



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

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

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **City of Turner:** RS and Business Oregon had a great meeting with City of Turner City Administrator David Sawyer. He shared an update on the City of Turner's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) project, which was a response to the 2012 flood. The work is exploring measures to manage flooding. In addition, we talked the state's new levy program, exciting downtown improvement projects, and water system needs. RS will continue to support the city's work. Thank you to David Sawyer for his generous time, and a big kudos to Dennie Houle, Michelle Bilberry, and Becky Baxter from Business Oregon for their expertise during the meeting.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Mid-Valley RSAC:** Thursday, December 5th, 2019, 9 AM – 11:30 AM; Location – MacMkt - 1140 NE Alpine Avenue, McMinnville, Oregon, 97128

South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **Port of Newport Outreach Meeting:** Thanks to leadership at the Port of Newport for hosting the RS Team for an initial outreach meeting. The Port provided an overview of both their operations and facilities. We then heard from the Port on their strategic plan and the priority projects they have queued up for the next several years. There are several projects the RS Team will be able to engage on. Our next step will be to schedule a one-stop meeting to discuss the projects in more detail with a variety of potential funding agencies with the goal of creating a pathway that includes timelines and funding opportunities moving forward.
- **House Bill (HB) 2001 Roundtable Discussion:** Members of the South Valley/Mid-Coast (SVMC) RS Team attended a roundtable discussion specific to HB 2001 in Albany this past week. The event was sponsored by Senator Gelser (Senate District 8), and senior planning officials from the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) were present to make a short presentation of the bill and answer questions from local officials and the public. This was the second of two meetings held in Senator Gelser's district. HB 2001 passed in the 2019 legislative session and requires cities to allow middle housing (duplexes, triplexes, etc.) in single family zones. The intent behind the bill was to increase supply of middle housing types in cities above 10,000 in population. The event was well attended and there were a variety of view represented. The RS Team will continue to monitor the

rulemaking process that DLCD is leading and engage, where appropriate, in activities such as technical assistance for communities in the SVMC.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **SVMC RSAC:** Wednesday, December 18th, 2019, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM; Location – Ford Alumni Center, University of Oregon

Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **Applegate Valley Business Network:** With support from the Ford Family Foundation, the community development corporation “A Greater Applegate” is exploring the formation of a business network. The Applegate is a rural region, divided between Josephine and Jackson County, with a strong continued agricultural presence, a number of unincorporated communities, and no existing chamber or other business coalition. A founding meeting was held this week and 10 charter member businesses signed up. The RS Team along with representatives of Travel Southern Oregon and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) participated in a resource fair, identifying economic development and other resources from participating businesses.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **South Coast-Umpqua RSAC:** Tuesday, December 10th, 2019, 9 AM – 11 AM; Location – Coquille County Courthouse - Room 121, 250 N. Baxter, Coquille, OR

Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- **Childcare Forum:** Clackamas Workforce Partnership and Child Care Resource & Referral recently met with the City of Sandy about their specific childcare challenges. In response, they hosted a forum earlier this week that Metro RS participated in with City and County leaders including Clackamas County Commissioner and Metro RS Advisory Committee member Martha Schrader.
 - Childcare, and its lack of availability, is a growing concern throughout Oregon. The severe shortage in affordable and quality childcare slots, especially infant and toddler care, is putting a strain on working families and businesses across the state. Earlier this year, the Regional Solutions Program and Early Learning Division co-convened an interagency state workgroup to better understand the state touchpoints and opportunities to support increasing the supply of high quality providers and childcare slots. The workgroup is in the process of finalizing a report that summarizes its findings about the regulatory context related to childcare facility construction and licensing, state programs that may support the creation of additional childcare providers, childcare tax incentives and pilot projects from around Oregon. Metro RS will share the final report with the Clackamas Workforce Partnership and participate in their next childcare forum in early 2020.
- **Willamette Falls Paper Company:** The West Linn Paper Mill recently reopened as the [Willamette Falls Paper Company](#). The West Linn Paper Company closed in October 2017 due to issues with their feedstock supply chain. Over the last two years, Business Oregon and Metro RS worked diligently on the business case, environmental, community, regulatory, and land use issues required to facilitate a successful mill re-start. Governor Kate Brown awarded the company strategic reserve funding (SRF) to assist with job creation and retention opportunities. Willamette Falls originally planned to hire 85 at the restarted mill but now employs 120, many of whom worked at the mill prior to its closure. The mill not only provides quality jobs and career ladder opportunities, but it is also offers significant

environmental benefits. The mill is able to process recycled paper into new paper products. In 2018, China restricted the import of some contaminated waste papers from the US destined for recycling and is expected to restrict all contaminated waste papers in 2020. By maintaining the mill's capacity to accept recyclable paper waste, the region achieves an additional future benefit of reducing current municipal costs of landfilling recyclable paper. The ability to use wheat straw from rural supply chains (that would otherwise be burned), along with regionally recycled paper is a big win for the environment.

- **Willamette Falls Legacy Project:** Metro RS participated in the quarterly executive partners' project meeting where design alternatives for phase 1 of the public river walk were considered. The partners agreed to work with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde on a design alternative that follows the river from the north end of the property.
- **Willamette Falls Locks:** At their meeting earlier this week, the Willamette Falls Locks Commission moved to recommend the establishment of a public corporation ("The Willamette Falls Authority") to serve the people of the state of Oregon by repairing/upgrading, operating, maintaining and providing public access to the Willamette Falls navigation canal and locks. The project team is working on legislation for the February 2020 short session that seeks to establish the public corporation.