



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

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

Regional Solutions (RS) Director – Leah Horner

North Coast Region – Jennifer Purcell

- **North Coast Economic Recovery Team** – *Background* – The North Coast Economic Recovery Team is comprised of local, regional, state, and federal economic and workforce development partners. Convened by Regional Solutions, the team is sharing information about impacts and needs, resources and supports, and planning for recovery.
 - *Update* – Regional Solutions meets weekly with economic developers, chambers of commerce and downtown associations, destination management organizations, workforce partners, and ports to better understand the challenges they are facing as they respond to business needs. This week, regional workforce and economic development partners were introduced to the Governor's Equity in Recovery Framework and the role of Regional Solutions in ongoing pandemic operations (response) and racial justice, equity, and economic opportunity (recovery). Regional partners discussed the role of the North Coast Economic Recovery Team, the value of the convening, and the ongoing needs of regional partners. Established as a conduit for information, the Regional Economic Recovery Teams provide a framework for sharing updates and resources, as well as providing statewide feedback to the Governor's Coronavirus Economic Advisory Council (CEAC). This week, the Governor's Office adjourned the work of the Coronavirus Economic Advisory Council and introduced the Governor's Racial Justice Council, laying the groundwork for the next steps for Oregon's continued COVID response and recovery. Regional partners expressed a strong desire to continue convening in some capacity to maintain the conduit for vital information sharing in an ever-changing operating environment.
- **Astoria Marine Construction Company** – *Background* - This historic ship refurbishing operation has operated in Clatsop County since 1926, manufacturing and repairing wooden-hulled fishing and ferryboats, tugboats, and yachts beginning in the early 1920s, and eventually expanding operations to include construction of minesweepers and other military vessels during WWII and the Korean War. In 2012, following the Columbia River's designation as a "River of National Significance", the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted environmental investigations around the Astoria Marine Construction Company (AMCCO) site and found contaminated soil and groundwater on the property and in nearby riverbed sediment. The EPA was prepared to list the property as a Superfund site. Concerned with the potential closure of

the small boat maintenance facility located there and adverse impacts to one of the region's key marine cluster businesses, State Senator Betsy Johnson, along with state and federal partners, advocated to defer cleanup authority to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Much of the contamination occurred when the US Navy had the property and the current owners did not have the ability to pay for cleanup. In 2012, EPA deferred cleanup to Oregon DEQ oversight after historic insurance policy coverage was identified to offset assessment and cleanup costs. DEQ entered into an agreement with AMCCO to guide the investigation and evaluation of potential cleanup alternatives to meet federal cleanup standards. Regional Solutions worked to help maintain the viability of the operation and support regional stakeholders' efforts to ensure the sustainability of the region's maritime cluster. In coordination with AMCCO, tribal governments, the North Coast Regional Solutions Team, and a community advisory group, DEQ selected a remedy and issued a Record of Decision in 2017 that identified a cleanup plan for the site.

- Update – Construction and implementation of the cleanup remedy has begun. AMCCO obtained all necessary permits and recently began implementing the cleanup plan for the site, including the removal of buildings and structures in preparation of performing cleanup activities over the summer. In-water restoration to mitigate damaged natural resources began in early July. Cleanup activities will continue through November 2020, including:
 - Excavation and removal of contaminated soil and sediment to be disposed of at a certified landfill.
 - Remaining contaminated soil will be capped in place with a layer of clean imported sand.
 - Long-term monitoring of the site will verify the effectiveness of the cleanup action.

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **Mid-Valley Economic Recovery Team (ERT)** – includes representatives from the Counties, Willamette Workforce Partnership, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR), the Small Business Development Center, early learning hubs, local emergency management, the Employment Department, Business Oregon, chambers, regional destination marketing organizations, utilities, non-profits, tribal government, and federal delegation representatives. The ERT will be meeting as needed moving forward.
 - This week, RS presented information on The Equity in Recovery Framework and the Governor's Racial Justice Council including an overview of the yet to appointed Regional Equity in Recovery Councils and how they will be supporting the continued response and recovery work moving forward. A brief discussion followed with clarifying questions. During a roundtable discussion, the team discussed the role of the ERT moving forward. The group did not make a final decision on how to proceed. RS proposed setting an every other week meeting schedule and meet only if there were items to cover.
- **Marion County Public Health and POC Leaders Meeting** – In partnership Marion County Commissioner Kevin Cameron, RS convenes a weekly meeting. This week's agenda focused on contact tracing, the need for more testing, and a review of a new COVID-19 Prevention Outreach Assessment tool. The public health director asked the group to help with a testing strategy being next week. We also heard about the August 1 testing event Woodburn with community partners testing 307 people. The organizers hope to hold testing events at least once a month.

- **Polk County Childcare Conversations** – RS has been participating in childcare discussions convened by Polk County Commission Craig Pope. The group is looking for ways to support access and sustainability in response to COVID. They will be launching a survey to get a better understanding of providers’ current needs.
- **Mid-Valley Community Outreach Alliance**, a BIPOC group meeting weekly, includes representatives from Pineros Y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas (MLP), Latino Business Alliance (LBA), Oregon Human Development Corporation (OHDC), Oregon Employment Office – Woodburn, Advanced Economic Solutions, Farmworker Housing Development Corp (FHDC), Unidos Bridging Community, Western Oregon University (WOU) Multicultural Center, Mano a Mano – Salem, Izo Marketing, City of Independence - Community Engagement, Portland General Electric (PGE), Oregon Childhood Development Coalition (OCDC), Oregon Education Association, the Higher Education Coordinating Committee (HECC), Northwest Human Services, AHIVOY!, Consulado de Mexico en Portland, and Micronesian Islander Community OREGON. Strategic Economic Development Corp (SEDCOR), Willamette Workforce Partnership (WWP), the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MWVCOG), Business Oregon, and the Chemeketa Small Business Development Center join the meetings as well.
 - This week, RS presented the Equity in Recovery Framework. There was a robust conversation about how to engage more leaders and stakeholders in this work and how to connect existing initiatives. The group will be forwarding recommendations for several of the committees as well as the Mid-Valley Equity in Recovery Council.

