



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

Wednesday, April 29, 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** – 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 - *Update* – This week the team reviewed draft guidance for the public and employers in the phase one reopening, as well as sector-specific operational guidelines for retail establishments and restaurants. Feedback was provided to the Governor's Coronavirus Economic Advisory Council. Team members also engaged in robust discussion regarding the phased reopening and the tension between public health objectives and the needs of business.
- **Reopening Framework presentations** – Regional Solutions provided information about the Governor's reopening framework to the Tillamook County Incident Management Team, Clatsop County and Columbia County Leadership Teams, and the Warrenton City Commission. Several of the presentations were provided in concert with County Public Health Officials, informing county reopening planning.
- **Tillamook SBDC Fish Biz Webinar** – The Tillamook County Small Business Development Center has been hosting weekly webinars with the coastal fishing community, sharing resources and information. Regional Solutions introduced the Governor's reopening framework on this week's webinar and discussed general employer guidance for phase one operations. While Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) "non-resident" fishing restrictions remain in effect, recreational fishing is allowable for Oregonians. Charter operators are seeking clarification on restrictions and guidance for re-opening and direction regarding what health and safety measures should be taken to protect customers and crew.

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **Mid-Valley Economic Recovery Team** – includes representatives from the Employment Department, Small Business Development Center, the Workforce Investment Board, utilizes, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, county commissioners, the Oregon Community

Foundation, early learning hubs, city and tribal governments, chambers, state and regional economic development, local emergency managers, destination marketing organizations, Chemeketa Community College, and federal delegation representatives. The team meets twice weekly to coordinate and communicate recovery efforts in the region. We have also established weekly calls with the Mid-Valley County Commissioners and tribal government representative, the Mid-Valley Economic Development Alliance and Mid-Valley Chambers Alliance.

- Update – This week the team reviewed to the restaurant, retail, childcare, and outdoor recreation public health Phase 1 draft guidelines. County Public Health, Mid-Valley Economic Development Alliance, and Mid-Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance participated as well in the meeting and outreach.
- **Reopening Oregon Framework Presentations** – Regional Solutions has presented the framework and received input from the Polk County/Dallas community; the McMinnville Chamber of Commerce’s board and members; the Polk County Monthly Breakfast for local governments and community stakeholders; and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Economic and Business Stakeholders meeting.
- **Faith-based Leader Meeting** – Marion County Commissioner Colm Willis convened a meeting with 108 faith leaders to explore how they might open under social distancing public health guidelines. RS joined in to hear the discussion.

South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **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.
- Identified needs/challenges this past week include:
 - With the introduction of the Reopening Oregon Framework, there have been a significant number of questions related to the presentation. Counties are beginning to put together their own framework based on the Oregon structure.
 - Unemployment insurance continues to be a significant concern and what we are getting the most number of questions on.
 - Communities continue to have many questions on the Coronavirus Relief Fund and what that will mean for local governments.
 - Coastal communities have concerns about reopening by region. Lincoln County has extended their closure until May 31. Coordination with State Parks and ODFW is essential.
 - The worker relief fund is critical for immigrant families. More information is needed.
 - Corporate Activity Tax continues to be a topic of conversation within the business community.
 - Sector guidelines were sent to the ERT for feedback this past week. RS is compiling comments.
- Best practices include:
 - Centro Latino Americano surveyed in Lane County to learn more about the unique challenges facing the Latino community. There was a significant amount of learning as a result and those surveyed offered more than 70 suggestions for support in the response to COVID-19. Those suggestions represented a call to action on the part of Lane County

leaders. Suggestions included creation of a financial assistance fund to support those that are ineligible for federal funding, eliminate barriers to food access, launch a coordinated and intentional communications strategy, and implement a community awareness campaign about COVID-19 and the impact on the immigrant and Latino residents.

