



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

Call-in is available at: +15414652805, participant code: 754762#

- 3:00 pm Welcome and introductions – Tim Seydel, Convener
- 3:05 pm Public Comment – all
- 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
- 3:15 pm Committee membership update and voting on new committee appointments
- 3:30 pm Legislative Update- Tim Seydel and Regional Solutions Staff
- 3:45 pm Regional Priority Presentation and Project Updates- Regional Solutions Staff
- 4:45 pm Regional Priority Discussion and Recommendation- Committee Members
- Public Comment
- 5:00 pm Adjourn

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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**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE
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**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.

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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

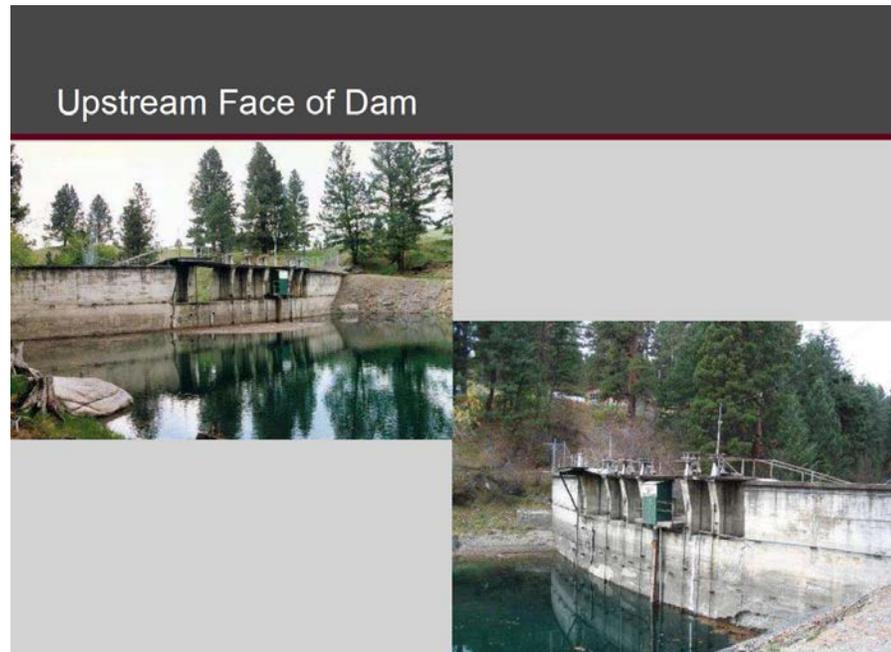


Northeast Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee

Regional Priority Update

Current Priorities and Projects

- ▶ Support for current and emerging businesses
 - ▶ No specific projects but every project essentially fits under this category

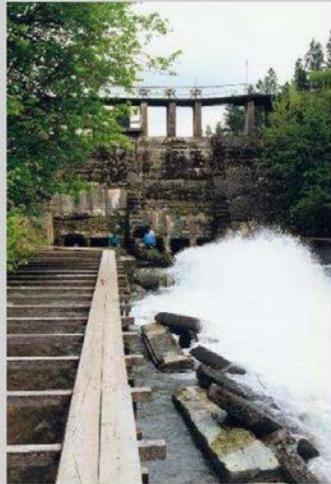


- ▶ Natural Resource Utilization
 - ▶ Wallowa Dam Project
 - ▶ Airport Rappel Base Building

Current Priorities and Projects

- ▶ **Water Management and Development**

- ▶ Wallowa Dam



- ▶ **Workforce Availability**

- ▶ Rural Engagement and Vitality Center (REV)
- ▶ EOU Internship Opportunities

Current Priorities and Projects

▶ Workforce Housing

- ▶ Housing Needs analysis projects- La Grande, Lostine



▶ Competitive Communities

- ▶ Rails with Trails
- ▶ Economic Opportunity Analysis Projects- Baker and Wallowa
- ▶ Baker City Wastewater System Upgrade
- ▶ Wallowa State Park Bridge Project

Current Priorities and Projects

- ▶ **Infrastructure for Marketable Industrial Lands**
 - ▶ Baum Industrial Park
 - ▶ City of Joseph Industrial Park - infrastructure expansion
 - ▶ Elkhorn View industrial park- infrastructure expansion



Process for refreshing and updating regional priorities

- ▶ RS Advisory Committee discussion on refreshing committee membership. Recommending adding individuals from the following industries/areas:
 - ▶ Wood products
 - ▶ Agriculture - row crops
 - ▶ Outdoor recreation/tourism
 - ▶ Health care
 - ▶ Education (K-12/CTE)
 - ▶ Local Government
- ▶ RST team has done extensive brainstorming to come up with proposed new priorities and decision points for advisory committee.
- ▶ RS Advisory Committee will make final recommendations at today's meeting.

