



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

October 2, 2019

Below are some highlights from the Governor's [Regional Solutions \(RS\) Coordinators](#), on behalf of the eleven interagency teams across Oregon.

North Coast Region – Jennifer Purcell

- **City of Astoria – Warehouse Site Cleanup & Redevelopment:** *Background* – The former Astoria Warehousing property includes four large warehouses on 12 acres along the Columbia River. The former salmon-canning and-labeling company closed last year, vacating the prime commercial riverfront property. The North Coast RS Team has been working with the City and prospective purchasers to evaluate land use, transportation access, water and wastewater capacity, other utility availability, Brownfield considerations, and financing.
 - *Update* – This week, the City of Astoria approved a \$1 million grant agreement with Business Oregon for cleanup of contamination at the former Astoria Warehousing site. The one-time lottery fund allocation was included in House Bill 5050 and makes way for sale of the 5-acre property for redevelopment.
- **Port of Astoria:** The Port of Astoria Commission approved an updated strategic business plan this week. Mary McArthur, Columbia Pacific Economic Development District Executive Director, has worked tirelessly with the Port over the past two years to achieve this important milestone.

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **Mid-Valley RS Team Outreach – City of Newberg's Riverfront Master Plan:** In 2016, the Mid-Valley RS Team held an outreach meeting the City of Newberg to explore the possibilities of a riverfront development which also included portions of the downtown, parks, and the shuttered WestRock site. The City was awarded a Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) program grant in 2018. Last week, the Mid-Valley RS Team met again with the City to get an overview of the TGM results, which included the community's recently adopted Riverfront Master Plan. Of note, WestRock is now marketing the property for sale. The multi-year, phased development will include extensive parks, road improvements, riverfront access, industrial site redevelopment, expansion of City services, and several commercial/resident possibilities. The RS Team provided high-level context as the City moves forward and will continue to be engaged.
 - The Newberg Riverfront Master Plans aligns with several of the recently adopted Mid-Valley Regional Strategies – *including work to:*
 - 1) Increase access to workforce housing, childcare supply, and talent pipelines;
 - 2) Promote efficient, effective transportation and multi-modal systems;

- 3) Engage in local government infrastructure to support development;
- 4) Foster outdoor recreational opportunities by supporting access to lakes, rivers, parks, and natural amenities; and,
- 5) Identify resources to unlock underutilized sites and land.
 - o Thank you to Newberg’s Community Development Director, Doug Rux, and City Manager Pro Tem, David Clyne, for hosting the Team. Thank you to Mid-Valley RS Team members who provided their expertise – Dennie Houle (Business Oregon), Michelle Bilberry (Business Oregon/Infrastructure Finance Authority), Jae Pudewell (Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)), Chris Castelli (Department of State Lands (DSL)), Angela Carnahan (Department of Lands and Conservation Development (DLCD)), Gary Neuschwander (Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)), Brian Wolfer (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)) , Renate Wakeley (Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments), Ryan Sparks (Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)), and guest team member, Daniel Holbrook (Business Oregon).

South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **South Valley/Mid-Coast (SVMC) RS Advisory Committee (RSAC) Meeting:** SVMC held its first Advisory Committee meeting in over a year on September 26. The meeting was well attended and the committee was very engaged. RS provided an overview of the roles/responsibilities for committee members, Senator Beyer provided a legislative update, and the committee engaged in an introductory conversation about refreshing regional priorities. RS Team members were also in attendance and provided updates on various regional projects. At the next meeting, SVMC RSAC is planning to review and adopt an updated regional vision and priorities. Special thanks to the committee and Team members for their engagement in the process.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **SVMC RSAC Meeting:** December 18, 2019, 2 PM – 4 PM; Location – TBD

Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **Possible Off-Shore Wind Energy Project:** Representatives of DB Western Corporation informed members of the Southern Oregon Resource Coalition (SOORC) that they are pursuing project development of a new off-shore wind installation off the south coast that would serve southern California customers. Concerns about impact on trawl fisheries were voiced.

Central & South Central Regions – Annette Liebe

- **Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan:** The long awaited plan and accompanying Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be released for public review Friday, October 4th. The plan covers: spotted frog, bull trout, and three salmonid species: sockeye, chinook and steelhead. The plan will be controversial in the region; **comment deadline is Monday, November 18th**. The Central Oregon RS Team had a good discussion about coordinating agency comments. The goal is to have state agency comments identify where the proposal supports agency objectives and where, if any, areas need to be changed. A sub-group of the RS Team will meet to review and coordinate draft agency comments. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) joined for this part of our Team meeting and praised the expertise that state agencies (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Water Resource Department (OWRD), and ODA) brought to the development of the DEIS and also called out ODFW for their outstanding work managing various contract pieces related to the development of the plan and DEIS.

- **Central Oregon RSAC:** The committee will meet on Tuesday, October 8th. Agenda includes a panel discussion on childcare and an overview of the wildfire council process/recommendations. Many thanks to Bend Mayor, Sally Russell, for adjusting her prior commitments so that she can present on the wildfire council's work.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Central RSAC Meeting:** October 8, 2019, 9 AM – 12 PM; Location – Tykeson Hall Room 111, OSU Cascades; 1500 SW Chandler Ave, Bend, OR 97702
- **South Central RSAC Meeting:** October 30, 2019, 10 AM – 12 PM; Location – Klamath Falls

Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **McKay Creek Flooding:** This project stems from the unprecedented rains that Umatilla County received in April 2019 and the damage that was done to McKay creek which runs through Pendleton. We have a steering group of state, federal and local representatives to come up with solutions so that the community is prepared for next year's high water season. The City of Pendleton participated in a Kaizen process with DEQ and DSL this summer, and Anderson Perry is now moving forward with developing a permit application to get into the creek this year and address the biggest problem areas from this year's flood so this doesn't happen again next year. Additionally, the steering group is looking for funding for a basin wide study to see if there are other ways we can reduce the likelihood of this happening every few years.
- **Kam Wah Chung Interpretive Site project:** RS met with OPRD officials and the City of John Day on the planned development for an interpretive site for the Kam Wah Chung & Co. Museum in John Day. This is a key priority for OPRD and the City owns the land right next door with their City pool. This is an effort to try and get the land needed for the state parks project, and also get the City closer to their new pool project on a separate location. Representative Lynn Findley joined the tour of the John Day Innovation Gateway to see how this project would connect with the larger community projects that the City of John Day is undertaking.