- The City of Yachats continues to innovate with their financial assistance to local residents and businesses.
 - A local church has set up a fund to provide \$300 per week in grant funding for unemployed workers who have not yet received unemployment checks.
 - The same local church has set up a fund to help with small businesses who haven't received any funding. Between these two funds, approximately \$150,000 in grants have been contributed to the community.
 - The City of Yachats has created a matching fund program for anyone who spends \$25.00 or more on food at a local restaurant or merchandise at a local retail store. Individuals are asked to turn in receipts. As of April 28, receipts turned in totaled more than \$21,000. The City capped that funding at \$5000.
 - The City also approved an emergency loan program allocating \$100,000 in loans to local businesses. Maximum loan amount is \$4000. Community Lending Works is administering the program on behalf of the City.

Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **South Coast Umpqua Recovery Team**
 - Members heard presentation on Re-Opening Oregon Framework. (Questions/issues raised previously provided in daily.)
 - Governor Brown joined the call and addressed those questions.

- **Southern Oregon Recovery Team**
 - Process for accepting input on industry sector guidance was shared.
 - Governor Brown joined the call and heard input/questions.
 - WIB Director Jim Fong expressed that there was more room for collaboration between the Higher Education Coordinating Committee and Oregon Health Authority on health worker training.
 - Rep. Marsh asked for a business communications strategy for when the \$10M provided under the Emergency Board/Business Oregon allocation rolls out.
 - Jackson County has co-signed the Douglas/Curry/Coos/Josephine counties request for “early opening”—with caveats, particularly in terms of Jackson County needing to continue prioritizing their resources for their residents.
 - Multiple participants raised issues of business concerns about liability in re-opening.
 - Allcare reported good success with tele-health; some clinics have increase appointments by 70%.

Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- **Metro Economic Response Team**
 - Background: The Governor's Metro Regional Solutions (RS) Team is partnering with Greater Portland, Inc. (GPI), to co-convene a Metro Economic Response Team. In addition to state agencies (Business Oregon, Oregon Employment Department, Bureau of Labor & Industry, Small Business Advocate, Oregon Housing & Community Services, and Travel Oregon), a number of partners in the Portland-metro region have been

invited to participate including business associations, city and county economic development practitioners, community-based organizations, labor, members of the Governor's Metro Regional Solutions Advisory Committee and workforce development organizations.

- Update: The Team had its sixth meeting. Congressman Earl Blumenauer was scheduled to join but had to reschedule since he was called back to D.C. for a house floor vote on additional funding for small businesses. His field staff, Jason Little, joined on his behalf and shared the following information:
- The bill proposes the following:
 - \$310 billion in additional loan funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). \$250 billion of that is unrestricted, lent out via SBA's preferred lending partners
 - \$60 billion for smaller community financial institutions to support small business
 - \$50 billion for Economic Injury Disaster loan (EIDL) program
 - \$10 billion for EIDL advance grants
 - \$2.1 billion for SBA administrative expenses
 - \$75 billion for hospitals
 - \$25 billion for testing (\$11 billion for states, the rest for federal agencies)
- A more comprehensive recovery package "CARES Act 2.0" is still to come. Congressman Earl Blumenauer will join the Metro Economic Response Team meeting next Thursday, April 30 to share his priorities for recovery including a fourth stimulus package.
- Metro RS presented the Governor's Framework for Reopening. The following questions were asked:
 - What was the process for determining who is on the industry-sector groups and if/how is the Governor's Office working to ensure that a broad geographic and equity (i.e. racial/ethnic, etc.) lens is applied in the process?
 - Who is the appropriate contact person for industry-sector groups for individuals who are interested in being involved in sector-specific planning?
 - Can workforce development organizations be involved in future industry-sector groups? It's important to include employee/labor perspectives.
 - Is there a performing arts, travel and tourism industry-sector work group?
 - Will there be timelines for community events in the summer? Will there be guidance in the framework the week of May 4?
 - Will summer camps for school-aged children be considered childcare under this framework?
- Congressman Earl Blumenauer is scheduled to join the next Metro Economic Response Team meeting on Thursday, April 30 to share his priorities for recovery including a fourth stimulus package. Metro RS will also present draft industry-sector recommendations that are released for feedback.
- **City of Portland Economic Impact Action Committee** – Metro RS presented the Governor's Reopening Framework to the city of Portland's Economic Impact Action Committee, which includes Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, Prosper Portland Executive Director, -Kimberly Branam, Worksystems Director - Andrew McGough, Multnomah County Commission and economic development staff and community-based partner organizations. There were at least 38 people in the zoom meeting. The following questions were asked:
 - Is phase 3 back to normal? Or, are there still restrictions in this phase?
 - Will there be consideration for other industry-sector groups including the performing arts and sports?
 - What does the west coast Governor's pact mean in practice?