South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **Siletz Wastewater** – The City of Siletz is in need of funding for the design and construction of a wastewater collection and treatment system. The collection system experiences high flows during wet weather months and if improvements do not occur, the City runs the risk of violating permits. Business Oregon has been working with the City, along with DEQ and US Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD). A One-Stop has been completed outlining a plan for the financing of the project. Currently, the Community Grant Development Block (CDBG) and USDA-RD funds have been identified for the planning/design/environmental work (2021 timeline) and DEQ, USDA, and CDBG funds have been identified for construction (applications expected in 2023-24). Estimated project cost is \$6.7M. RST will remain engaged throughout the process to assist with coordination and communication given the multi-agency/multi-year nature of the work.
- **The SVMC Economic Recovery Team** – includes representatives from the Employment Department, Business Oregon, local and regional economic development professionals, Workforce Investment Boards, ports, and federal delegation representatives. The Team meets regularly to share information, identify immediate needs and understand impacts. Impacts as a result of COVID-19 are impacting all industry sectors in the region. For the last several months, the ERT has met a minimum of weekly. Beginning in July, the meetings have been scheduled for every other week. The group didn’t meet this week. However, regional partners have shared the following observations this week with RS:
 - Identified needs/challenges/opportunities this past week include:
 - Employers continue to face significant challenges finding staff for open positions.
 - Businesses are continuing to innovate as sector guidance requires alternative operations.
 - Childcare needs are of significant concern for parent and employers.

- Restaurants continue to struggle with a 10pm curfew – this is having a significant impact to the financial sustainability.
- Lincoln County was removed from the watchlist and plans to apply to enter phase 2 effective August 24.
- School Districts across the region are beginning to announce more information related to the returning children to school in the Fall. Most are moving forward with comprehensive distance learning as the option utilized until later in the fall/early winter.
- Lodging (Short Term Renting/Hotel/Motel/RV/Camping) in many of the regional destinations is at or near capacity.

North Central Region – Nate Stice

- The Mid-Columbia Economic Development District and Region Regional Solutions stood up the bi-state Columbia Gorge/Mid-Columbia Bi-State Economic Resilience Team. The structure for the team was outlined in a 2019 report produced by [MCEDD](#), based on work Regional Solutions led efforts around fire recovery for the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire and 2018 Grass Fires.
 - The emphasis of the team this week has been three-fold: 1) implementing the second round of continuity training, 2) coordinating on childcare efforts.
 - The team hosted a webinar for over 50 manufacturing businesses from across the state on protecting employees in “High Intensity” workplaces. It focused on workplaces where the pace and type of work make it more difficult to protect workers, such a food process and manufacturing environments. Video and material will be available soon.
 - RS met with the Early Learning Hub and local resource and referral center to help respond to childcare needs as schools reopen. We plan to ask the MCERT to help address three barriers: 1) human capital (folks willing to be providers); 2) space; 3) regulatory barriers. We have engaged locally planning and building codes to help on the last bullet point.

Central Region & South Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **OSU-Cascades Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Intensive** – Participated in this three-day training event taught by Prof. Erika McCalpine at OSU Cascades. Ms. McCalpine is also the Director of the Diversity Lab at OSU Cascades. Intensive involved training on key concepts such as, the difference between diversity and inclusion, review of various mission statements, and videos/discussion highlighting the privilege enjoyed by white people. RS has been working with Ms. McCalpine on participating and identifying people and groups to participate in the Regional Equity in Recovery Council.

Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Eastern Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team** – This week RS presented the Equity in Response and Recovery presentation to the Eastern Oregon Economic Recovery Team. It prompted a good discussion and Q&A process about how this would roll out in Eastern Oregon and how the Economic Recovery Team can stay engaged in the process. This group is going to send recommendations for members in the coming days. Additionally, we discussed the upcoming new guidelines around education reopening that will be coming out next week and the decisions to move Umatilla County back to baseline and Morrow County to Phase 1. There

was a lot of discussion about wanting to know more about the OSU research data as folks had many questions about the results.

- **Wallowa Lake Dam Project** – The good news is that all parties have signed the MOA around the instream water for the new Wallowa Lake Dam. The bad news is that this project was part of the Lottery Bond sale that isn't going through. This week Regional Solutions brought together all the stakeholders that developed the instream water Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to discuss next steps. All the partners (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa Lake Irrigation District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Water Resource Department) remain committed to the project and want to move forward with fish passage design and keep the current MOA in place until funding can be secured. They will continue to talk with legislators to explain the need for this project as well as the incredible progress that has been made over the past eight months.
- **Eastern Oregon Border Board** – The Border Board met this week and are moving forward with negotiations with the Oregon Community Fund (OCF) to take over the administration of the Border Board funds. Malheur County also forwarded a list of names to fill the vacancy on the Border Board and RS reached out to those individuals to encourage them to fill out a form and get the process moving.