

Mid-Columbia Economic Resiliency Team Meeting

June 5, 2020

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98720785607?pwd=TUJEB2JzQkt4SUZ5TzJZeJAvckJYQT09>
Or Call 669-900-6833, Meeting ID: 987 2078 5607, Password: 2266

- 11:00 a.m. Call to Order, Welcome
- 11:05 a.m. Phase 2 OR/ Phase 3 WA Discussion
- Tom Jeanne, Oregon Health Authority
 - Washington public health
- 11:40 a.m. Reports:
- Economist update
 - Workforce agencies updates
 - SBDC update
 - WA Dept of Commerce/Business Oregon Update
 - Chambers update
 - Ports update
 - Outdoor rec update
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn

Guiding Principles

- Our first priority and common purpose is to serve our region's employees, communities, and businesses, and we will leave our politics at the door.
- We will find way to increase, efficiency and reduce duplication of efforts to not unnecessarily tax the bandwidth of those we are serving.
- We will work in the spirit of collaboration to support each other in achieving our individual mandates in service of our common purpose.
- We offer each other grace as we undoubtedly will make mistakes, recognizing we are all experiencing stress ourselves as we are interacting with others facing tremendous stress.
- We find and take every opportunity to give credit and praise to our colleagues and partners as we encourage each other in this moment.

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Jessica Metta (MCEDD) started the meeting with introductions for guest speakers on the call.

Reopening updates

Jessica introduced Dr. Tom Jeanne (Oregon Health Authority) to provide an overview of the updated Phase 2 guidelines that were recently released by Governor Kate Brown ([slides](#)). All reopening guidelines and county-specific reopening status can be found [here](#). Tom clarified that certain venues may have up to 250 people maximum only if physical distancing measures can still be maintained.

It was noted that COVID-19 is disproportionately affecting communities of color. Dr. Jeanne said that the state is aware of the inequities and is trying to address the issues, starting with clear communication. Oregon releases a [weekly report](#) reflecting COVID-19 case statistics for various demographics in Oregon, including race and ethnicity.

Dr. Jeanne was asked if we would be receiving more details on what “increased travel” guidance means in Phase 2. He noted that we should still be limiting non-essential travel and that Oregon will likely remain in Phase 2 until a vaccine or effective treatment is developed, and as such anticipates that more specific guidance around travel will be released at a later time.

More information can be found in the governor’s new [executive order](#). If the group has additional questions around Phase 2 guidance, contact Nate (Nate.STICE@oregon.gov).

Jessica provided a brief update around Washington’s reopening status. Several counties, including Skamania, have been in Phase 2 for at least 21 days so are eligible to apply for Phase 3. Washington has a [risk-assessment dashboard](#) providing COVID-19 data by county. Reopening guidance can be found on the state’s [Safe Start](#) page.

Outdoor Recreation: Lynn Burditt (U.S. Forest Service) noted that many counties in Oregon and Washington are in different phases, leading to challenges in trying to align openings of county and state parks throughout the region. Last week a number of day-use sites were reopened and some campground sites will begin to reopen next week. Forest Service and land management agencies will hold another bi-state meeting next week and will continue conversations around plans for reopening the waterfall corridor in the Gorge. Visit readysetgorge.com for updates on what is open. Lizzie Keenan (Mt. Hood & Columbia Gorge RDMO) mentioned that the Trail Ambassadors program will kick off again this weekend at a few trails in Hood River County.

Ports: Peter Mitchell (Port of Arlington) reported that the Port has opened its RV Park to overnight visitors. He noted there are a lot of out-of-state visitors starting to arrive in Oregon and are facing challenges in finding places to stay.

Chambers: Lizzie reported that the small business relief grant program that The Dalles Chamber is developing with Google should open up next week.

Business Oregon: Business Oregon recently announced the recipients in the first round of their matching small business relief program. Earlier this week MCEDD applied for the program’s second round of funding, open only to EDDs and CDFIs, to develop a grant program to support businesses that were unable to access PPP or EIDL funds. Recipients should be announced next week. Ryan DeGrofft

(Business Oregon) noted that the invitation to apply for the third round of funding for this program will likely be delayed as the agency works to disperse funds to the current grantees.

Economic development agencies: Dave McClure (Klickitat County Economic Development) reported that Klickitat County just released a competitive grant program to support small businesses in the County with up to \$5,000. However, since the program is using CARES Act funding, it comes with a number of regulations, and businesses should read eligibility guidelines. Find more information and apply to this program [here](#).