Process for refreshing and updating regional priorities

- ▶ RS team looked at each proposed priority with the following lens:
 - ▶ Could we as an advisory committee and RS team:
 - ▶ Provide business or community impact- IMPACT (low, medium or high)
 - ▶ Have an understanding of how to solve- UNDERSTANDING (low, medium or high)
 - ▶ Are there technical and financial assistance available that we can help access- ASSISTANCE (low, medium, high)

Proposed Priorities:

Support for current and emerging businesses

- ▶ Recommendation: Delete this as a priority and make it part of the goal statement of the priorities.
- ▶ “The following priorities are all required to advance the regional economy and help support current and emerging businesses in Northeastern Oregon. Support for traded sector, small business and entrepreneurial job growth and retention is the overarching goal of these priorities.”

Proposed Priorities: Natural Resource Utilization

- ▶ Recommendation: Continue to keep this as a priority.
 - ▶ Key industry for the region
 - ▶ High level of IMPACT, UNDERSTANDING, and ASSISTANCE



Proposed Priorities: Water management and development

- ▶ Recommendation: Continue to keep this as a priority.
 - ▶ Key issue for the region and key priority for the state as we move into new biennium.
 - ▶ High level of **IMPACT, UNDERSTANDING, and ASSISTANCE**



Proposed Priorities: Promoting Workforce Development

- ▶ Recommendation: Change from workforce availability to promoting workforce development.
- ▶ Recommendation: Add the following language, “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 and education.”
 - ▶ Key issue for the region and we felt important to call out child care due to the impact on workforce.
 - ▶ High level of IMPACT and UNDERSTANDING
 - ▶ Medium to low level of ASSISTANCE from Regional Solutions so suggest changing to promoting workforce development to better build connections with workforce partners and not try and duplicate efforts.



Proposed Priorities: Workforce Housing Availability

- ▶ Recommendation: Add availability to the priority heading since we want to make sure the housing is available for the workforce of the region.
 - ▶ Key issue for the entire region and key focus from the state over the next biennium.
 - ▶ High level of IMPACT, UNDERSTANDING, and ASSISTANCE

HISTORIC INVESTMENTS: BUILDING SUPPORT FOR HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

ADDRESSING AND
PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS:
\$70.5M

INCREASING THE SUPPLY OF
AFFORDABLE HOUSING:
\$206.5M

ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT
IN GREATER OREGON:
\$5M+

INVESTING IN PERMANENT
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING:
\$54.5M

Proposed Priorities: Competitive Rural Communities

- ▶ Recommendation: Add rural to the heading to better explain the differences in our region.
- ▶ Recommendation: Add the following language, “Access to services that create competitive rural communities including broadband, child care services, an engaged entrepreneurial ecosystem, downtown revitalization and bike/ped facilities to attract growth, development, and workforce.”
 - ▶ Key issue for the entire region and important to call out more elements of a competitive rural community than previous priorities.
 - ▶ High level of IMPACT, UNDERSTANDING, and ASSISTANCE



Proposed Priorities: Enhance Local Infrastructure

- ▶ Recommendation: Change to “enhance local infrastructure” to take the focus off of industrial land since this region has already has so much success in industrial land development that we felt we could shift to the other infrastructure.
 - ▶ Key issue for all rural communities and a greater need moving into the future in facing aging infrastructure.
 - ▶ High level of IMPACT, UNDERSTANDING, and ASSISTANCE

Proposed Priorities: Recreation Economy

- ▶ Recommendation: Add “Recreation Economy” as a regional priority with the following language, “Support the recreation economy of the region by enhancing and supporting projects that capitalize on the natural landscape and history of the region.”
 - ▶ Given the natural beauty and opportunities in the region, we felt that we could begin to enhance the work already being done in this area.
 - ▶ High level of IMPACT, medium level of UNDERSTANDING, and ASSISTANCE



Additional decision points

- ▶ Is there interest in carving out the following areas as separate priorities?
 - ▶ Broadband
 - ▶ Downtown Revitalization
 - ▶ Child Care
 - ▶ Others?