

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

Meeting Date: September 15, 2017

Meeting location: Myrtle Point OSU Extension Office

### Advisory Committee (AC) members present:

Keith Tymchuk, convener\*

James Seeley\*

Coos County Commissioner John Sweet\*

David Kronsteiner\*

Curry County Commissioner Sue Gold (by phone)

Councilor James Auburn

\*Executive Committee members

### Regional Solutions Team/Agency Representatives:

Jason Lewis-Berry, Regional Solutions Director

Alex Campbell, Coordinator, Governor's Office

Kate Jackson, Department of Environmental Quality

Mark Usselman, ODOT

Dave Perry, DLCD (by phone)

### Guests (spellings may be incorrect):

Sam Baugh, South Coast Development Council

Tim Walters, ODFW

Tracy Loomis, CCD (by phone)

Michelle Martin, NeighborWorks Umpqua (by phone)

### 2017-2018 Regional Infrastructure Finance (RIF) Project Selection Process

Alex shared the up-coming process: a request for interest will be released shortly; responses will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee; selected projects will be presented to the legislature during the short session. This "pre-" round is primarily informational, to create engagement between project sponsors and the team and AC members, and to share the need for funding for quality projects. A more formal application process will take place in 2018, to present recommended projects for presentation to the legislature. \$4 million are currently appropriated; each region will receive a minimum of 5%.

Keith Tymchuk raised the challenge of the timing (requests this fall for projects to be constructed in 2019). Jason Lewis-Berry responded that process this fall is educational. Final selections will be much closer to funds available than previously.

### 2016-2017 RIF Projects Status

Alex Campbell let the AC know that all of the projects are under contract, and work has begun on the Coos County Mountain Bike trail. Gold Beach is still working on sub-agreement for grant compliance. Jim shared that Oregon State Parks has become involved as well, as they see potential for future employment with participants. City of Brookings employment requirement has been “pro-rated” according to the portion of project funded versus request (approximately 90%).

### Gorse Oregon Solutions Project

Jim Seeley and Alex provided an up-date on the project.

- Declaration of Cooperation in initial draft. Hoping for signing ceremony in November.
- Each sub-committee has begun work
  - Donut Hole out-reach to property owners underway, working to identify Title 3 funding for gorse removal for purpose of fire suppression. Wild Rivers Coast Alliance (WRCA) board member providing land use advice
  - Public education – Coos Watershed Association to host website & Samara Group engaged to assist with public messaging, funded by Wild Rivers Coast Alliance. Seeking “co-funding” for phase 2.
- Science review – unified mapping; prioritizing spread vectors (eg., heavy equipment) and eradication; recommended treatment options.

Keith asked: who is at the table? Any difficult partners? Jim responded that there are over 40 groups involved. Challenge is wording Declaration of Cooperation so it is meaningful and drives action, but with language that the larger/more bureaucratic organizations can sign onto.

Keith asked about funding for implementation, and next phase. Jim replied that Samara Group will assist with that. Goal could be on the order of \$5 million. Need to be able to really tell the story.

Jason Lewis-Berry noted that the Regional Solutions Cabinet’s envisioned housing project could play a role with the Donut Hole redevelopment.

### Winter Lake Project/Tide Gate Outreach

Tim Walters, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, gave a detailed presentation of the project elements and key outcomes/objectives. Many, many partners have come together as funders and in other capacities to support Beaver Slough Drainage district with the project. Project replaces several old, failing tide gates, with a bank of seven (construction is nearly complete), protects agricultural land and includes major salmon habitat restoration, particularly improved rearing habitat. Total area impacted by the project is ~1200 acres, cost ~\$10 million. Tim emphasized the very significant efforts that went into land-owner and community outreach. Project could be a model for dealing with many, many tide gates on the coast.

Jim Seeley commented that WRCA is supporting a multi-agency effort, involving OSU and NOAA/NMFS, on documenting the ecological value of salmon. A separate effort will develop a decision-making tool for tide gate owners considering replacement.

Dave Kronsteiner added that a clear lesson of the effort is power of agency cooperation and collaboration.

Tim noted a few lessons for the future: need to address access/right-of-way acquisition earlier, and should have complete design and cost estimates done prior to seeking funding. OWEB can pay for that design work.