- **Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization** – Metro RS was invited to RDPO’s policy committee, which consists of elected officials in a five county area (Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, Columbia and Clark), to present an update on the Metro Economic Response Team and talk about potential plans for recovery. Metro RS provided background information on RS and shared ways in which we may help with regional recovery efforts, including but not limited to through the implementation of infrastructure projects and by offering interagency state technical assistance to regional recovery planning efforts. For example, Metro RS will participate in Greater Portland, Inc.’s community economic development strategy (CEDs) update with Business Oregon, Metro and other partners in the region. The CEDs will include a resiliency component that will be coupled with an economic recovery plan for the region. Metro RS looks forward to working with Greater Portland Inc., Metro, Business Oregon and others on this effort.

- **Portland General Electric / West Linn Waterfront Redevelopment**
 - Background: 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. PGE is exploring possibilities for a 15-acre island parcel and an 84-acre upland property and hired a consultant to evaluate the sites and assess their future potential. Future possibilities that are being considered / evaluated include the following:
 - Open space, a recreational or historic park, and or historic preservation of select structures and equipment;
 - Public access with emphasis on active recreation;
 - Mixed-use scenarios that may include commercial, office and or residential.
 - Update: The entire Metro RS team met remotely with the Portland General Electric’s (PGE) project team and city of West Linn planning staff for a quarterly update on the project. Thank you, Tracy Schwartz of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for working to review PGE’s consultant’s findings on the historic resources on their property. As part of this review, 44 buildings were evaluated and 20 are deemed historic. SHPO’s analysis reaffirmed Portland General Electric’s (PGE) consultant’s findings. The demolition for Mill J is completed. PGE was encouraged to consult with Mark Pew at the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for technical assistance around the abatement of hazardous materials. PGE expressed concerns over limited access off of HWY 43 to PGE’s property due to the traffic roundabout. Thank you Vanessa Vissar, Metro RS liaison to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for looking into this issue and following-up with PGE about ODOT feedback. PGE also asked Jeff Boechler of the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) about their plans to do repair work this summer on the fish ladder that is on their property. Thank you, Jeff Boechler, for following-up with PGE about ODFW’s specific plans.

- **Vance & Yeon Project**
 - Background: Multnomah County property located in the NW corner of Gresham on the Portland border and near the Rockwood Town Center, which is one of the state’s most diverse areas and where nearly 70 different languages are spoken in the home. The total plan area is about 90 acres and includes Vance Park, Vance Pit and Yeon sites. Roughly 72 acres are zoned industrial with the remaining 18 acres zoned transit/low density/residential. There is a legacy of historic landfill activities and there are slope stabilization and stormwater treatment needs. The county would like to redevelop the area for county services such as a potential animal services shelter, emergency command center or flagship library branch for outer east county. The county is also interested in exploring other potential uses such as housing or employment in the area.

- *Update:* Multnomah County project team requested a letter of support for their Metro 2040 planning grant application. Metro RS reviewed a draft letter of support for the project with the Metro RS Advisory Committee for their approval. The Metro RS advisory committee did not express concerns so the letter of support was finalized and sent to Multnomah County to be included with their grant application submission. The Vance & Yeon Project is a Metro RS priority project and we continue to be actively engaged. Metro RS helped Multnomah County access brownfield redevelopment funds from Business Oregon and encouraged them to apply for solid waste orphan funds from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Metro RS continues to provide interagency coordination and technical assistance.

