

Columbia Gorge Resiliency Team Meeting

March 20, 2020

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/722767549>

Or call 669-900-6833, meeting id: 722 767 549

- 1:00 PM Call to order and roll call. Meeting logistics.
- Invited participants included in packet.
- 1:10 PM Outline Mission
- [Resilience Plan](#) as Background
 - Relationship to Oregon Mandate (included in packet)
 - Review Process and Structure
 - Review Draft Guiding Principles (included in packet)
- 1:20 PM Understanding the Situation
- Regional Economists Dallas Fridley and Scott Bailey
 - Business Oregon Data with Michael Held
 - Small Business Update with Greg Price
 - Chambers Update with Lizzy Keenan
 - Other Key Updates
- 1:40 PM Summary of Tools Available
- Resources at mcedd.org/ready
 - Business Funding
 - Workforce Tools
- 1:50 PM Federal and State Updates
- Federal
 - State: Workforce, Business
- 2:20 PM Next Steps
- Meeting Frequency
 - Communication Points: jacque@mcedd.org, Greg.SVELUND@state.or.us

COLUMBIA GORGE BI-STATE ECONOMIC RESILIENCY TEAM - INVITEES

March 20, 2020

CORE TEAM

Nate Stice	North Central Regional Solutions
Greg Price	Columbia Gorge Community College/Small Business Development Center
Jessica Metta	Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
Carrie Pipinich	Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
Jacque Schei	Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
Greg Svelund	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

CHAMBERS/ TOURISM

Kate Schroeder	Hood River County Chamber of Commerce
Tammara Toppel	Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce
Lisa Farquharson	The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce
Dana Peck	Goldendale Chamber of Commerce
Angie Waiss	Skamania County Chamber of Commerce
K'Lynn Lane	Condon Chamber of Commerce
Lizzie Keenan	Mt. Hood & Columbia Gorge Regional Destination Management Organization
Stephanie Anderson	Maupin Chamber of Commerce
Ashley Huckaby May	Visit Hood River Council
Emily Reed	Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance

PORTS

Olga Kaganova	Port of Cascade Locks
Pat Albaugh	Port of Skamania County
Andrea Klaas	Port of The Dalles
Michael McElwee	Port of Hood River
Anne Mendenbach	Port of Hood River
Marc Thornsbury	Port of Klickitat County
Peter Mitchell	Port of Arlington

EMPLOYMENT

Heather Ficht	East Cascades Workforce Investment Board (OR)
Eric Proffitt	Worksource Oregon
Leticia Valle	Washington Employment Security Department
Amy Martinez	South Central Workforce Council (WA)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Michael Held	Business Oregon
Ryan DeGrofft	Business Oregon
Tom Schnell	Business Oregon
Carrie Pipinich	Wasco/Sherman EDO
Kevin Waters	Skamania Economic Development Council
Dave McClure	Klickitat County Economic Development
Richard Foster	Klickitat County Economic Development
Lisa Atkin	Gilliam County

Rachel Weinstein
Tami Stockton

Gilliam County Community Development
Wheeler County Economic Development

ECONOMISTS

Dallas Fridley
Scott Bailey

Oreogn Employment Department
Washington Employment Security Department

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

Kathleen Cathey
Jacob Egler
BJ Westlund
Dan Mahr
Bryan Stebbins
Richard Evans

Office of Senator Ron Wyden
Office of Senator Ron Wyden
Office of Senator Jeff Merkley
Office of Senator Jeff Merkley
Office of Senator Patty Murray
Office of Senator Maria Cantwell

OTHER SUPPORT

Erick Garman
Aaryn Rassmussen
Krystyna Wolniakowski
Dan Spatz
Mike Scroggs
Teresa Cummings

Oregon Department of Agriculture (exports)
Columbia Gorge Regional Airport
Columbia River Gorge Commission
Columbia Gorge Community College
Oregon Rapid Response Coordinator
Columbia Gorge Community College

MISSING

WA Department of Agriculture
WA Dept of Commerce
Federal Representatives' Staff?
others?



Regional Short-Term Economic Recovery Teams

Problem: Counties and regions have different degrees of capacity to launch short-term economic recovery and workforce response efforts. As a larger jurisdiction, Lane County, for example, has already launched a thorough effort (in coordination with RS). Smaller jurisdictions have far less capacity and will need state support.

