



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

Wednesday, December 18th, 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

- **Regional Solutions and Business Oregon at OMIC:** This week the state's RS Coordinators and Business Oregon's Regional Development Officers (RDOs) held a joint meeting at the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (OMIC) in Scappoose. We had the opportunity to hear from industry and education partners about OMIC's unique value proposition:
 - Supporting Oregon's manufacturers with applied research projects designed to solve manufacturing challenges;
 - Positioning Oregon as a leader in advanced manufacturing research and development; and,
 - Preparing Oregon's workforce for careers in advanced manufacturing through training and apprenticeships.

The agenda included a welcome by Senator Betsy Johnson, an overview of OMIC with Executive Director Craig Campbell, and a panel discussion including representatives from OMIC, Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership (OMEP), Oregon State University (OSU), Boeing, and Vigor. Following the presentations, the RS Coordinators and RDOs discussed strategies for connecting manufacturers, economic development, and education partners across the state to OMIC.

- **Early Care & Education (ECE) Expansion:** RS is participating in the NW Regional ECE Sector Planning Committee, joining Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook county K-12, ECE and community leaders, parents, health and human services, and family advocates in planning for ECE expansion in the region. The committee met recently to explore priority populations in the region, evaluating risk factors, geographic and economic accessibility, and gaps in service. Committee members dug into provider data, evaluating existing infant, toddler, and preschool supply and participation by county and by school district. Parent survey data was also presented for committee members to better understand the strengths and needs of existing programs. RS brings a unique economic and workforce development perspective to the conversation of childcare supply and early learning sector expansion. The committee's recommendations will inform future ECE investments in the region.

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **A NEWberg Conversation:** RS recently met with City of Newberg Mayor Rick Rogers to discuss key areas of opportunity for the community. The discussion focused on several key projects in the near and long term as outlined in their new strategic vision, a NEWberg. One project, the Riverfront Master Plan, was shared at the recent Mid-Valley Regional Solutions Advisory

Committee (RSAC). RS has also been involved with the Crestview Drive Improvement Transportation Project which received a Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) in the 2015-17 biennium. Thank you to Mayor Rogers for his generous time.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Mid-Valley RSAC:** March 20th, 2020, 9 AM – 12 PM; Location – TBD

South Valley/Mid Coast Region – **Sarah Means**

- **SVMC RSAC Meeting:** Thank you to the members of the SVMC RS Advisory Committee and the members of the public for their participation in the most recent committee meeting. The committee heard reports regarding 404 Assumption efforts in the region as well as an update from Business Oregon's Broadband Office. Additionally, the committee adopted their new priorities for the region to be in effect for the coming year.

These priorities include:

- Entrepreneurial Culture
- Infrastructure
- Residential/Industrial Land Development
- Community Capacity Building

The vision/mission/priorities document will be made available on the SVMC RS website for the public. Additionally, interested person may contact RS Coordinator Sarah Means directly for more information. Special thanks to our presenters, Phil Warnock (Cascades West COG) and Chris Tamarin (Business Oregon) for their informative presentations and to our partners at the University of Oregon for hosting.

Metro Region – **Raihana Ansary**

- **Metro Employment Lands Site Readiness Toolkit:** Lise Glancy, Strategic Partnerships Manager at the Port of Portland presented an update on the Metro Employment Lands Site Readiness Toolkit project to the entire Metro RS team.
 - **Background** – In July 2018, Metro awarded the Port of Portland a \$170,000 grant to be matched by \$23,000 in project partner funding for the Metro Employment Lands Site Readiness Toolkit project. The Port is the contracting entity for the grant. Greater Portland Inc. (GPI) is serving as the convener of the project partners and providing project management support. The purpose of the project is to help find tools to move challenged employment sites (i.e. industrial and commercial) within the Metro Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) to market-readiness to accommodate projected population growth.
 - **Update** – The project consultant, Cascadia Partners has identified new real estate and finance tools including, but not limited to, a horizontal development agreement that would stack incentives and an investment infrastructure bank to help address barriers to site readiness. The report will include customized roadmaps for the Happy Valley Rock Creek Employment Area, Wilsonville Coffee Creek, and Forest Grove Woodford West Areas. The report is anticipated to be finalized in September 2020 and Metro RS will receive periodic updates. Metro RS may help cities implement the customized roadmaps (to the extent there is a need for state agency coordination) and will share the toolkit with other cities and counties when conducting outreach.

