



REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN

South Central Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee
Representing Lake and Klamath Counties

CONFERENCE CALL MEETING SUMMARY

Friday April 6th, 2018
10:00 am – 10:40 am

Committee members present:

Brad Winters, Commissioner, Lake County
Chip Massie, Klamath County Community College
Roberta Vanderwall, Town of Lakeview
Carol Westfall, Mayor, Klamath Falls
Betty Riley, SCOEDD
Jim Walls, LCRI
Don Gentry, Klamath Tribes
Tricia Hill, Gold Dust Farms
Peter West, Energy Trust

Regional Solutions Team:

Larry Holzgang, Business Oregon
Rob Del Mar, Department of Energy
Greg Svelund, Environmental Quality
Annette Liebe, Regional Solutions Coordinator

Public:

Jeremy Austin, ONDA

Lake County Commissioner Brad Winters convened the meeting in Jane O’Keeffe’s absence. Commissioner Winters began the meeting by welcoming Tricia Hill from Gold Dust Farms in Klamath County. Tricia was recently appointed as the private sector representative filling the vacancy left by Bridgette Griffin.

Annette Liebe reviewed the process and timeline for selecting Regional Solutions priority projects for the 2017-19 biennium. On March 15th Business Oregon and Regional Solutions

kicked off the Request for Applications for the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) for priority economic and community development projects. Applications are due by April 30th.

The RIF is managed by Business Oregon and provides grants and loans to local government sponsors for capital construction projects, including planning and design. In 2017, the Legislature authorized \$4 million of lottery bond proceeds for these projects and requested that projects be approved by the Legislature or Emergency Board before the bonds are sold in spring of 2019.

The \$4 million is to be distributed statewide, with each of the 11 regions being allotted a minimum of \$200,000. Applications are being accepted for capital construction projects between \$50,000 and \$1 million. For requests over \$200,000, applicants are asked to identify phases of the project that could be completed with lower funding levels. Project evaluation criteria include: achieving progress on a committee identified priority, supporting job retention and/or creation, demonstrated community support, a sustainable business plan, and project readiness.

Private, non-profit, and tribal entities are eligible to receive funds provided they have a local government sponsor as the applicant. The local sponsor will ultimately be responsible for ensuring project completion.

Following the April 30th close date, the Regional Solutions teams will review and verify the applications. Advisory Committees will meet in June and July to discuss the applications and submit their priority projects to the Grant and Loan Review Committee. The review committee will select projects and funding award levels to advance to the Legislature in the fall. Annette will follow up with a doodle poll to set a Committee meeting in the June-July timeframe.

Annette also reminded the committee that projects were reviewed and prioritized last year in response to a Request for Information (RFI). Overall, 104 requests for over \$104 million were received. While there is only \$4 million for Regional Solutions projects this biennium, we hope strong execution this go around will support obtaining more funds in the 2019-2021 budget.

Commissioner Winters asked whether project proposals were limited to those projects that responded during the Request for Information process. Annette clarified that any project that meets the eligibility criteria could apply regardless of whether that project was submitted during the RFI phase. Commissioner Winters also requested that the meeting summary and ranking in response to the Request for Information be shared with the committee.

Roundtable:

Chip Massie (Klamath Community College) mentioned that the new Work source/Workforce office in Lakeview is open. Goal is to include youth outreach staff. KCC also recently completed

the year end review/audit. Since Jan 2018 over \$180k in scholarships have been awarded to 70 students. Of these 70, 50 are students who would never have gone to college in the absence of their scholarship opportunity. KCC is working with high schools on offering construction trades training.

Roberta Vanderwall (Town of Lakeview) mentioned that the Town of Lakeview is waiting for Red Rock Biofuels to announce their next steps. Klamath Falls Mayor Carol Westfall praised the strong collaboration between OIT and KCC on the construction trades; she mentioned that this is helpful to addressing housing needs.

Don Gentry (Klamath Tribes) indicated that the Klamath Tribes' new hotel adjacent to their casino is moving forward and is on track to open Fall 2018.

Betty Riley (South Central Oregon Economic Development District) shared that SCOEDD is starting the process of updating their comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS). Last week staff held an outreach meeting in Lakeview to identify needs. Infrastructure needs are being identified. Klamath IDEA is still waiting to hear about the \$55k application for Business Oregon's Rural Opportunity Initiative.

Jim Walls (Lake County Resources, Inc.) indicated that the Lake County Community Foundation is currently accepting grant applications for up to \$9k for community improvements projects. Sustainable Northwest and Lake County Resources, Inc. are working on a community solar project located on county owned land (3 mgwts). They are seeking to add solar to schools, the hospital and low income housing units. LCRI also received an Oregon Department of Forestry grant to complete a scientific review of forest health projects. Jim has been very successful in fund raising for the Innovation and Learning Center. Once classes conclude there are \$300k of improvements that will be made to the ground floor. Jim is also working with the High School to teach kids the trades by building a house that has solar and potentially, geothermal. There may be local investors who pay for the house and then are re-paid once it is sold.

Peter West (Energy Trust), the Energy Trust just finished their best year ever. Their Summer Board meeting is tentatively schedule to be at OIT in Klamath Falls July 25th. Red Rock has applied to the Energy Trust for a \$2M co-generation grant. ETO is coordinating with Pacific Power.

Brad Winters (Lake County), the railroad bridge project funded last biennium with \$165k of Regional Solutions funds is moving forward. Supplies have been ordered and work is scheduled to begin soon. Commissioner Winters also mentioned the two large solar projects who have filed pre-applications with Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) (7000 acres in north county and 4000 acres). County Commissioners are advisory in the EFSC process. Commissioner Winters expects that there will be a lot of public involvement. People locally appear to be split 50/50 for and against the project.

Larry Holzgang gave a brief update on the Business Oregon pop up office. There were a number of Business Oregon staff representing their program areas who met with leaders in south central. Director Harder spent two days in Lake and Klamath Counties. Great opportunity for him to see projects and for locals to interact with him.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.