



## North Central Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Minutes

**October 28, 2016**

Meeting Location: Columbia Gorge Community College, 400 East Scenic Drive  
Board Room (Building 1, Room 162 – next to cafeteria)  
Dial-In option: 888-251-2909  
Access code: 3494891

10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

### **Committee Members in attendance**

Mike McArthur, convener  
Ken Bailey, Orchard View Farms  
Keith Mobley  
Maui Meyer  
Andrea Klaas  
Carol MacKenzie  
Gary Thompson  
Rod Runyon

Amanda Hoey  
Celeste Hill-Thomas  
Steve Lawrence

### **Staff in attendance**

Nate Stice  
Tom Schnell  
Carolyn Meece  
Brad DeHart

### **Groundwater in Wasco County: Overview and status of collaborative efforts**

- Josh Hackett, senior hydrologist at the Oregon Water Resources Department, offered an overview of the issues facing the region broadly and in particular the 15 Mile Creek Watershed: declining well levels and reduced stream flows in streams connected to aquifers. Josh's presentation is included the meeting materials.
- Robert Wallace, Mayor of Dufur and Executive Director of WY 'East RC&D, discussed water issues in Dufur and his efforts to address water and power usage through his work at WY 'East RC&D. The city is seeing declining water pressure through its artesian well. The city is working on water and waste water system plans to address the issues. Mayor Wallace worked with the park and school to reduce water usage. Dufur is limited in growth because of water availability. Wallace also discussed his work with local irrigators to improve energy efficiency and water usage, including the development of an app to help irrigators improve efficiency.
- Phil Kaser, Chair of the Fifteen Mile Creek Watershed Council, offered some brief comments on their voluntary turn off program and efforts to study ground water storage.

### **Update on attainable housing efforts**

- Maui Meyer, Hood River County Commissioner, offered an update on attainable housing efforts in Hood River. The City of Hood River has moved forward on regulating short-term rentals. The city is working on rezoning a city lot for housing, and Regional Solutions is working to look at relocation of an ODOT yard for more attainable housing.

- Steve Lawrence, Mayor of The Dalles, discussed efforts to address the aging housing stock in The Dalles, in particular efforts to expand a minor home repair program through CCHC to the middle market. The Dalles is also nearing completing of its Goal 10 analysis.
- Gary Thompson, Sherman County Judge, discussed efforts to create rental units. There are three contractors willing to build. Land is available for duplexes. Sherman County is also looking at a way to add an additional subsidy on top of the Attainable Housing Revolving Loan Fund (AHRLF).
- Amanda Hoey offered an update on interest in the AHRLF. Several developers have reached out to learn more about the fund.

#### Update on broadband efforts

- Gary Thompson offered an update on Sherman County broadband efforts. Fiber in Sherman is focused on public safety as well as service to customers.
- Keith Mobley offered an update on efforts to extend broadband service to the home in Maupin. They are finishing up bid documents. LSN will be making last-mile connections to the home in Maupin.

#### Update on Regional Economic Strategy-CEDS

- Amanda Hoey offered an update on MCEDD's efforts to update the region's economic development strategy. MCEDD has held two of five meetings throughout the region to review and update the strategy.

#### Transportation package update

- Mike McArthur offered an update on work towards a transportation package. The Joint Legislative Task Force is wrapping up its listening tour. The task force is meeting with ACTs, doing tours, and then holding public hearings in each region. AOC has been putting together numbers, and has concluded that meeting only maintenance and preservation needs for counties would require a .59 increase in the gas tax.

#### Regional Capacity Fund

- Mike McArthur discussed AOC's efforts/proposal to fund a regional capacity fund, which would provide more flexible dollars for Regional Solutions efforts.

#### Roundtable for advisory committee members on regional activities

- Andrea Klaas discussed effort to work with the Gorge Commission to address urban area expansion.
- Steve Lawrence offered an update on efforts to update the Dog River Pipeline, which will cost over \$8 million and extension of an industrial line to the Google site.
- Amanda Hoey discussed workforce efforts to offer ASO/ISO support to tech companies.

#### Public comment

No public comment was offered.