Solution: The Governor will activate the Regional Solutions Teams to serve a Recovery Teams to respond to the economic impacts associated with COVID-19 in a regionally appropriate fashion. To ensure our state efforts receive input from across the state, these teams will funnel information to the Statewide Recovery Council through Regional Coordinators. This approach leverages previous Regional Solutions experience in coordinating Regional Recovery and in facilitating multi-agency efforts under the convening authority of the Governor.

Regional Solutions' Scope of Work during Response and Recovery:

- 1) At a regional level, facilitate deployment of federal, state, and local resources to address business and workforce needs;
- 2) Inform Governor's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Council of short-term regionally specific needs and long-term needs for recession recovery.
- 3) Coordinate with, and where appropriate, convene relevant partners (examples below) to respond nimbly to developing business and economic needs using local, state, and federal tools.

Recovery Teams

The Recovery Teams will organize or help to support regional networks to coordinate on-the-ground activities in support of businesses and dislocated employees; and collect and disseminate information.

- 1) Recovery network members could include but are not limited to:
 - a. Regional economic development organizations
 - b. Economic Development Districts
 - c. Local economic development offices (city/county)
 - d. Business Oregon
 - e. Oregon Employment Department
 - f. Small Business Development Centers
 - g. Ports
 - h. Local/regional emergency management teams
 - i. Regional Development Marketing Organizations
 - j. Chambers of Commerce
 - k. Workforce Investment Boards (including Rapid Response team members)
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- l. Regionally industry associations (e.g., local Farm Bureaus, the Gorge Tech Alliance, TAO, etc.)
- m. Regional congressional field staff
- n. Other state and federal agencies, as appropriate (e.g., Oregon Department of Agriculture, USDA, NRCS, FSA)

2) Tasks of the Recovery Team:

- a. Ensure coordination of regional networks
- b. Facilitate communication on local, regional, state, and federal tools available for business/economic recovery
- c. Compile information and reports on economic impact in region to supplement statewide situation assessment provided to Governor’s COVID-19 Economic Recovery Council:
 - i. OED has formal regional assessment role around employment numbers
 - ii. Members will gather other formal and informal data as needed
- d. Advise coordinators on items to elevate to Governor’s COVID-19 Economic Recovery Council

3) Specific Roles:

- a. Regional Coordinators:
 - i. Report to RS director on plan to ensure regional network coordination;
 - ii. Ensure alignment with local network;
 - iii. Manage, as needed, information flows from Governor’s Office, Office of Emergency Management and other state and federal agencies to local partners.
- b. Business Oregon Regional Development Officers:
 - i. Coordinate with local and regional entities on business outreach;
 - ii. Compile impact information;
 - iii. Lead efforts on direct support to impacted businesses and communities.

Advisory Committee/Regional Leadership Group

I am still discussing with the coordinators the value of creating local leadership team comprised of representatives from the private sector, legislature, local governments, counties, and cities to inform the work of the statewide Recovery Council. These groups would draw on the Regionals Solutions Advisory Committees already in place and add members as needed. The potential value of this group would be: 1) endorsing prioritization of local needs; 2) helping to keep state and local leadership on the same page; 3) helping the state to think about longer-term recovery efforts. The coordinators working with the recovery teams would set agenda and advice for this group.

Columbia Gorge Resiliency Team

Draft Guiding Principles

March 20, 2020

As we work together to respond to this unprecedented situation, how we do this work in this moment will be as important as what we do. Adopting guiding principles for our team will help us focus on serving our community. Please consider these draft principles and share others that would help us do our best work together during this critical time:

- Our first priority and common purpose is to serve our region's employees, communities, and businesses, and we will leave our politics at the door.
- We will find ways to increase efficiency and reduce duplication of efforts to best serve our communities.
- We will work in the spirit of collaboration to support each other in achieving our individual mandates in service of our common purpose.
- We will offer each other grace as we undoubtedly will make mistakes, recognizing we are all experiencing stress ourselves as we are interacting with others facing tremendous stress.
- We will find and take every opportunity to give credit and praise to our colleagues and partners as we encourage each other in this moment.

**Mid- Columbia/ Columbia Gorge Economic Resilience Team Meeting
March 20, 2020**

Jessica Metta (MCEDD) started the meeting with introductions and a brief overview of why we're convening this group. Recently, Governor Brown in Oregon activated regional recovery teams to respond to the economic impacts of COVID-19. MCEDD would like to add our Washington partners to this forum in order to focus on Columbia Gorge economic recovery efforts. Jessica noted the work MCEDD has done in the past year with respect to economic resiliency ([link to report](#)). The group reviewed the draft Guiding Principles and agreed to them.