Washington Department of Commerce: Susan Nielson (Washington Department of Commerce) noted that seven counties in Washington have now moved to Phase 3. Starting June 8th, all employers will require employees to wear face masks at work. Refer to [Coronavirus Facial Covering and Mask Requirements](#) for additional detail.

SBDC: Greg Price (SBDC CGCC) reported that the PPP Flexibility Act has been signed into law. This bill extends the loan forgiveness time period from eight weeks to 24 weeks and extends the hire-back date for employees from June 30th until the end of the year. Additionally, eligible costs that can be submitted beyond payroll have been raised from 25% to 40% and the bill includes additional flexibility for rehiring employees. Greg also mentioned that the SBDC is hosting a webinar on Monday at 5:30p.m. with the Small Business Legal Clinic focused on legal questions for reopening in Phase 1 and 2 in Oregon. Find details and register for this webinar [here](#).

Workforce agencies: Heather Ficht (East Cascades Works) noted that bi-state conversations that were occurring pre-COVID-19 have restarted. Discussions are focused on how to better serve all residents and businesses on both sides of the river. Amy Martinez (South Central Workforce Council) stated that these efforts started over a year ago and workforce agencies in Oregon and Washington are communicating regularly as counties begin to reopen and workers and businesses need support. Amy noted that both states have disaster recovery funding to support these efforts. Mike Scroggs (Oregon Rapid Response Program, CGCC) mentioned that they are continuing to focus on worker reemployment training and that they have funds to support worker needs.

Regional Economists: Kale Donnelly (Oregon Employment Department) provided a report on Oregon's unemployment claims ([link](#)). Demographics of unemployment claims can be found [here](#). Economic indicators for the Columbia Gorge using April data can be found [here](#). Progress around unemployment claims in Oregon can be found [here](#). For more information regarding unemployment data and updates, contact Kale (Kale.donnelly@oregon.gov, 541-206-1645). Scott Bailey (Washington Employment Security Department) noted that national data around employment in the U.S. was just released ([link](#)). Scott provided a report on Washington's unemployment claims ([weekly report](#)). Details for weekly claims for Skamania and Klickitat counties can be found on the Department's [dashboard](#) and a report on demographics can be found [here](#). Scott noted that additional resources have been put towards preventing fraudulent unemployment insurance claims, and Washington has recouped over \$300 million in claims benefits as a result. So far Washington has data for initial PUA claims by county, along with regular initial and initial PEUC claims but due to capacity restraints does not yet have data for continuing PUA or PEUC claims.

Jessica thanked the group for their work. If there are items you'd like communicated during next week's meeting, please send details to jacque@mcedd.org. This group will meet next Friday (June 12) at 11:00 a.m.

MID-COLUMBIA ECONOMIC RESILIENCY TEAM**June 5**

| | | |
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| Aaryn Rassmussen | Columbia Gorge Regional Airport | |
| Abe Friedman | Office of Senator Maria Cantwell | |
| Alberto Isiordia | Washington Employment Security Department | |
| Amy Gibbs | Oregon Employment Department | |
| Amy Martinez | South Central Workforce Council (WA) | x |
| Andrea Klaas | Port of The Dalles | x |
| Angie Weiss | Skamania County Chamber of Commerce | |
| Anna Osborn | The Next Door, Inc. | |
| Anne Medenbach | Port of Hood River | x |
| Arlene Burns | City of Mosier | |
| Ashley Huckaby May | Visit Hood River Council | |
| BJ Westlund | Office of Senator Jeff Merkley | |
| Bryan Stebbins | Office of Senator Patty Murray | |
| Buck Jones | Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) | |
| Captain Tony Gilmer | Klickitat County | |
| Carrie Pipinich | Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, Wasco/Sherman EDO | x |
| Charlotte Bentley | USDA Rural Development - Oregon | |
| Chuck Thompson | Oregon State Senate | |
| Dallas Fridley | Oregon Employment Department | x |
| Dan Mahr | Office of Senator Jeff Merkley | |
| Dan Spatz | Columbia Gorge Community College | |
| Dana Peck | Goldendale Chamber of Commerce | |
| Dave McClure | Klickitat County Economic Development | x |
| David Kavanagh | Klickitat County Public Health | |
| Emily Reed | Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance | x |
| Eric Nerdin | USDA Rural Development - Oregon | |
| Eric Proffitt | Worksource Oregon | |
| Erick Garman | Oregon Department of Agriculture (exports) | |
| Evan Bryan | Office of State Senator Bill Hansell | |
| Gabriel Muro | The Next Door, Inc. | |
| Gladys Rivera | One Community Health | |
| Gordon Zimmerman | City of Cascade Locks | x |
| Greg Price | Columbia Gorge Community College/Small Business Development Center | x |
| Greg Svelund | Oregon Department of Environmental Quality | x |
| Hannah Brause | WSU Extension, Klickitat and Skamania | x |
| Hannah Ladwig | Gorge Grown Food Network | |
| Heather Ficht | East Cascades Works (OR) | |
| Jacob Egler | Office of Senator Ron Wyden | |
| Jacque Schei | Mid-Columbia Economic Development District | x |
| Jarett Glibert | Columbia Gorge Community College | |

