



**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN**

**Northeast Oregon Regional Solutions
Advisory Committee Meeting**
Representing Baker, Union and Wallowa Counties

**Monday, March 11, 2019
1:00 pm- 3:00 pm**

**Eastern Oregon University
Dixie Lund Boardroom
Inlow Hall 201
La Grande, OR**

Minutes of the Meeting

1:00 pm Welcome and introductions – Tim Seydel, Convener

Tim Seydel called the meeting to order and we went around and provided introductions both on the phone and in person at the meeting. We did not have quorum so the minutes from the previous meeting will be approved at the next meeting.

1:05 pm Public Comment – all

There was no public testimony

1:15 pm Committee Membership Update

Courtney Warner Crowell, Regional Solutions Coordinator gave an update on some changes to the committee membership. Dennis Sands, LOC representative has resigned as mayor of Joseph so the Governor is working on appointing a new LOC representative. Additionally, the committee discussed formally adding Donna Beverage, Union County Commissioner to the committee, however, given the lack of quorum that will have to be officially done as a consent agenda item at the next meeting.

The committee then had a discussion about adding additional committee members to get a wider view of the economic environment in the region. The committee brainstormed names in the following categories: Agriculture, Wood Products, Health Care, Tourism, Education (Career and Technical Education), Baker County representative, and local cities. Courtney is going to do outreach to the folks suggested and come back to the next meeting with the interest from those candidates.

1:25 pm Legislative Update

Tim Seydel gave an update of what is happening in the Capitol during the legislative session and explained the budgeting process and gave a short recap of what is in the co-chairs budget. He also gave an update on what is happening in the session regarding higher education funding.



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- Governor's Recommended Budget- Courtney gave an update of key items in the Governor's budget that are relative to this region and economic development. These include:
 - Key emphasis on housing with \$130 million going towards the LIFT program and \$15 million for the Greater Oregon Housing Accelerator.
 - Regional Infrastructure Fund: \$15 million
 - Broadband office: \$5 million for rural broadband
 - \$16 million for the Wallowa Dam rehabilitation
- Agency priorities- Each of the agency representatives gave a short update on key items happening in the legislative session this year.

1:45 pm **Update on Regional Infrastructure Projects-** Courtney gave a summary reminder of the RIF process and how the projects were selected and the final amounts that were approved by the Grant and Loan Review committee and the Legislature.

- City of Joseph- Industrial land infrastructure- Courtney explained that we are currently in the contract phase and the contracts have been drafted and are now with the city and awaiting signature. The Regional Solutions team is headed up to Joseph soon for an outreach meeting to talk with the new mayor about this project and other key infrastructure projects happening in the city.
- City of Baker City- Industrial land infrastructure- Courtney shared that the contract for Baker City is also drafted and awaiting their signature and then as soon as the bonds are sold the city will be able to get started on the project.
- Union County- Baum Industrial land- Donna Beverage gave an update on the latest developments at the Baum Industrial Park. They are waiting for the snow to leave and then will move forward with paving the entire road through the funding they received from ODOT through the IOF grant. Donna also shared that they have sold 3 lots and she is down in Salem right now talking about Phase II of the project which would cost \$2 million and add an additional road and rail spur.

2:15 pm **Key Project Updates-** Each of the RST members gave an overview of key projects happening in the region. These included the Wallowa Lake Dam rehabilitation, Economic Opportunity Analysis projects happening in Baker and Wallowa Counties, the Baker City wastewater project, infrastructure projects happening in Elgin and implementation of HB 2017 from the last session (transportation package). We also did a roundtable update from all the members about things they wanted to share.

3:00 pm **Adjourn-** Tim Seydel adjourned the meeting early at 2:35 pm.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. To request an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities, please make requests at least 48 hours before the meeting to Rebekah Degner at 503-378-6502 or Rebekah.Degner@oregon.gov, or by TTY: Oregon Relay Services at 1-800-735-2900.



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Meeting Attendance

Advisory Board Members in Attendance

Tim Seydel, Eastern Oregon University
Curtis Martin

Regional Solutions Team Members

Courtney Warner Crowell, Regional Solutions Coordinator
Ken Patterson, ODOT
Nancy Breuner, DEQ
Brian McDowell, Business Oregon
Phil Stenbeck, DLCD- by phone

Visitors

Donna Beverage, Union County- by phone
Kathleen Cathey, Senator Wyden's office
Lisa Dawson, NEOEDD