



**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN**

AGENDA

South Central Oregon Regional Economic Response/Recovery Team
April 21, 2020
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99775942478?pwd=NjN6VisvWDMvb2ZTWGdXY2NjK2grZz09>

Meeting ID: 997 7594 2478

Password: 958168

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I. Governor Brown remarks

If you are not using Zoom and would like to ask the Governor a question or make a comment please text Annette at (541) 610-7215

II. Re-opening Oregon State Parks – Lisa Sumption (or delegate), Oregon State Parks

III. Roundtable

- a. Klamath Tribes – Chair Gentry
- b. SBDC – Kat Rutledge
- c. SCOEDD- Betty Riley
- d. Klamath County
- e. Lake County
- f. KCEDA – Randy Cox
- g. Discover Klamath – Jim Chadderdon

IV. Next steps/wrap up



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MEETING SUMMARY

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3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Remarks from Governor Kate Brown

Governor Brown opened by thanking the recovery team for helping create the recovery roadmap. She said small businesses are the heart and soul of Oregon's economy and she knows small businesses are struggling. The regional recovery teams are essential to Oregon's recovery. She said the recovery will take time and patience, though the framework is in place and will continue to be refined in the weeks ahead. She then talked about the framework and some of the health-related criteria included in the reopening plan. She then asked for questions.

Commissioner Kelly Minty-Morris asked whether counties could be allowed to reopen in early May if county health officials and commissioners support the reopening, particularly for counties in rural Oregon. Governor Brown said she agreed that some counties could be prepared to open earlier than others and suggested the county continue working with health experts and on preparedness to meet the gating criteria identified in the framework.

Randy Cox with KCEDA asked about state support for rural broadband, particularly for telemedicine. Governor Brown said she is concerned about another outbreak in the fall and this is important infrastructure to have in place for that scenario. She said she sees great potential for telehealth and supports broadband infrastructure investment.

Randy also asked about infrastructure investment. Governor Brown said she wants to move some of the larger infrastructure projects along, and this could include expanded bonding capacity. She said she particularly supports projects that have long-term economic benefits and she is looking to the regions to identify some of those projects to move forward.

Re-Opening Oregon State Parks

Cailin O'Brien-Feeney, the Director of Oregon Office of Outdoor Recreation (Oregon State Parks), talked about the reopening strategy for state parks across the state. Decisions on timing and ongoing restrictions will come from health experts and conform to the reopening framework. That said, the state is looking at operational decisions that need to be made to support reopening of state parks and recreation areas. The short-term priority will be on day-use facilities. The state will also coordinate reopening with local jurisdictions. Finally, the state is working on a communications plan to explain the reopening and any health-related restrictions that could remain in place. All of this work involves coordination and communication with other owners of public lands at the local and federal level.

Roundtable

Klamath Tribes General Manager George Lopez said the tribe is developing guidelines for reopening. The tribe is struggling to understand and get access to federal funding opportunities. The tribal council will meet this week to talk more about timing for the reopening.

Kat Rutledge with the Small Business Development Center said SBDC remains very busy and is working with PPP recipients to spend the money according to the program's rules.

Betty Riley with SCOEDD is continuing to process COVID-19 related relief loans and other assistance for small businesses. She is looking to bring additional resources to the community, including webinars.

Lake County Commissioner Marc Albertson said the county is working on its reopening plan, though currently there are no positive cases. He said getting public lands open is important. People are increasingly recreating on private lands due to public lands being closed, and this is causing some issues with trespass. Marc also said he would like the state to better explain the recovery rate, as he finds the information as cited by OHA is misleading because it doesn't contextualize who has recovered from the virus.

Randy Cox with KCEDA said he continues to reach out to members and is spreading information as he gets it.

Klamath Falls City Manager Nathan Cherpeski said the county has launched a restaurant support program and is providing funds so SBDC can continue to serve businesses.

Heather Tramp said with the city's financial support (\$25,000) the Klamath County Chamber purchased 2500 \$10 gift certificates to local restaurants; these certificates are available for purchase for \$5. The proceeds from the sale will go to fund the work of non-profit groups. The chamber is already sold out of the first 2500 certificates and is working on a second round.

Darin Rutledge said the Main Street managers around the state brainstorm weekly to generate longer-term recovery ideas for the region. They are looking to build resilience and develop a framework to support Main Street Businesses.

Jessica Bogardus with the Lake County Chamber said the chamber is working with all businesses, not just chamber members. The chamber is helping businesses who may not have received funding through the CARES Act, including smaller boutique businesses. The chamber is also working on a Support Small Businesses program that will be rolled out early next month.

Amy Amhrein with Senator Merkeley's office said there is more funding coming with the COVID 3.5 Bill, which is the latest relief package that passed the senate today. The intent is that this funding more directly targets small businesses. Hospital relief is also included in the latest package. She is aware of existing challenges with the relief package and some senators are already looking at the next round of relief.

Annette said she appreciates the work of the group; we will stick with the Tuesday at 3:00 pm timeframe unless there is significant new information in which, case we'll schedule a meeting ASAP.

