

South Central Regional Solutions Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary  
May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Lake County Courthouse, Lakeview, Oregon

Committee members attending

Jane O' Keeffe, Governor's Convener  
Jim Bellet, Klamath County Commissioner  
Trish Seiler, Klamath Falls City Council  
Ray Simms, Town Manager, Lakeview  
Chip Massie, Klamath Chamber of Commerce  
Brad Winters, Lake County Commissioner  
Betty Riley, Executive Director, South Central Oregon Economic Development District

Team members

May Baker, Infrastructure Finance Authority  
Scott Edelman, Land Conservation and Development  
Gary Van Huffel, Infrastructure Finance Authority  
Annette Liebe, Regional Solutions Coordinator

Guests

Ken Kestner, Lake County Commissioner  
Jeremy Austin, Oregon Natural Desert Association

1. Natural Gas Service to Lakeview

Commissioner Kestner provided an overview on the work of the SB 32 committee that is looking at opportunities to provide natural gas service to communities close to existing natural gas pipelines. The committee is evaluating whether to extend the payback period from 3 to 7 years. The analysis of costs related to infrastructure needed to serve Lakeview indicates that even if the payback period were extended to 7 years, the revenue would not be sufficient to cover the costs. Commissioner Kestner indicated the committee may also consider extending the period to nine years. The recommendations from the committee are scheduled to be completed and written up in a report by mid-July. Commissioner Kestner also mentioned that Veresen and Avista have had preliminary conversations about Veresen's potential interest in contributing funds to cover a portion of infrastructure costs. Committee will re-visit this project once the SB 32 committee recommendations have been finalized. Once the report is finished, the recommendations will be reviewed by the Public Utilities Commission and the legislature. If the PUC and legislature choose to move forward with any of the recommendations, they will not be implemented until 2018.

2. Employment/Industrial Lands Readiness

Gary Van Huffel, with Business Oregon's Infrastructure Finance Authority, shared the inventory of employment/industrial lands that the state has put together for Lake and Klamath counties. The Regional Solutions Team will be selecting four to six Tier 2 sites from the inventory to work with local

partners on removing development barriers. The local representatives from the counties, the town of Lakeview and South Central Economic Development District agreed to review the inventory and send corrections to Gary Van Huffel. The team indicated that they believe the Tech Hills and Zbinden properties in Klamath Falls, as well as prior mill sites in Lakeview, would be the highest priority for removing development barriers.

The committee recommended adding the following sites:

- Chiloquin sites owned by Klamath County
- Tribal sites
- NE Corner of the Klamath Airport
- Lakeview Man Camp
- Christmas Valley Airport site
- Former Mill site in Paisley

The committee also recommended aligning priority sites with the work that Klamath County is currently doing (via a brownfield grant) to inventory and clean up brownfield sites.

### 3. Refinement of Regional Priorities

The committee agreed to tier the regional priorities to better reflect the focus areas for the Regional Solutions Team. Below are the recommendations that will be reviewed and finalized at the committee's next meeting.

#### **High Focus Priorities**

- 1) Infrastructure
  - a. Water systems (Chiloquin, Malin, Bonanza, Merrill)
  - b. Sewer (Crescent)
  - c. Natural gas (Lakeview)
  - d. Broadband
- 2) Availability and marketability of industrial land
- 3) Business retention, expansion and attraction
  - a. Support entrepreneurship and small businesses
  - b. Renewable energy and energy efficiency
  - c. Food processing/value added agriculture
  - d. Remove air quality impediments to economic development
- 4) Regulatory integration/streamlining

"High Focus Priorities" – the committee, coordinator and team will actively engage in seeking solutions and projects that contribute to successful outcomes for the priority.

#### **Support Priorities**

- 1) Water Storage for Agriculture
- 2) Transportation (rail, highways, airports, and local roads)
- 3) Workforce Training
- 4) Workforce Housing

- 5) Downtown Revitalization
- 6) Improve forest health and access federal timber resources

“Support Priorities” - the committee, coordinator and team will monitor, engage and support as needed and requested. The coordinator/team will continue working with communities opportunistically to address these priorities and to serve as a catalyst for their successful accomplishment.