

# Northeast Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

March 6, 2017 – Room 208, Badgley Hall, EOU

Advisory Committee members present: Tim Seydel, Dennis Sands, Donna Beverage, Dianne Elligson, Curtis Martin, Kathy-Gover-Shaw, and Nills Christoffersen (phone).

Also present: Scott Fairley, Regional Solutions Coordinator; Melisa Drugge and Shanna Bailey, Business Oregon; Randy Jones, DEQ; Anna Harris, RST Project Coordinator; Jason Lewis-Berry, RST Director and Jobs and Economy Advisory; Lisa Dawson, Northeast Oregon Economic Development District; Bill Rosholt, Eastern Oregon Workforce Investment Board; Kathleen Cathey, Senator Wyden's Office; Karen Wagner, Senator Merkely's Office; Susan Badger Jones, Energy Trust of Oregon:

Next meeting date: Late July/Early August. Scott will send a doodle poll to identify a date.

No public comment addressed to the advisory committee.

## *Advisory Committee Membership and Terms*

- Motion to reinstate Curtis Martin and Nills Christoffersen (terms expire in June 2017) to the Northeast Oregon Advisory Committee. Motion approved unanimously.

## *Regional Solutions Program Updates*

- New Governor's Chief of Staff: Nik Blosser
- New Regional Solutions Director/Jobs and Economy Policy Advisor: Jason Lewis-Berry.
- Business Oregon Reorganization: Business Development Officers and Regional Coordinator positions merged into regional Development Officer. The regions have expanded from 9 to 12 with one RDO representing the Northeast Region
- Governor visits: Focus on youth opportunities and economic development. Trips being planned for spring and summer
- Grant Young from the Dept. of Land Conservation and Development passed away in January. Scott Edelman is filling in until the Eastern Region position can be refilled.

## *Budget/Regional Infrastructure Fund*

- Key agency budget components relating to economic/community development and Regional Solutions were discussed (see attachment from meeting invitation)
- Regional Infrastructure Fund: new rules to dictate how the fund operates. \$11M proposed for the fund, 55% will be divided amongst the 11 regions, to be used as recommended by Regional Solutions Advisory Committees. The rest will go towards 'regionally/statewide significant projects.'

## *Workforce Investment Board Sector Partnership Update*

- First launch meeting of the advance manufacturing sector partnership a year ago
- The Talent Committee wants to connect students from the region with regional employment opportunities.
- Regional Solutions is assisting in setting up student business tour during the month of April. Hoping this will be a model for other school districts and CTE programs.
- Exploring other sector partnerships such as healthcare – need business champions.

## *Regional Solutions Project Updates*

- Scott Fairley, Regional Solutions,
  - o EOU students completed a project looking at housing analysis tools and proposed incentives for housing development.
  - o Worked with Business Oregon on a Governor's \$1 million storm recovery program for Malheur County
  - o Oregon Solutions is working on a nitrate reduction project in the Umatilla Basin, Gilliam County housing, and Grant County community development priorities
- Shanna Bailey and Melisa Drugge, Business Oregon

- BAUM project: process moving forward.
- Business Oregon is in the process of hiring a Regional Development Officer position for the region as well as for Southeast Oregon. Melisa Drugge will be the lead RDO.
- Randy Jones, DEQ
  - Charter Ranger District: USFS, EOU, Wallowa Resources and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest signed an implementation agreement.
  - EOU students presented information on their project to identify biomass supply chain issues for regional biomass torrefaction.
- Dennis Sands
  - M. Crow Project: Tyler Hayes gave a presentation in December about his vision. Bought 20 acres in the industrial zone, land use piece is moving forward. Needs to settle on water and sewer to the industrial zone.
- Ken Patterson, ODOT
  - New ODOT Transit Coordinator – Frank Thomas. Reviewed and prioritized critical Oregon aviation relief grants.
  - Received information on Solar Eclipse.
  - Oregon Transportation Commission will hold their august meeting in Enterprise, OR.

*Roundtable/Good of the Order*

- Federal Infrastructure spending: administration is interested, wants to expand it for fiber and communications.
- Powder-Brownlee Watershed: encouraging discussions took place with ODFW. Grant funding will be used to hire a facilitator.