North Central Region – **Nate Stice**

- **City of Hood River Storm Water Project:** During the 2019 Legislative Session, Representative Anna Williams and Senator Chuck Thomsen helped secure \$1.7 million in lottery bond funding to address a growing concern for the City, Port, and several waterfront area properties. A main storm water line built in the 1960 is creating a sinkhole near two companies with facilities that were built over the line. Business Oregon helped to pull together a one stop in the spring of 2019 to discuss funding option. Last week, the team met with the City to discuss regulatory considerations on its preferred alternative in advance of the City selecting a firm to complete design of the project. The project will likely require engagement with the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), the Department of State Lands (DSL), the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Parts of the team will meet with the City for a pre-design site visit.
- **Kingsley Reservoir Project:** Farmers Irrigation District requested help from RS in coordinating state and federal permitting for the Kingsley Reservoir Enhancement Project. The project will ensure that the irrigation district is able to meet the needs of existing water users while providing multiple in-stream benefits to the Hood River Basin. It will raise the level of the reservoir to stabilize stream flows. The Team convened federal and state partners to discuss timing on finalizing 106 consultation (National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) — the final consultation for the USACE 404 process. We also discussed alignment of that final step with DEQ's process to finalize funding for the project through Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Particular thanks to SHPO's Dennis Griffin for helping on the project and DEQ's Bonnie Lamb for helping to align and coordinate on the Strategic Reserve Fund (SRF) process.

Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Central Oregon RS Team meeting:** Business Oregon provided an overview of their Small Business Sustainability Fund and some of the businesses under consideration. Excellent team discussion about additional ideas including the interest in helping a struggling meat processor who serves a critical regional function as a US Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved meat processor. DEQ, Business Oregon, and Department of Ag will schedule outreach to better assess their needs/opportunities.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Central RSAC:** March 12th, 2020, 9 AM – 12 PM; Location – TBD

South Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **South Central RS Team meeting:** The RS Team discussed the draft team work plan. A couple of key highlights: There were recently some Community Development Block Grants awarded that support the RS Team's priorities – funding for preliminary engineering for new water distribution system in Bly, and housing re-habilitation in Klamath County. Kudos to Business Oregon for these projects. The Team is also making progress to help the City of Klamath Falls address flood plain issues related to their wastewater facility and State Revolving Loan Fund loan for their new treatment facility. Finally, the water supply situation is looking grim at this time; the basins in the region are only at 42% - 48% of average precipitation.
- **Red Rock:** DEQ and Business Oregon are working closely with the Town of Lakeview and Red Rock to coordinate and permit the re-use and subsequent discharge of the Town's wastewater as cooling water for Red Rock. The Town's wastewater permit needs to be renewed as part of the process. DEQ is providing great technical assistance.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **South Central RSAC:** March 9th, 2019; 1 PM – 3 PM; Location - Lakeview, TBD

[Greater Eastern](#) & [Northeast Regions](#) – **Courtney Warner Crowell**

- **Baker Early Learning Coalition:** Participated in the coalition of almost 20 people from Baker City who traveled to Portland for the Oregon Business Summit to discuss economic mobility for rural communities and the work that this coalition is doing to create an early childhood center to address child care and early childhood education needs in the community. This coalition included the school district, the City, industry and utility leaders. It was a great chance for this group to make connections and talk about the great collaboration that is occurring around early childhood education and child care in Baker City.
- **Successful RS Center Open House:** Our Eastern Oregon RS team had a great open house at our RS Center in La Grande. Over 20 local partners came to talk about RS projects, and enjoy some holiday fun with our team.
- **Hines Pellet Mill Project:** RS hosted the monthly coordination call with DEQ, Harney County and the company that is working to put a pellet mill in Harney County. This project continues to move forward and we are hopeful that a permit will be reviewed within the next month and then will be available for public comment. DEQ has approved construction on the conveyor belt that will allow the company to begin construction so that they will be able to start the alfalfa pellet line in June during alfalfa season.