

## MEETING SUMMARY- SOUTH COAST UMPQUA REGIONAL SOLUTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: April 29, 2016

Meeting Location: International Port of Coos Bay, Coos Bay, Oregon

### Committee members present

Keith Tymchuk, Convener\*

David Kronsteiner\*

Mayor Crystal Shoji\*

James Seeley\*

Commissioner Chris Boice (Commissioner Boice was named an Advisory Committee member during the meeting)

\*Denotes Executive Committee members

### Regional Solutions Team

Mark Ussleman, Department of Transportation

Becky Bryant, Business Oregon - IFA

Kate Jackson, Department of Environmental Quality

Dave Perry, Department of Land Conservation and Development

Alex Campbell, Coordinator, Governor's Office

Annette Liebe, RS Director, Governor's Office (by phone)

### Guests (spellings may be incorrect)

Tracy Loomis and Margaret Barber, CCD Business Development Corp.

Jake McLelland, SWOWIB

Cameron LaFollette, Oregon Coast Alliance (by phone)

James Clemens, Port of Gold Beach

Jonathon Wright, City of Reedsport

Reyna Aguilar, Office of Rep. Caddy McKeown

### New Member Appointment (Keith Tymchuk)

With four of the five Executive Committee members present, Commissioner Chris Boice was appointed to the Advisory Committee.

- *ACTION: Send formal appointment letter to Commissioner Boice.*

### Review Regional Solutions Program/Advisory Committee Purpose (Alex Campbell)

The history, structure, and purpose of Regional Solutions (RS) was reviewed. Mayor Shoji made the point that it was very important that RS not lose its focus on problem solving by becoming overly focused on project implementation.

Alex asked whether the Executive Committee might consider making additional appointments to better represent higher ed., tribes, the private sector, and/or inland communities. Keith expressed comfort with the current composition of the AC. No further comments were made on that topic. Keith suggested further conversation may be appropriate, particularly if geographic balance is a concern to Commissioner Boice.

### Review Adopted Regional Priorities

- *Business Retention, Expansion, and Creation (BREC)/NMFS* Concerns with the new National Flood Insurance Program Biological Opinion and potential impact on needed development and redevelopment in Coos Bay, Reedsport and other communities were raised. This process, in part, is driven by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and concerns about endangered species. This led to a discussion of other areas in which NMFS consultation has been difficult. Kate Jackson (DEQ) stated that DEQ is working to get ahead of those concerns before they become difficult.
  - *ACTION: Develop a list of projects and project areas that have been difficult.*<sup>1</sup> Include discussion of when US Army Corps of Engineers is required to consult with NMFS. Share list with AC and Governor's resource policy advisors.
- *Business Retention, Expansion, and Creation (BREC)/Housing* In part due to concerns about housing and other livability issues, the AC will add "Population Retention" as another sub-topic under BREC.
  - *ACTION: Revise Regional Priorities*
- *Enhance Marine, Rail and Telecommunication Infrastructure* David Kronsteiner stated that it was essential that RS support efforts that would bring new bulk commodity shippers to Coos Bay to allow continued re-investment in the Coos Bay Rail Link.
- *Disaster Resilience* A great deal of effort in 2015 went into supporting applications by the cities of Brookings and Reedsport to improve disaster resiliency. Mayor Shoji spoke to the need to devote more resources to not just planning for the immediate reaction to disaster, but improving methods of current planning to improve the possibilities for long-range recovery. Dave Perry (DLCD) suggested the DLCD tsunami land-use guide. Staff noted that all of the grant dollars coming into this area are federal.
  - *ACTION: Add Community Resilience to Regional Priorities.*
  - *ACTION: Prepare letter to State of Oregon representatives urging them to consider devoting resources to support this kind of planning.*

### Project Updates

- *Curry County Forest Collaborative* Update on efforts of the Forestry Collaborative in Gold Beach and Powers Ranger Districts. The collaborative has made a proposal to the US Forest Service to implement a project in the Shasta Agnes area that would involve

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<sup>1</sup> Projects mentioned at the meeting included: Wastewater treatment plants in Coos Bay, Drain, and Yoncalla; Brookings Head Start project; and City of Reedsport boat ramp.

habitat restoration and enhancement and selective harvest of Douglas Firs that had reached their height potential (without becoming tall enough to provide critical habitat) and are encroaching on oak savannah eco-systems. US Forest Service formally began their NEPA process on the collaborative's recommendation on April 9.