North Central Region – Nate Stice

- **North Central Oregon Recovery Team** – 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](#). This emphasis of the team this week has been three-fold: 1) solidifying coordination with local public health; 2) educating all levels on the reopening framework; 3) planning for and launching sector guidance.
- **Weekly meeting/industry highlight** – the Governor joined the Mid-Columbia Economic Recovery Team and heard from several local public health leaders. During the meeting the team engaged in a dialogue with public health officials representing seven counties to understand their thoughts on reopening, progress on gating criteria, and to think about any ways we can help. The dialogue has already led to help and innovation around item like cleaning supplies.
- **Process highlight** – the team developed a step-by-step adaptable roll out plan for industry reopening framework that leads with conversation with local public health professionals before other sets of stakeholders, which proved very useful in thinking about the right way to distribute guidance, needed messaging, etc. The team has already updated the framework to help control further information flow.
- **Next week**
 1. Team members are sitting in on county reopening conversations to help keep them grounded in public health considerations.
 2. The team is working on how to support public health and the business as they sort through guidance and is working on a plan to provide a full day training event with relevant partners to help businesses understand the guidelines, get them thinking about how they can operate, and hear their concerns around needs.

Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Central Oregon Economic Response/Recovery Team (ERT)** – The team was honored to be joined by Governor Brown for a comments, questions and answers. The questions focused on re-opening of state boat launches, concerns about liability (Governor indicated strategies are based on science and data), questions about re-opening places of worship, the need for unemployment to reach self-employed people and sole proprietors, how will the state and local assistance funds in the CARES Act be allocated to city and counties, as well as, the need to reach out to farmers to train farm workers. The team also heard from the OSU Cascades Co-lab on an innovation summit series they are developing with partners to assist business owners, and

potential micro lending programs. Team members were asked to reach out to Annette Liebe to participate in the sector specific protocol review.

- **Small business grant and loan program** – Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) received funding from the Oregon Community Foundation for small business grant programs in Sisters, La Pine, Jefferson County and in partnership with the Latino Community Association. COIC also stood up an emergency small business loan fund.
- **Economic Development Sub-Committee Central Oregon ERT** – The sub-committee reviewed the draft protocols for the public, employers and the retail and restaurant sectors. Overall, there were several commenters who had concerns about the discretionary language in the protocols. There were concerns about the availability of equipment to do temperature checks. For restaurants, there was a request for clear best practices, while others indicated restaurants in their communities are fine with discretionary language and will develop their own best practices. Some restaurants will not re-open during Phase 1 because the requirements add costs that can't be overcome with a 50% capacity limit. For retail there were questions about what to do with clothing items customers had tried on. There were also questions about how these protocols would be enforced.

South Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **South Central Oregon Recovery Team** – The team reviewed the draft protocols for the public, employers, and the retail and restaurant sectors. There were questions about who and how these protocols would be enforced. The City of Klamath Falls indicated that they do not see local law enforcement as the appropriate enforcing agency. There was also feedback that the discretionary language made it difficult to determine if the proper measures were indeed being taken. Bright lines are helpful to reduce liability and make it easier for businesses to demonstrate compliance. Many restaurants will choose not to open during Phase 1; the costs associated with the protocols are too great given the 50% capacity limit for restaurants. They will do better just continuing with take out.

Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Eastern Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team** – This week the Eastern Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team met to review the industry sector guidelines that have been drafted to provide input to the Governor's Coronavirus Economic Advisory Council. Overall the Recovery Team felt like even though these recommendations will be painful for businesses to comply with, it was better to open than stay closed and they could meet the requirements. Additionally, all the counties in Eastern Oregon have either already submitted a reopening plan to the Governor or they are in the process of finalizing and sending to the Governor. Overall, counties in Eastern Oregon are eager to begin reopening.