



REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday April 18th, 2019
10:00 am – noon
Sunset Room; Student Union
Oregon Institute of Technology
Klamath Falls, OR

Regional Solutions Advisory Committee:

Jane O’Keeffe, Convener
Barry Imler, Fremont-Winema National Forest
Brad Winters, Lake County Commissioner
Betty Riley, South Central Oregon Economic Development district
Don Gentry, Klamath Tribes
Kelley Minty-Morris, Klamath County Commissioner
Randy Cox, Klamath County Economic Development Association
Todd Andres, Pacific Power
Jim Walls, Lake County Resources Initiative
Carol Westfall, Klamath Falls Mayor
Karen Chase, Energy Trust (alternate)
Sandra Fox, Oregon Institute of Technology
Roberta Vanderwall, Lakeview Town Manager (via conference call)

Regional Solutions Team:

Annette Liebe, Regional Solutions Coordinator
Jarod Johnson, Department of Transportation
Scott Edelman, Department of Land Conservation and Development
Kyle Gorman, Water Resources Department
Greg Svelund, Department of Environmental Quality
Larry Holzgang, Business Oregon

Guests:

Darin Rutledge, Klamath Downtown Association (via conference call)
Jeremy Austin, Oregon Natural Desert Association (via conference call)

- A. Regional Solutions Program Overview - Annette provided an overview of the purpose of the Regional Solutions program and the roles for the Advisory Committee, the team and the coordinator. Three team members provided high level project examples:
1. Red Rock Biofuels - Larry Holzgang, Business Oregon
This is a project the team has been engaged with for several years. Key roles for the team have been: providing technical assistance regarding land use, infrastructure funding, state finance programs and permitting technical assistance and coordination.
 2. Brett Way – Jarod Johnson, Department of Transportation
Jarod highlighted that this project not only addresses a safety issue but also will open up land that is in the UGB and zoned industrial. ODOT has been coordinating with the city to ensure that utilities will be laid at the time of road construction. This saves costs and ensures that the land is shovel ready.
 3. Air quality improvement project – Greg Svelund, Environmental Quality
Greg highlighted the impact on economic development when air quality conditions violates air quality standards. This project replaced highly polluting woodstoves thereby improving air quality, weatherized/updated homes, and generated some air quality “credits” that are available for economic development projects.
- B. Oregon Institute of Technology – Strategic Initiatives/ Priorities - Sandra Fox, provided an update on Strategic Initiatives, focus areas and new degree programs at OIT. Sandra’s presentation can be found as part of the meeting materials for this meeting.
- C. Review/Re-fresh South Central Oregon Regional Priorities for economic and community development.

Annette walked the committee through the current priorities and projects. The committee discussed what’s missing and opportunities for combining related items. The committee agreed the updated list of priorities should not differentiate between high focus and support priorities. Randy Cox indicated the Klamath Falls and Kingsley Field should play a role in preparing and responding to a Cascadia event; adding lanes to turn Highway 97 into a four lane highway border to border as an alternate route to I5 in the event of an earthquake or other emergency is important. Randy also identified additional ideas for increasing entrepreneurship and small business in the Klamath Basin: an angel fund and some makers space. Betty Riley suggested adding the food hub to this priority. Todd Andres identified funding for high traffic local roads as something that should be a priority. There was some discussion about the committee’s and team’s ability to affect this result given the funding formula adopted by the legislature. Chair Gentry supported a community visioning process that focuses on creating a common vision for the basin’s ecosystem health, forest resources, water quantity and water quality. Commissioner Minty-Morris asked whether the dredge owned by Business

Oregon could be used to remove sediment and improve water quality in Upper Klamath Lake. Brad Winters requested that agriculture remain a priority because of its significant economic impact in the region.

There was no public comment on the priorities.

The new/revised priorities were unanimously adopted.

The new priorities are:

1. Infrastructure
 - a. Natural gas service to Lakeview
 - b. Rural broadband
 - c. Rail
 - i. Goose Lake Railway – bridge improvements
 - d. Water Systems
 - i. Lakeview
 - ii. Chiloquin
 - iii. Malin
 - iv. Bly
 - e. Wastewater Systems
 - i. Crescent
 - ii. Chiloquin
 - iii. Bonanza
 - f. Ensure adequate infrastructure to be resilient (wildfires/Cascadia)
 - i. Market Klamath Falls as a secondary relief hub for Cascadia
 - ii. Four lanes on Highway 97
 - iii. Airports
2. Shovel Ready employment land
 - a. Brett Way in Klamath Falls
 - b. Economic Opportunity Analyses
 - i. Lakeview
 - ii. Paisley
 - c. Identify Regionally Significant Industrial Sites
 - d. Support re-development of industrial sites in EPA/SCOEDD Brownfield redevelopment project
3. Support entrepreneurship and small businesses
 - a. Support Klamath IDEA
 - b. Develop an angel fund
 - c. Create Makers space
 - d. Create a food hub
 - e. Support the outdoor recreation entrepreneurial ecosystem
 - i. Trails

- ii. Lake County Fairgrounds facility Improvement Plan
- 4. Workforce Housing
 - a. Housing Needs Analyses
 - i. Klamath Falls
 - ii. Lakeview
 - iii. Paisley
 - b. Partner with employers to build more housing
 - i. Kingsley Field
 - c. Housing re-habilitation
 - i. Weatherization
 - ii. Uncertified woodstove replacement
- 5. Downtown Revitalization
 - a. Code updates
 - i. Klamath Falls
 - ii. Lakeview
 - iii. Chiloquin
- 6. Water quality and quantity
 - a. Modoc Point system Modernization
 - b. WRD Water supply study
 - c. Reduce ag run-off to Upper Klamath Lake (ODA led)
- 7. Workforce development especially trades and internships
 - a. Klamath Community College Internship and Apprenticeship Center
- 8. Improve forest Health/restoration economy
 - a. Red Rock Biofuels
 - b. CLT
 - c. Biochar
 - d. Juniper utilization
- 9. Agriculture
 - a. Food hub
 - b. Water quality
 - c. Water quantity

D. Additional Public Input/Comment

Bill Lehman, Exec Director of the upper Klamath Watershed Partnership gave a high level overview of the organization and a stakeholder outreach grant his organization will be submitting to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and sought a letter of support from the Committee. Bill is working closely with ODA to align their work. A couple committee members asked if the committee has ever submitted letters of support before. Deadline is April 27th to get the letter to Bill. Annette indicated that the south central committee had never been requested to submit a letter of support but that other committees for other regions in Oregon have submitted letters of support for state grant applications. Annette indicated that she would draft a letter for Jane

O’Keeffe’s signature after review by the committee. The committee unanimously agreed to this approach.

E. Roundtable

Jim Walls informed the committee of an upcoming initiative from the Oregon Community Foundation focused on improving children’s health.