

RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

Wednesday, January 29th, 2020

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

- **PCC OMIC Training Center:** On January 29, Portland Community College (PCC) held a groundbreaking event to celebrate construction of a workforce training center in Scappoose. PCC's Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (OMIC) Training Center is expected to open in early 2021 as a part of the OMIC campus, preparing the next generation of skilled workers through an innovative apprenticeship model. PCC President Mark Mitsui, Senator Betsy Johnson, Representative Brad Witt, and Scappoose Mayor Scott Burge joined speakers in celebrating the expansion of educational opportunities in Columbia County. Programs will include machining, metals manufacturing, mechatronics, career and technical training.



(Pictured L to R – State Senator Betsy Johnson celebrates the addition of a training partner to the OMIC campus and the realization of a long-awaited PCC presence in Columbia County; State Senator Betsy Johnson (center left), PCC President Mark Mitsui (center right), and Scappoose Mayor Scott Burge (second from right) join PCC, OMIC, and City of Scappoose officials in ceremonial groundbreaking)

- **HB2003 Regional Housing Needs Analysis:** Regional Solutions participated in stakeholder meetings to inform methodology for the state's Regional Housing Needs Analysis pilot project. HB2003 includes two elements: a Regional Housing Needs Analysis (RHNA) and a Housing Production Strategy. These stakeholder meetings were convened to inform the RHNA project specifically. HB2003 specifies the RHNA will 1) estimate the number of existing dwelling units by type and level of affordability, 2) estimate the existing housing need by income level, and 3) forecast future housing need for the next 20 years. Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) has contracted with ECONorthwest to develop methodology and conduct the RHNA. The ECONorthwest scope of work can be found [here](#).
 - The Oregon RHNA is a one-time pilot project designed as a learning experiment to better understand the value of regional housing planning. OHCS and ECONorthwest are using

California's RHNA and allocation methodology as a baseline strategy for developing the "Oregon approach." ECONorthwest is currently identifying available data, considering adjustment factors, incorporating equity considerations, defining regions, and refining the methodology. Submit comments on the RHNA project directly to RHNA@Oregon.Gov by January 31st, 2020. [Click here](#) for additional information about the OHCS Regional Housing Needs Analysis (RHNA) project. For additional information about the DLCD Housing Production Strategy project, [click here](#).

- **Congressman Kurt Schrader hosts Community Leaders roundtable in Tillamook:** Congressman Schrader met with community leaders in Tillamook on January 23rd. Representatives from Tillamook County, the Cities of Tillamook, Wheeler, Garibaldi, and Bay City, the Ports of Tillamook Bay and Nehalem, Tillamook Bay Community College, and RS participated. Regional projects and priorities discussed included Salmonberry Trail planning, infrastructure (roads, culverts, dikes, levees and jetties), broadband capacity, resilience and emergency preparedness, dredging, housing, public safety, workforce training and education.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RSAC) Meeting

- **North Coast RSAC:** April 2020 – *More information will be made available soon*

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **ODOT Update on Polk County Projects:** This week, Mid-Valley RS, representatives from Polk County, Polk County Sheriff, and Polk County School District met with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) team (Region 2/Area 3 Manager, Region 2/District 3 Manager, Region 2 Safety, Region 2 Traffic Operations Engineer, Project Manager, Construction Manager, Communications) to discuss two ODOT intersections in Polk County: Perrydale Road and OR22 and 99W and Bethel Rd, which has a current project in construction nearby. The group also discussed the possibility of a future safety corridor designation for 2-10 miles of Highway 22.
 - Regarding the 99W/Bethel Rd Intersection and the nearby Bridge Project (ODOT Project KN18584) – the project's scope of work was to replace the bridge and was funded for that purpose. The project will be completed in October 2020. The work was developed with a future reconfiguration of the 99W and Bethel Rd intersection in mind. The initial cost estimate for the follow-on intersection-reconfiguration project was \$4 million. Anticipatory work leveraged in the current culvert project has reduced the estimate for the intersection-reconfiguration project by about half.
 - The intersection project will be considered for the 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which is the earliest opportunity.
 - Thank you to Polk County Commissioner Kyle Mordhorst, ODOT Region 2/Area 3 Manager John Huestis, and RS Team ODOT member Jae Pudewell for their ongoing engagement.
- **The 2020 Census and Why a Complete Count Matters:** The 2020 Census goal is to "ensure that Oregonians receive their fair share of federal resources and congressional representation over the next decade by creating awareness and encouraging full participation in the 2020 Census."
 - The reasons for an accurate and complete census count is twofold:
 1. "We need to make sure that Oregon continues to receive the funding it deserves for the programs that help sustain our communities. A study by the [George Washington Institute of Public Policy](#) estimates that in 2016 alone, Oregon received more than [\\$13.4 billion](#) in federal assistance based on data collected during the 2010 Census.
 2. Experts at the [Brennan Center for Justice](#) predict that Oregon is on track to gain a [6th Congressional seat](#) if it achieves a complete 2020 Census count. This is important

because with additional congressional representation for our state, we will be able to amplify Oregon's voice in Washington D.C.”

