable Updates**

Commissioner Olson shared news about the September 20-22 Oregon International Airshow at the McMinnville Municipal Airport.

**Public Comment**

Representative Noble asked for public comment. Peggy Lynch provided comments including an overview of RIF and reminder about the 100-year Water Vision Planning.

**Adjournment**

Representative Noble adjourned the meeting at 11:06 am.

Following the meeting, everyone was invited to tour one of the Mid-Valley Regional Solutions projects within walking distance of the meeting location. City of Independence Economic Development Director, Shawn Irvine and City Manager, Tom Pessemier gave the Downtown and Riverfront Walking Tour.