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| Jennifer Toepke | Port of The Dalles | x |
| Jessica Metta | Mid-Columbia Economic Development District | x |
| John Huffman | USDA Rural Development - Oregon | |
| John Swanson | Office of State Senator Chuck Thompsen | |
| Jonathan Hale | Office of Senator Maria Cantwell | |
| Josh Bruce | UO/IPRE | |
| Justin Withem | Office of State Representative Anna Williams | |
| K'Lynn Lane | Condon Chamber of Commerce | x |
| Kale Donnelly | Oregon Employment Department | x |
| Kallie Kurtz | Washington Employment Security Department | x |
| Kate Schroeder | Hood River County Chamber of Commerce | x |
| Kathleen Cathey | Office of Senator Ron Wyden | x |
| Kevin Waters | Skamania Economic Development Council | |
| Kristy Beachamp | Oregon Health Authority | x |
| Krystyna Wolniakowski | Columbia River Gorge Commission | x |
| Leticia Valle | Washington Employment Security Department | |
| Liliana Justo-Bello | The Next Door, Inc. | x |
| Lisa Atkin | Gilliam County | |
| Lisa Farquharson | The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce | |
| Lizzie Keenan | Mt. Hood & Columbia Gorge Regional Destination Management Organization | x |
| Lynn Burditt | U.S. Forest Service | x |
| Lynn Longan | WA Department of Commerce | |
| Marc Thornsby | Port of Klickitat County | x |
| Marla Keethler | City of White Salmon | |
| Matt Craigie | ECONorthwest | |
| Matt King | Wallowa Resources | |
| Michael Held | Business Oregon | |
| Michael McElwee | Port of Hood River | |
| Michelle Mulrony | Klickitat County | |
| Mike Scroggs | Oregon Rapid Response Program, Columbia Gorge Community College | x |
| Nate Stice | North Central Regional Solutions | x |
| Neita Cecil | North Central Public Health District | |
| Olga Kaganova | Port of Cascade Locks | |
| Pat Albaugh | Port of Skamania County | |
| Peter Mitchell | Port of Arlington | x |
| Rachael Fuller | City of Hood River | x |
| Rep. Anna Williams | Oregon House of Representatives | |
| Rep. Daniel Bonham | Oregon House of Representatives | |
| Richard Evans | Office of Senator Maria Cantwell | |
| Richard Foster | Klickitat County Economic Development | x |
| Ryan DeGrofft | Business Oregon | x |
| Sarah Kohout | Office of Senator Maria Cantwell | |

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| Sarah Means | South Valley/Mid-Coast Regional Solutions | |
| Sarah Sullivan | Gorge Grown Food Network | |
| Scott Bailey | Washington Employment Security Department | x |
| Sean McCormick | Oregon Office of Emergency Management | |
| Sondra Pieti | Washington Employment Security Department | |
| Stephanie Anderson | Maupin Chamber of Commerce | |
| Stephanie Krell | Wasco County | |
| Stephanie Siebold | East Cascades Workforce Investment Board (OR) | |
| Steve Scardina | Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association | |
| Susan Nielsen | Washington Department of Commerce | x |
| Tami Stockton | Wheeler County Economic Development | |
| Tammara Toppel | Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce | |
| Tatiana Eckhart | Mid-Columbia Economic Development District | x |
| Teresa Cummings | Oregon Rapid Response Program, Columbia Gorge Community College | x |
| Teri Thalhofer | North Central Public Health District | |
| Tom Schnell | Business Oregon | |
| Wendy Popkin | Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association | |
| Will Norris | City of Hood River | |
| Guest | | |
| Dr. Tom Jeanne | Oregon Health Authority | x |