Kate Jackson reported on the State efforts to address tide gates, being led by OWEB. Outreach will take place this fall in multiple locations; Commissioner John Sweet will be a convener of the south coast discussion. The meetings will be to gather information and inform property owners about the project, which will include development of a regulatory toolbox; a comprehensive inventory; and an engineering design challenge for new gates.

Committee members discussed the life of the project. David Kronsteiner said the concrete could be essentially indefinite.

Tim Walters requested that people thank the Coquille Tribe for their tremendous support of the project.

***\*Action Item: Alex will draft a letter from the AC for Keith Tymchuk.***

#### Regional Solutions Team Reports

Kate Jackson reported on work DEQ is doing to resolve an issue raised by International Port of Coos Bay (and others), which is that even though they have a Regional General Permit for routine maintenance activities, each time they use it, they have to go back to DEQ for an additional water quality certification. The solution may be a master maintenance plan.

US Army Corps of Engineers has review of the Port's channel deepening plan, and is currently accepting comments. Background on the project: <http://www.portofcoosbay.com/channel-deepening/> Comments for this stage of review may be submitted until October 3 at: <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Media/Announcements/Article/1294264/corps-seeks-comment-on-port-of-coos-bays-proposed-channel-modification-project/>

Mark Usselman shared that the team had discussed how the Port's plans provided for significant freight movement by rail. It was suggested that the upcoming House Transportation Policy Committee's visit to the Port may be a good place to explore the possible ties between the new Transportation funding package and IPCB's plans.

Mark shared a project sheet on the Scottsburg Bridge replacement. It will be a pilot project for transparency. Interested parties can track the project at:

[www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Projects/Project%20Documents/R3-ScottsBridge-INFO.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Projects/Project%20Documents/R3-ScottsBridge-INFO.pdf)

Bid date of the project was pushed back slightly to February 2019, so ODOT can complete some geological work to assess risk to bridge from possible rock falls.

Jason Lewis-Berry shared an overview of several Regional Solutions projects. There is now out a Request for Interest regarding public-private partnerships to address workforce housing issues. David asked: what is the root of the problem? Jason replied that it appears the recession shrank the development industry, which has failed to recover or rebound, particularly in rural areas. Several committee members commented on the severe housing shortage preventing recruitment of professionals. Keith asked what resources the State is putting on the table. Jason replied the chief financial tools were some discretionary funds from OHCS and Business Oregon financing.

Jason also shared developing work to address workforce needs, particularly related to professional trades and professional readiness/"soft skills." Commissioner Sweet noted that there are a lot of incentives to not work. Jim Seeley noted the cost of childcare is a barrier as well.

Jason also reported a economic recovery council or equivalent would be announced shortly to focus resources on fire disaster recovery. Commissioner Sweet noted that USFS fire-fighting protocols need to be revised.

Alex touched very briefly on the highlights of updates included in the attached work plan. Oregon Solutions is considering a new project to support South Douglas County school districts cooperation around a shared career and technical education facility. Will bring back more information on Elliot State Forest plans at next meeting.

Keith reported work on 2 possible projects (one a state lead; the other a possible mini-container project) with the ownership of Reedsport Technology and Commerce Park (formerly Gardiner International Paper site).

Jim Auburn reported that workforce housing and gorse remain serious concerns in Port Orford. The City Council will be making some recommendations to ODOT re Highway 101 road diet this week.

Jim Seeley reported that the Greater Bandon Association has been carrying out some economic development studies and is likely to advocate for design changes to 101 in Bandon, particularly the commercial stretch up the hill and south of the old port area.

Commissioner Sweet shared that there are some positive indicators for the Coos area economy, and statewide. Strong job creation is contributing to housing needs/

David Kronsteiner shared that the Port of Coos Bay is pushing multiple projects forward and has a very good leadership staff in place. Multiple project leads are in discussion.

David asked about state of the Floras Lake issue. Alex reported that the County and DSL had reached an agreement to restore the previous condition (ie., a wooden weir), with a withdrawal of the enforcement action.

Commissioner Gold noted the massive impact of the Chetco Bar fire on the whole Chetco River watershed and significant private timber losses for South Coast Lumber.

Public Testimony Was Invited—None Made