



# RS EXCHANGE

## REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

### Weekly Report

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

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

- **Cooking Up a Local Food Initiative:** This week, Business Oregon announced ten rural community projects throughout Oregon under the Rural Opportunities Initiative (ROI).

“ROI is an initiative that works with communities to cultivate local environments that support entrepreneurs and small businesses. Through financial support, innovative partnerships, network expansion, and access to business development resources, ROI helps strengthen and consolidate entrepreneurial support within and across Oregon’s rural communities.”

The City of Independence was one of the ten projects awarded a grant. Their “project builds on existing assets and a previous ROI grant to build a commercial kitchen and micro-retail space to support growth in the local foods industry. ROI funds will hire a part-time consultant to develop and manage the kitchen space, marketing, and coordination with partners to deploy programs.”

Congratulations to the City of Independence for bringing this importance asset to the region.

#### Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Mid-Valley RSAC:** Friday, March 20th, 2020, **9:45 AM** – 12 PM – note the new start time; Location: Willamette Valley Vineyards, 8800 Enchanted Way SE, Turner, OR 97392

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

- **King Salvage (Lincoln County):** King Salvage is a 6.56-acre auto salvage site in rural Lincoln County that contains large amounts of tires, rusting cars and RVs, drums, tanks, trash, appliances, and a collapsed building. Lincoln County obtained the site through foreclosure in August 2017. Over the past number of months, Lincoln County has been removing debris, primarily tires. To date, the County has spent approximately \$225,000 for clean-up. The RS Team has been working to identify funding sources including Department of Environmental (DEQ), Business Oregon, Cascades West Council of Governments and EPA.
  - *Update* - RST convened a kick-off meeting of all the partners that have a role in the clean-up efforts at King Salvage and then toured the site. Lincoln County has completed a significant amount of clean-up. The work now transitions to secure identified funding

for the remaining clean-up efforts, coordinate on the more challenging components of the clean-up (in-water work periods, etc.), and begin to outline the long-term vision for the site. Special thanks and acknowledgement to Mary Camarata with DEQ for her continued leadership with the project.

### Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- April 2020

### North Central Region – Nate Stice

- **Rural Opportunity Initiative (ROI):** Congratulations to the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) for securing \$75,000 from Business Oregon’s [Rural Opportunity Initiative](#). ROI strengthens and unifies the entrepreneurial ecosystem within and across Oregon’s rural communities. MCEDD, in partnership with the SBDC, will use the fund to build on existing efforts to strengthen business resilience and expand utilization of recently completed fiber networks in frontier communities. The team looks forward to engaging in this work.

### Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Early Childhood Education Center (ECE):**  
Background: In January the Office of Childcare raised concerns about the condition of the Warm Springs ECE facility. There were concerns related to the health and safety of workers and children due to roof leaks, odors, etc.  
Update: RS convened a meeting with the Warm Springs staff leadership (tribal CEO Michele Stacona, ECE leads and public facilities director) to get an update on progress addressing concerns raised by the Office of Childcare. Impressive progress has been made addressing maintenance needs; the center is on track to re-open one of their classroom “pods” that had been closed. RS will continue working with the ECE Director on funding for a new roof and kitchen appliances and will convene quarterly meetings to support continued progress.
- **Cinder Butte Meats:**  
RS, Business Oregon, and Redmond Economic Development, Inc. met with the owner and consultant for Cinder Butte Meats in Redmond. The company is experiencing challenges disposing of waste and wastewater. The RS Team will work with DEQ, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon State University Extension to develop a menu of options for moving forward.

### Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- Central: March 12, 2020; 1:00 – 4:00, Sisters City Hall
- South Central: March 9, 2019; 1:00 – 3:00 Lakeview, Lake County Commissioners Room

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

- **Umatilla Flooding Relief:** This week, RS brought together over 50 federal, state and local agencies to begin working together on strategies to help make the recovery from the flooding easier and more streamlined. RS and Office of Emergency Management are working together to develop a comprehensive resource guide for the public, are beginning to work on setting up taskforces related to housing and levees and are working to streamline permitting. This was a great first step in having all the partners work together. Additionally, next week the federal delegation and the Governor are holding an event for the public to get more information about resources to help.
- **City of Weston Flooding Damage:** RS met with the City of Weston to see the damage to the creek banks and the perilous nature that their sewer line is in. This is an extremely dire situation that needs to be remedied immediately before more spring runoff comes through and exposes (and possibly breaks) a sewer line into the creek. Business Oregon and Department of State Lands are working to see what can be done to help this community recover.

### Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Northeast Oregon RSAC:** Monday, March 30, 2020, 10 AM -12 PM, Eastern Oregon University, Dixie Lund Boardroom, Inlow Hall 201, La Grande, OR