- Get informed. Get counted. Get involved. Visit the [website](#) to learn more.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

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

South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **City of Springfield – Gateway Expansion Area Coordination:** The City of Springfield is beginning the process to set a strategy around moving planning efforts forward in the Gateway expansion area. The area abuts the McKenzie River and will impact the Gateway commercial areas along Interstate 5 (I-5). City staff requested assistance from the RS Team in this early phase to talk about the area/project, and brainstorm best practices and examples from elsewhere in the state that might provide some level of guidance as the planning process begins. RS Team members met with City staff last week and were provided an overview of the project and how the City is approaching the project. Recently, the City was awarded a Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) Technical Assistance (TA) grant for wetlands and riparian planning efforts and that project nicely ties into the larger expansion efforts. The RS Team is providing assistance through information sharing and will continue to be involved with the work moving forward in a variety of forms. Thanks to the City of Springfield for their proactive approach to such an important project for the broader region.
- **Port of Toledo Welding Lab:** Special thanks to the Port of Toledo for inviting RS to the grand opening of the new Welding Lab. The project is a partnership between the Port, Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC), Lincoln County School District, and Oregon Now to provide training for maritime occupations. The Port received a Maritime Administration Small Shipyard Grant to purchase the equipment, and the Port provided the building at their Industrial Park, across the road from the Shipyard. RS Team members



such as Business Oregon and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have provided assistance to the Port over the years that has enabled their success and the opening of this welding lab. At the grand opening, it was reported that the program currently has 22 students. Half of those are area high school students and the other half are community members. There are more than 100 people on the waiting list to be accepted into the program. OCCC is in the process of expanding these services to Taft in northern Lincoln County. A few pictures of the lab are included above.

Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- *Possible new project* – **Coos Curry Electric Coop (CCEC) Fiber to the Home:** CCEC staff have been developing a project to bring broadband to their entire service territory, i.e., all of Curry County and the southern third of Coos County, about 14,000 addresses, approximately 1/3 of which are currently entirely unserved.

Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- **Levee Ready Columbia (LRC):** Multijurisdictional effort working to ensure that the levee system along the Columbia River, from Sauvie Island to the Sandy River, meets Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) accreditation standards and continues to reduce the risk of flooding for important regional assets in the area. The levees reduce the risk of flooding for the Portland International Airport (PDX), tens of thousands of jobs and residences, thousands of acres of local farmland and hundreds of acres of parks and natural areas.
 - *Update* – Metro RS is working with the LRC project team and the Governor’s Executive Appointments and Natural Resources Teams to identify potential members to the interim board of the Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District that was created by Senate Bill 431. The District will initially be headed by a 17-member board, 12 of whom are appointed by jurisdictions in the new district (five cities, four drainage districts, Metro, Multnomah County and the Port of Portland) and five of whom will be appointed by the Governor. The Governor will appoint a private sector business within the district, neighborhood resident in the district, environmental conservation representative, and representatives from an environmental justice organization and a public non-profit unspecified. The Levee Ready Columbia Project team would like to have the interim board established by spring 2020. Metro RS will work to help meet this targeted timeline.
- **PGE / West Linn Waterfront:** In late 2017, the City of West Linn began a process to create a vision for the City’s waterfront’s future. More than half the land comprising the waterfront redevelopment area belongs to Portland General Electric (PGE) and they are partnering with the City to create a future vision for the area.
 - *Update* – The entire Metro RS team received an update from PGE representatives on the project. Thank you, Tracy Schwartz of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), for the consulting work you are providing PGE as they work to demolish Mill A and J buildings on their property. Also, thank you Kimberly Dinwiddie of ODOT for following up with traffic engineers to confirm that a nearby roundabout does not impede access to PGE’s property. Metro RS will invite the DEQ, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Department of State Lands (DSL) to participate in our next quarterly meeting with PGE as there is a nexus with these state agencies as it relates to a fish passage ladder, the potential need for environmental remediation and in-water work.
- **City of Estacada Pipeline:** Metro RS including Bryan Guiney from Business Oregon participated in a conversation with the City of Estacada and Clackamas County about the City’s longstanding desire for a natural gas line to serve their industrial park. The City would like to move forward with a feasibility study for the proposed Estacada Pipeline and they are able to partially fund the cost of the study, but are looking for other potential funding sources. Clackamas County will convene a follow-up meeting with neighboring jurisdictions, Metro RS and Congressman Schrader’s Office to further explore other potential funding sources. Thank you, Metro RS team members Bryan Guiney of Business Oregon and Jennifer Donnelly of DLCDC for participating in the follow-up conversation.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- TBD, likely late February or March 2020.