Dallas Fridley (Oregon Employment Department) and Scott Bailey (Washington Employment Security Department) provided economic data for Oregon and Washington. [Data related to changes in employment levels and other impacts has been requested]. Scott indicated they would be putting out numbers every Thursday with the most recent information available. He also cautioned that you shouldn't put too much into the upcoming employment estimates as the information is outdated.

Michael Held (Business Oregon) noted that all staff of Business Oregon are working remotely and their immediate focus was responding to the current situation and gearing up for longer term support. They want to identify businesses in our region/state that could manufacture Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as gloves, masks, etc. If you know of any companies that could shift gears to produce PPE, please connect them with Michael (Michael.Held@oregon.gov). Business Oregon is also interested in collecting data about business impacts around the state. In the mid-Columbia, they are working with the regional recovery team, MCEDD and Lizzie Keenan (Mt. Hood and Gorge Regional Destination Management Organization) on an information gathering tool to get critical data from economic developers, Ports, and Chambers on a weekly basis to report out to this group as well as to the State starting next week. An email with details is coming soon. Working with MCEDD, Business Oregon will also be convening a discussion with Ports in the coming week. There was a request to include the Washougal and Camas Ports into that discussion. Business Oregon will also work with Oregon Employment Department on a joint survey.

Lynn Longan (Washington Department of Commerce) said her agency is working to determine the economic impacts – EDCs are surveying businesses and they are working with a statewide contractor to get more detail on statewide impacts. Everyone at Commerce and at most state agencies are working remotely. She noted that state departments have been responding quickly to identified needs and looking for resources that can be redirected to support those needs. For example, emergency rules will allow them to give small business grants using Community Development Block Grant funding. Governor Inslee has also allocated \$5 million of the Governor's Strategic Reserve Fund for use in supporting small business needs. These funds will be divided among the counties.

Stephanie Siebold (East Cascades Workforce Investment Board (OR)) noted that they have been very busy in response to employer needs and working with individuals to file unemployment claims. She encouraged people to contact the Rapid Response Coordinator (Mike Scroggs, msscroggs@cgcc.edu) with

any details on needs (example – computers to allow staff to work remotely) so that resources can be deployed. Employers contacting Mike should leave their name and contact details (including where to contact them if their business is not open). They will host weekly virtual rapid response calls so employers can call in with questions. People are encouraged to contact WorkSource online if possible.

Amy Martinez (South Central Workforce Council (WA)) noted that all physical WorkSource locations in Washington are closed, but staff is still working remotely. They are pushing all updates out via their Facebook page and individuals are encouraged to apply for unemployment online if possible. She also noted that employers can look into applications for a dislocated worker emergency grant with Department of Labor.

Greg Price (Small Business Development Center) has been in close contact with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to keep informed of updates to loan program. The SBDC typically averages three new clients per week. They have received about 30 requests in the last five days. Staff is available virtually. He noted that the SBA loan application is cumbersome and the SBDC has the capacity to support application development. The application process will take about three weeks and he encourages businesses in the region to apply soon so funding is not delayed. All of Oregon and some counties in Washington are eligible for Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.

Kate Schroeder (Hood River County Chamber of Commerce) has been hearing from businesses that they don't want to apply for SBA loans. They were denied during the fires. Greg noted they are working on streamlining the application for loans under \$500,000 and that if a business has applied for disaster funds in the past, they are still eligible for funds now as long as they can show they can service the debt. They don't have to show they have been denied by traditional lenders. The SBA is lending funds up to \$2 million and there is no pre-payoff penalty.

Kevin Waters (Skamania County Economic Development Council) noted they can make emergency business loans of up to \$40,000 through the Washington Investment Board. These are only available to Skamania County residents currently. They are looking into the possibility of providing a three month waiting period on payments and exploring any flexibility on location requirements that might be available. They are asking current loan clients to let them know if they will not be able to make payments.

Jessica Metta (MCEDD) noted MCEDD and the Oregon Investment Board have a similar program to Skamania County allowing emergency loans to business in Multnomah, Hood River, and Wasco Counties for OIB and exploring opportunities for additional flexibility in its other lending programs with a goal of having something in place soon. MCEDD business lending could benefit Klickitat County also. MCEDD is also working with current loan clients to be flexible to their needs and will meet with their Board to determine additional resources that can be used.

Eric Proffitt (Oregon Employment Department) noted that his agency is trying to connect with employers that are continuing to do business that need employees. He noted his office is still open (as of today), WorkSource Oregon, 700 Union Street, Ste 105, The Dalles, OR, 541.296.5435 x 229. Individuals can get details on filing for unemployment or use a computer to apply online.

