



**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE  
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN**

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

**Monday, August 19, 2019  
3:00-5:00 pm**

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

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**3:00 pm Welcome and introductions – Tim Seydel, Convener**

Tim Seydel called the meeting to order and everyone went around the room and phone to introduce themselves.

**3:05 pm Public Comment**

There was no public comment

**3:10 pm Approval of previous minutes and consent agenda from last meeting**

- Meeting minutes, March 11, 2019
- Meeting minutes, June 21, 2018
- Donna Beverage, committee appointment

Due to lack of quorum at the last meeting, the committee needs to vote on not only the previous meeting minutes but a consent agenda that includes meeting minutes from June 21, 2018 and the committee appointment of Donna Beverage to the committee.

Susan Roberts moved to approve both the previous meeting minutes but the consent agenda as well. Curtis Martin seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**3:15 pm Committee membership update and voting on new committee appointments**

Courtney Warner Crowell reminded the committee that during the last meeting there was a discussion about adding more members to the committee to broaden the representation and add new voices to the discussion. Courtney has been doing outreach to individuals in the following areas: Agriculture, Wood Products, Health Care, Tourism, Education (Career and Technical Education), Baker County representative, and local cities. From the outreach, there are four additional people that are interested in joining the committee. These include:

- Lindsay Warness, Woodgrain Millwork
- Chelsea Judy, Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort



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- George Mendoza, La Grande School Superintendent
- Allan Duffy, Elgin Mayor

Susan Roberts motioned to approve all four new committee members. Donna Beverage seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Additionally, during this time, Courtney welcomed Corrine Dutto who is filling the LOC spot vacated by Dennis Sands.

### 3:30 pm **Legislative Update- Tim Seydel and Regional Solutions Staff**

Tim Seydel gave an overview of the legislative session and mentioned key legislation that passed this session. Courtney gave an update on key Regional Solutions legislation, notably that the Regional Infrastructure Fund was not funded. Courtney also gave updates from the budget bills for Eastern Oregon, including \$14 million for rehabilitation of the Wallowa Dam and \$1 million for the Umatilla Basin Basalt Bank pilot project. The rest of the RS team gave updates on legislation that affected their agencies.

Courtney additionally gave updates on staff changes to the RS team including Randy Jones coming back to the team to cover DEQ and that there will be a new RS director coming on board this fall. Courtney ended the legislative update with an updated on the Secretary of State's (SOS) audit of the Regional Solutions program and that the audit would not be moving forward. There were copies of the letter from the SOS office that were provided to the committee members.

### 3:45 pm **Regional Priority Presentation and Project Updates- Regional Solutions Staff**

The Regional Solutions staff gave a powerpoint presentation to update committee members on the current regional priorities and the projects associated with those priorities. During this time, the RS team members gave updates on the following projects:

- Wallowa Dam project
- Rural Engagement and Vitality Center
- Local housing needs assessments
- Rails with Trails
- Wallowa State Park Bridge Project
- Industrial park projects in Union County, Baker City and Joseph

The RS team members also gave a presentation on proposed recommendations for new regional priorities.

### 4:45 pm **Regional Priority Discussion and Recommendation- Committee Members**

The committee had a good discussion about the proposed priorities that the RS team provided and had a robust discussion about tourism and decided to add working lands recreation economy as a priority. The committee also had a long conversation about the differences between the types of jobs we are hoping to create and the amount of growth this region is hoping for. After a good debate, it was decided that at the next meeting we would have a presentation on the different definitions of jobs (i.e. family wage, traded sector, competitive wage, etc). Donna Beverage made a motion to approve the following language for the regional priorities:



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The following priorities are all required to advance the regional economy and help support current and emerging businesses in Northeast Oregon. Support for traded sector, small business and entrepreneurial job growth and retention is the overarching goal of these priorities.

**Natural resources utilization**

Support forestry, agriculture, mining, and recreation sectors.

**Water management and development**

Secure agricultural, industrial, and municipal water supply.

**Promoting workforce development and stability**

Helping promote the regional workforce development opportunities to meet current and future industry needs and address issues related to workforce availability such as child care, training, education, housing and transportation.

**Workforce housing availability**

Increase housing availability across types and values.

**Competitive rural communities**

Access to services that create competitive rural communities including broadband, child care services, an engaged entrepreneurial ecosystem, downtown revitalization and multi-modal transportation to attract growth, development, and workforce.

**Enhance local infrastructure**

Increase availability of broadband, sewer, water, roads, and other investments to be competitive in attracting business development opportunities.

**Working lands recreation economy**

Support the working lands recreation economy of the region by enhancing and supporting projects that capitalize on the natural landscape of our working lands and history of the region.

Nils Christofferson seconded the motion. There was no debate and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Public Comment**

There was no additional public comment.

5:00 pm

**Tim Seydel adjourned the meeting.**



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**Meeting Attendance**

**Advisory Board Members**

Tim Seydel  
Susan Roberts  
Allan Duffy  
Corrine Dutto  
Nils Christofferson  
Curtis Martin  
Donna Beverage  
Lindsay Warness  
Kathy Gover-Shaw  
George Mendoza  
Chelsea Judy

**Regional Solutions Team Members**

Courtney Crowell  
Ken Patterson  
Nancy Breuner  
Brian McDowell  
Shanna Bailey  
Randy Jones

**Visitors**

Katy Nesbitt