North Central Region – Nate Stice

- Congratulation to the City of The Dalles for its strong performance in its campaign to participate in the online show, Small Business Revolution. The community came second overall receiving over one million votes!
- **Kingsley Reservoir Enhancement 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.
 - Update – Farmer Irrigation District received a 404 certification from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) this week. The Team helped to facilitate one last push in coordinating the consultation from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). In order to facilitate the beginning of construction utilizing the DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund, DEQ started work to process the environmental review pieces needed for its public process on the fund. Many thanks to all of the dedicated state and federal agency staff, who helped move this project forward.
- **DEQ Visits:** RS Team member Greg Svelund organized staff from DEQ's Water Quality program to visit with stakeholders in Hood River on three separate efforts:
 - Education on the value of pre-consultation and the Kaizen process – The Team presented to the Hood River Economic Development Group on the value of engaging state and federal agencies early and often when contemplating a development project. This is part of the Team attempt to catch projects further upstream to help them through these processes. Kaizen agencies meet monthly to provide potential projects with feedback from multiple agencies. [Click here](#) for more information. And of course, the Team is happy to provide consultations on projects.
 - Hood River Storm Water Project Site Visit – The City of Hood River received \$1.7 million legislative funding to address a failing section of its storm water system, which was causing a sinkhole in the river front industrial area. The Team coordinated a meeting with DEQ, DSL, and ODOT in December to discuss their preferred alternative before the City went out for bid for design. The meeting revealed areas for follow up, in particular around water quality. DEQ staff met with the City to discuss option for addressing water quality. ODOT staff provided information on permitting for the project in their right-of way, and joined the City and DEQ in a site visit.
 - Port of Hood River Airport Project – The Port was awarded a Connect VI grant to 1) enhance safety and improve capabilities to support emergency response 2) to support our local unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) companies by providing shovel ready ground for hangars and 3) Leverage private investment partner dollars to accomplish that construction, thus improving the airport for current and future demand. The project has struggled with a difficult permitting process with unique Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Wetlands rules. The Team worked with the port over the summer to help move the 404/401 process forward, and this week, met with the Port to discuss a lingering storm water concern.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **North Central RSAC:** Wednesday, February 12th, 2020; 1 PM – 3 PM; Location – Columbia Gorge Community College, Board Room (Building 1); 400 East Scenic Drive, The Dalles, OR 97058

Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs:**
 - RS convened a meeting with the Office of Childcare, the Warm Springs Early Childhood Education Center, The Early Learning Hub and Neighbor Impact to discuss health and safety issues at the facility and resolve misunderstandings. The facility needs a new roof and a new kitchen along with some immediate repairs. The Tribe recently hired a maintenance manager who will be developing an annual maintenance plan. The group will meet again in a month to assess progress as well as, next steps for the larger roof and kitchen projects. Great job by the Office of Child Care.
 - RS is working closely with US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on a strategic plan of infrastructure priorities for the Tribe. Next meeting was pushed back from Friday, Jan 24th, to Friday, Feb 21st.
- **Crook County Adult Protective Services:** RS convened three conference call with Crook County officials, Department of Human Services (DHS) and the local mental health service provider to assess options for assisting an individual who needs medical services, but is refusing them thereby endangering herself and public safety. Great work from DHS and Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

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

South Central Region – Annette Liebe

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

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

Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Scott Fairley Memorial Scholarship:** A huge thank you to the National Policy Consensus Center (NPCC) and Eastern Oregon University for the establishment of the Scott Fairley Memorial Scholarship. This fund will provide tuition for undergraduate students from EOU to participate in the [Urban and Rural Ambassadors Summer Institute](#), a partnership of Portland State University (PSU) and EOU. The Urban and Rural Ambassadors program was an Oregon Solutions (OS) project that started two years ago and helps connect Urban and Rural students and fosters collaborative work to bridge the urban-rural divide. Check out this [link](#) for more information on the scholarship and how to contribute.
- **Blues Intergovernmental Council:** RS participated in the monthly meeting of the Blues Intergovernmental Council that is a planning effort with counties, the US Forest Service (USFS) and other state and federal agencies to provide guidance around land management issues related to the forests in the Blue Mountains (Wallowa Whitman, Umatilla and Malheur National Forests). RS is participating as the Governor's Office representative and coordinating with other state agencies. This is an innovative new model around collaborative planning on federal forests and the dialogue is very positive. We had a great presentation on the First Foods vision from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and are moving forward on developing a sub-committee that is focused on the social and economic impacts of the forest management policies on the local communities within and around these national forests.
- **SE Area Commission on Transportation:** Attended the SE Area Commission on Transportation and gave an update on RS projects in Malheur, Harney and Grant Counties and heard an update from the City of Ontario on the impact that cannabis legalization has had on the City budget. Here is a

[link](#) to a recent article that talks about the concerns that the City of Ontario has with the state revenue share for cannabis.

- **City of Umatilla Industrial Wastewater Project:** Held our monthly coordination call with the City of Umatilla, DEQ, and the company associated with this project and got great news that the wastewater permit has been drafted and is in internal review processes and should be over to the applicant (City of Umatilla) within the next month. Thanks to everyone for working hard to get needed information and data to DEQ so they could get the permit drafted. This has been a long time coming but everyone is hopeful that we will have a permit issued by Friday, May 1st, 2020
- **New Regional Development Officer for Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler Counties:** With Melisa Drugge moving to the manager role for the Regional Development Team at Business Oregon, we are welcoming Ryan DeGrofft as our new Regional Development officer for Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler Counties next week. Ryan comes to us from his role on the economic development team at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and we are so excited for him to join our team!