



South Central Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee

Representing Lake and Klamath Counties

MEETING SUMMARY

Monday March 9th, 2020

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Lake County Commissioners Room

Lakeview, OR

Regional Solutions Committee Members:

Jane O’Keeffe, Governor’s Convener
Brad Winters, Lake County Commissioner
Jim Walls, Lake County Resources Initiative
Peter West, Energy Trust of Oregon
Barry Imler, USFS, Fremont-Winema National Forest
Betty Riley, SCOEDD
Carol Westfall, Mayor, Klamath Falls (via conference call)
Randy Cox, KCEDA (via conference call)

Regional Solutions Team Members:

Greg Svelund, DEQ
Larry Holzgang, Business Oregon
Jarod Johnson, ODOT (via conference call)
Kyle Gorman, Water Resources Department (via conference call)

Guests:

Ray Turner, Mayor, Lakeview
Patrick Hornberger, Lake County Health District
Ronne Lindsey, Lake County Fairgrounds
Charlie Tveit, Lake County Hospital
Teresa Squires, Lake County Fair Board
Nick Johnson, Lake County Resources Initiative
Emma Grona, Lake County Resources Initiative
Kenzie Bispham, Klamath/Lake Community Action Services
Abigail Switter, Klamath/Lake Community Action Services
Jeremy Austin, Oregon Natural Desert Association (via conference call)

I. Short Session De-Brief

Annette Liebe briefly summarized the three bills that passed in the 2020 short legislative session none of which are of significant consequence to the committee's priorities. Annette also summarized the projects that were in the end of session budget bill that are priorities for the committee and/or region. The Lake County Rail match for the federal grant was included (\$3.5M) as was funding for the Klamath Crimson Rose project.

II. Lake County Development Demand Analysis

Betty Riley summarized the development demand analysis completed by Cardno as part of the SCOEDD brownfield project. The recommendations development focus areas are:

1. Increase construction trades
2. Encourage new housing development
3. Nuisance enforcement
4. Broadband
5. Increase Amenities, e.g. brew pub
6. Increase professional day care
7. Support the start-up Small business Ecosystem
8. Brownfield Re-development
9. Thoughtful Identity...how can Lake County products be marketed.

The Committee observed that the committee's priorities are in line with the recommendations with one exception, professional day care. Betty Riley will be attending a March 31st meeting of a local group led by the library that is seeking to expand child care options. The Committee will be reviewing priorities at its next meeting. One discussion item will be including professional day care.

Childcare and outdoor recreation planning/management are priorities for the USFS. Hood River may have be an example for how to approach adding amenities to support tourism and recreation. In Hood River visitors were interviewed to better understand what amenities were needed; this identified some low cost, but impactful, amenities such as public restrooms, that have turned Hood River into a kite boarding destination.

Jane O'Keeffe offered to help identify agricultural producers to participate in a discussion about developing a Lake County ag identity and opportunities for value added ag.

Betty also presented re-development concepts for the Lakeview Lumber and Carlin Mill sites in Lakeview and Paisley. These re-development scenarios would require

some land use work; Annette indicated that DLCD may have some funds to support this work.

Annette will be following up with Chip Massie, KCC, to better understand how increasing skilled trades can be supported. Currently Tracy Electric has two electricians in the apprenticeship program through KCC at the Innovation and Learning Center.

The committee discussed the draft Housing Accelerator position description. This position was the result of work done by a small group subsequent to the committee's 2019 meeting on housing. The goal of the Accelerator position is to serve as a catalyst for new housing development and rehabilitation of existing housing stock by working with local employers and other partners. The committee did not have any feedback on the position description as drafted and requested as a next step that a budget be developed to support funding requests. Any requests of the town or county will need to be made of the council/commission.

There are some good examples of local housing incentives in John Day (incentives through Urban Renewal) and Hermiston. Additionally, SCOEDD has received a \$164,000 USDA RD Housing Preservation grant to support 10-15 housing rehabilitation projects. Many of these need electrical upgrades.

For more information about the development demand analysis please see the full report on the Regional Solutions website as an attachment to the March 9th agenda.

III. Lake County Fairgrounds Facility Improvement Plan

Ronne Lindsey provided an overview of the Lake County Fairgrounds Masterplan. The highest priority project is the Livestock Barn and Indoor Arena estimated to cost \$14,389,831. The next step is to hire a firm to complete architectural renderings, detailed site plan as well as detailed project estimate. This work is expected to cost \$20,000; Ronne is working on funding raising.

IV. Workplan review and discussion

The committee reviewed the projects listed on the South Central RST work plan.

Additions include:

Employment lands: assess feasibility of establishing a regionally significant industrial site in Lakeview. Klamath County needs a survey of available industrial land and a plan to get each of these sites shovel ready.

Entrepreneurship: next round of Business Oregon Rural Opportunity Initiative funding supports expansion to Lake County. Help connect KCEDA to experts in setting up and funding angel funds.

Workforce housing: is there a way to quantify “carbon credits” from roof top (and other) solar energy projects.

Downtown Revitalization: LCRI is completing energy audits for 41 businesses downtown. Potential to use SCOEDD low interest renewable energy loan funds to implement recommended projects. Goal is to support businesses by reducing energy costs.

The next meeting will be some time Summer 2020. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.