

RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

Wednesday, February 12, 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

- **South Columbia County leadership collaborative:** Elected leaders from the cities of Scappoose, St. Helens, and Columbia City, the Port of Columbia County, and the Board of County Commissioners gathered this week to discuss regional community and economic development priorities. Regional Solutions assisted with the facilitation of a strategic planning exercise identifying the region's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. It was a privilege to participate in a robust discussion amongst these dedicated officials who are focused on improving their communities. Participants will bring ideas back to their respective boards and commissions for further discussion. Opportunities for regional collaboration were identified and the group expects to reconvene to advance priority initiatives.



Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- April, 2020 – TBD

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **Mid-Valley Business Advisory Team Quarterly Updates** – RS serves on the The Willamette Workforce Partnership's (WWP) Business Advisory Team which met this week to discuss updates on several key regional initiatives and sector workforce strategies including:
 - In the Warehouse/Distribution/Transportation sector, Chemeketa Community College provided an update on the high-in-demand [Commercial Driver License \(CDL\)](#) training which was developed with industry and regional partners. The WorkSource Center has sponsorship funds available to assist with the cost of the program. Most students can receive a \$3000 scholarship. SNAP recipients can have the whole course paid in full. Upon completion of the program for the 4-week course, students will take a driving skills test through DMV or third party provider prior to earning a CDL.
 - Oregon Entrepreneur Network's Mike White gave an overview of the collaborative services and networking offered in the [Launch Mid-Valley](#) program serving Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties. The group is hosting their first Startup Bootcamp Weekend which is open to seasoned and emerging entrepreneurs in business less than two years. The event will conclude with teams pitching their business case to determine the winning idea.

Thank you to the WWP team for convening this important conversations.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

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

South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **Oregon Coast Trail – Mid-Coast (Florence) Segment Meeting:** A group convened by Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) and City of Florence representatives met to discuss the Florence sub-segment of the mid-coast segment of the Oregon Coast Trail. RS participated in the sub-group. The group identified the “doers” in the community that could assist with the project, identified current assets/trails, potential partners and technical expertise needed. This sub-group will meet another 2-3 times over the coming months and provide insight into the alignment of the Florence portion of the Oregon Coast Trail to the larger working group.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- April 2020

Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **Charleston Ice House Re-Build:**
 - *Background:* The Port of Coos Bay's ice house is the primary commercial flake ice plant for the south coast fishing fleet. It burned at the end of December 2019.
 - *Update:* Insurance adjuster review is complete and the port has engaged an architectural and engineering firm to design the complete reconstruction of the “head” of the jetty and the plant itself, with a target opening of June 1, the expected start of albacore season. State Building Codes has committed to expedited plan review.
- **Yoncalla Wetland Bank:**
 - *Background:* North Douglas Betterment, a community-based non-profit, is developing a much-needed wetland bank for the central Umpqua Valley. Some level of dioxin contamination has delayed the project.

- *Update:* Department of Environmental Quality has concluded dioxin levels are not above background, and has issued a No Further Action letter. Both Business Oregon and DEQ brownfields staffs have worked hard to accommodate the non-profit and help move this project forward.

North Central Region – Nate Stice

- **Sherman County Outreach Meeting:** The team conducted its annual outreach meeting in Hood River County in coordination with the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District. Members of the County Court, representatives of cities, member of local non-profits, and the fair board joined the team. Priorities and highlights included:
 - Rural broadband access: With Sherman’s four cities and Big Junction completely connected with fiber to the premises and a fiber backbone, the county now plans to focus on improving access to outlying areas via its microwave system. A first step is completing the build out of a tower at Cottonwood Canyon State Park, which would provide access to the park and beyond. The team is exploring funding options.
 - Housing: Sherman’s incentive programs continue to lead to rehabs and new construction. The team learned of several local thinking about development through the county.
 - Community Facilities: The county and other partners are focused on repurposing the Wasco School as an event center, and is also considering large facilities project on the fair ground.
- **North Central Regional Solutions Advisory Committee:** The Advisory Committee met to receive an update on regional housing efforts. The group approved a slightly amended scope for Regional Infrastructure Funding for the Village within a Village project, through which the City of Hood River plan to create over 50 units of affordable and attainable housing. We also heard from two developers engaged in different scale project in the region. The challenges faced by the developers included: 1) increased costs due to delays in permitting and 2) the high costs related to infrastructure (SDCs) that make it hard for projects to pencil. The Committee had a health conversation about infrastructure costs. To meet the housing needs identified in recent housing needs analyses, communities will require hundreds of millions of investment in infrastructure, and with diminished state and federal investment, more costs are passed along to developers.
- **Clear Branch Dam Permitting:** The team facilitated a meeting with Middle Fork Irrigation District and federal and state agencies to find a path forward to re-permit the Clear Branch Dam. The Clear Branch Dam, located five miles southwest of Parkdale in Hood River County, was built in 1968 and is reaching the end of its 50-year design life. The reservoir that the dam creates, Laurance Lake, provides a clean, dependable water supply and distribution system for up to 8,000 acres of irrigated cropland and supports recreational opportunities. The renewal of a Special Use Permit with the US Forest Service require coordination and concurrence with several state and federal agencies, and partners are looking at ways to ensure water quality standards are met while allowing for ongoing operations at the dam.

Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Deschutes County Disaster Recovery:** RS participated in Deschutes County Disaster Recovery planning meeting. Great opportunity to learn about partners and identify additional opportunities for RST agencies to participate in disaster recovery especially if 1 million additional people come to Central Oregon after Cascadia.
- **Childcare:** RS met with Central Oregon city and county managers to assess interest in developing an IGA that streamlines building review for childcare facilities. Initial feedback is that the effort should start by looking at the processes in Deschutes County. Follow up meeting has been scheduled to develop a baseline understanding of who does what where.

- **Crook County Adult Protective Services:** RS convened calls with Crook County officials, DHS and the local mental health service provider to assess options for assisting an adult who was in police custody and refused medical services thereby endangering herself and public safety. One barrier revealed through this work is the lack of capacity for the Oregon Public Guardianship Office to provide services in rural Oregon; this is a barrier to identifying and securing a suitable guardian.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing:** RS met with multiple parties to better understand the challenges with putting a team together to apply for the next round of PSH cohorts. There is significant concern about the requirement to provide long term social and health services to residents. In Central Oregon it has been said that there is not a care provider willing to commit to providing long term clinical mental health services. RS is working to convene a meeting with health care providers in Central Oregon.
- **OnTo Technologies:** As follow up to the Governor's visit, Central Oregon RST (Business Oregon, DEQ, ODOE) along with Pacific Power met with this start up to acquaint themselves with the business and their needs. We provided information about state surplus generators as well as state grant and financing programs. Pacific Power is following up on the company's power needs.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- March 12, 2020; time and location TBD

South Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Klamath Basin Water Quality:** RS met with a number of stakeholders working on water quality/quantity issues in Klamath County. There is interest in ensuring diverse stakeholders, perspectives and approaches are considered for reducing nutrients in Upper Klamath Lake. Oregon Solutions is doing an assessment for a potential project. RS has been asked to convene a meeting to explore using municipal discharge water for irrigation as a way to reduce water being taken out of the river and, reduce discharge returning to the river.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- South Central: March 9, 2019; 1:00 – 3:00 Lakeview, Lake County Commissioners Room

Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Umatilla County Historic Flooding Emergency:** RS has been working on responding to the historic flooding that happened last week in Umatilla County. RS has been working with our workforce partners on the efforts to address the needs of the employees who have lost their jobs due to the flooding, and we have done outreach and toured the businesses who have been most affected. There are approximately 350 employees in Pendleton who will be out of work for months while the companies rebuild their manufacturing lines that were lost in the flooding. Additionally, we have been working with local leaders across the county to deal with the initial emergency and now the aftermath and ongoing response. RS will be a key resource for the community as they deal with the aftermath of this disaster.
- **Union County Business Summit:** RS presented at the Union County Business Summit this week. This is the 2nd annual summit that Union County has put on to help local businesses find the resources they need to grow and expand. Brian McDowell (Regional Development Officer with Business Oregon) gave a presentation on Business Oregon resources and RS gave an overview on the Regional Solutions program.

- **McKay Creek Flooding Solutions:** RS heard this week that the City of Pendleton received the last permit they were waiting on to deal with the sediment that had built up in McKay Creek from last year's flooding event. The city will start work this week on getting into the creek to shore up things to try and make sure what happened last year doesn't happen again. This is just a short term solution and the collaborative group working on the McKay Creek flooding situation is looking at studying the entire watershed to see if we can develop some longer term solutions to curb this flooding problem in the future. This is an effort between local, state, and federal agencies.