- *Fred Wahl Marine* Jonathon Wright, City Manager, City of Reedsport updated progress on the Fred Wahl Marine expansion. Fred Wahl Marine has completed construction of new dock facilities and is expecting arrival of a new 500+ ton travel lift in June. Fred Wahl Marine's physical capacity will be increased tremendously, but finding the appropriate labor force to provide the increased capacity will be a challenge. The company and city are working with the local high schools and community college and looking at a range of approaches. The city is preparing a request to the Douglas County Industrial Board to assist with construction of a new rail crossing.
- *Riddle Laminators Cross Laminated Timber (CLT)* Project to commercialize and market this innovative wood product for use in multi-story commercial construction. Riddle Laminators is working on establishing competitive pricing and is supplying several Portland projects. Mass timber concept as a whole is gaining momentum, including use of large timbers and laminated veneer lumber beams. Business Oregon is working to engage Riddle Laminators in future trade missions.
  - *ACTION: Provide Mayor Shoji with contact information for Riddle Laminators and WoodWorks in relation to the Coos Bay Library project.*
- *BC Fisheries* Becky Bryant (IFA) reported on progress of construction of new shrimp and crab processing plant in Brookings. The processing facility is largely complete. IFA has provided advance funds against a legislatively-approved grant to allow construction of a new cantilevered dock that will serve the plant to begin.
- *Expedited State Permit for Coastal Ports' Maintenance Dredging* May 1 – 31 Department of State Lands (DSL) will have a new draft rule out for public comment. The rule would create a new, expedited (40-day) removal-fill permit for maintenance dredging activities by ports and other persons needing to maintain navigation. DSL will be conducting a public hearing on the south coast at the Bandon "Barn" (senior center) on May 26 at 5PM. If there are questions, contact Kirk Jarvie at DSL.
- *Seafood Processor Re-permitting* Kate Jackson (DEQ) reported that Business Oregon and DEQ will be visiting small- and medium-sized seafood processors to survey them on their discharge practices. These processors had been operating under a blanket permit that has now expired.
- *Cannery at Port of Port Orford* Becky Bryant (IFA) and Margaret Barber (CCD) have been providing technical assistance to Port staff as they seek funding for the replacement of

the cannery building. The Port has had meetings with USDA, IFA, EDA and Ford Family Foundation. Jim Seeley requested additional information immediately after the meeting.

### Coastal Port Dredging Update

James Clemens, Port Director at Port of Gold Beach, reported on the activities of the vacuum dredge purchased for the South Coast Port Coalition by the State in response to the South Coast Umpqua Advisory Committee's request. The dredge has been quite successful and has been used to provide very cost-effective dredging at both Port of Bandon and Port of Gold Beach. The dredge is currently at Port of Brookings, which has received an emergency permit in response to the sink hole under Highway 101 silting in the basin in front of the ice house, which shrimpers need access to for the up-coming shrimp season. Commissioners asked about the cost accounting for the dredge, use/disposal of spoils, and operations details. Jim Seeley asked about potential for garbage from boat basins to be put into the ocean. Mr. Clemens responded that the cutter head and pump allow only small objects to pass through the system.

- *ACTION: Provide Port of Gold Beach USACE manual on use of dredge spoils.*

### Youth Work Experience

Alex proposed structuring the program as a grant for capital improvement projects, where a condition of approval would be providing youth work experiences—not necessarily related to the specific capital project. Key questions that need AC input are:

- Should integration of work experience with capital projects be preferred or required.
- Definition of “community infrastructure”
- Project selection criteria
  - Work experience “quality”
  - Infrastructure project benefit
  - Leverage/alignment
- Advisory Committee/Sub-Committee role
- Should the program require use of third-party vendors to assist with work experience management and related services for youth workers (such as screening and career counseling)

Keith Tymchuk suggested listing the infrastructure benefits as the first criteria. Due to limited time available, Alex suggested a sub-committee be formed to provide approval of the program design.

- *ACTION: Request AC member volunteers for sub-committee to approve program design and, with RST staff, develop project selection recommendation for the full committee.*