The group noted that not everyone has access to computers to file unemployment claims online. If anyone knows of a source, please let Jacque know (Jacque@mcedd.org).

Bryan Stebbins (Office of Senator Patty Murray) said there are talks of a stimulus package. He noted they are looking for input on creative solutions - let them know if there is anything your industry or community needs and they will pass on information about relief.

Jacque Schei (MCEDD) summarized the tools on mcedd.org/ready. If there are additional items to include on the COVID-19 page, please send her details so that MCEDD can continue to keep this resource up-to-date

Jessica discussed next steps. A daily digest will be emailed each day. If there are items you'd like communicated to this group or listed on mcedd.org/ready, or if there are others that should be included in this group's communications, please send details to Jacque@mcedd.org and greg.svelund@state.or.us. Jessica proposed that this group meet every Friday to discuss updates. A calendar invite will be sent for next week's meeting (March 27).

MID-COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA GORGE BI-STATE ECONOMIC RESILIENCY TEAM

CORE TEAM

Nate Stice	North Central Regional Solutions	X
Greg Price	Columbia Gorge Community College/Small Business Development Center	X
Jessica Metta	Mid-Columbia Economic Development District	X
Carrie Pipinich	Mid-Columbia Economic Development District	X
Jacque Schei	Mid-Columbia Economic Development District	X
Greg Svelund	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	X

March 20

TOURISM

Kate Schroeder	Hood River County Chamber of Commerce	X
Tammara Toppel	Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce	X
Lisa Farquharson	The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce	X
Dana Peck	Goldendale Chamber of Commerce	
Angie Waiss	Skamania County Chamber of Commerce	
K'Lynn Lane	Condon Chamber of Commerce	
Lizzie Keenan	Mt. Hood & Columbia Gorge Regional Destination Management Organization	X
Stephanie Anderson	Maupin Chamber of Commerce	
Ashley Huckaby May	Visit Hood River Council	X
Emily Reed	Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance	X
Wendy Popkin	Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association	

PORTS

Olga Kaganova	Port of Cascade Locks	X
Pat Albaugh	Port of Skamania County	X
Andrea Klaas	Port of The Dalles	X
Michael McElwee	Port of Hood River	
Anne Mendenbach	Port of Hood River	X
Marc Thornsbury	Port of Klickitat County	X
Peter Mitchell	Port of Arlington	X

EMPLOYMENT

Heather Ficht	East Cascades Workforce Investment Board (OR)	
Stephanie Siebold	East Cascades Workforce Investment Board (OR)	X
Eric Proffitt	Worksource Oregon	X
Leticia Valle	Washington Employment Security Department	X
Amy Martinez	South Central Workforce Council (WA)	X

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Michael Held	Business Oregon	X
Ryan DeGrofft	Business Oregon	X
Tom Schnell	Business Oregon	
Lynn Longan	WA Department of Commerce	X
Carrie Pipinich	Wasco/Sherman EDO	X
Kevin Waters	Skamania Economic Development Council	X
Dave McClure	Klickitat County Economic Development	X
Richard Foster	Klickitat County Economic Development	X
Lisa Atkin	Gilliam County	
Rachel Weinstein	Gilliam County Community Development	
Tami Stockton	Wheeler County Economic Development	X

ECONOMISTS

Dallas Fridley	Oreogn Employment Department	x
Scott Bailey	Washington Employment Security Department	x

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

Kathleen Cathey	Office of Senator Ron Wyden	x
Jacob Egler	Office of Senator Ron Wyden	
BJ Westlund	Office of Senator Jeff Merkley	x
Dan Mahr	Office of Senator Jeff Merkley	
Bryan Stebbins	Office of Senator Patty Murray	x
Richard Evans	Office of Senator Maria Cantwell	x

OTHER SUPPORT

Erick Garman	Oregon Department of Agriculture (exports)	x
Aaryn Rassmussen	Columbia Gorge Regional Airport	x
Krystyna Wolniakowski	Columbia River Gorge Commission	
Dan Spatz	Columbia Gorge Community College	x
Mike Scroggs	Oregon Rapid Response Coordinator	x
Teresa Cummings	Columbia Gorge Community College	x
John Huffman	USDA Rural Development - Oregon	
Charlotte Bentley	USDA	

MISSING

WA Department of Agriculture
Office of Jamie Herra Butler
others?