



# RS EXCHANGE

## REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

### Weekly Report

Wednesday, May 20, 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 North Coast Regional Economic Recovery Team heard updates from our federal partners regarding the Heroes Act, which passed the House last week. Team members discussed reopening, sharing information about how businesses and communities are adjusting.
    - Columbia County Economic Team (CCET) provided a summary of their recent small business survey results, sharing that a majority of businesses think it's a good idea to re-open, while expressing caution to open things slowly and carefully to avoid a resurgence of the pandemic.
    - Small Business Development Center (SBDC) partners shared results of a recent America's SBDC survey that indicates a decline in the percent of small businesses who are "extremely concerned" about the current business environment in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.
    - Tillamook Coast Visitors Association (TCVA) shared results of tourism economic impact reports for the recreational fishing, arts & culture, and restaurant sectors.
  - Regional Solutions meets weekly with economic developers, chambers of commerce and downtown associations, destination marketing organizations, workforce partners, and ports to better understand the challenges they are facing as they respond to business needs.
    - As Tillamook, Clatsop, and Columbia Counties move into Phase I reopening, some businesses indicate they are postponing reopening, citing concerns over the possibility of having to close again, limited capital for expenses associated with reopening, restrictions limiting revenue opportunities, and not feeling safe to do so.

- Economic development and destination management organization partners discussed the potential resiliency of the travel and tourism industry. Accommodations and food service are the hardest hit industries, particularly so on the North Oregon Coast. However, information and experience suggests that pent-up demand for travel, along with the continuing public health concerns, will keep people closer to home. When they are ready to welcome visitors, the proximity of coastal communities makes them attractive destinations when people feel safe to travel.
  - Coastal chambers of commerce continue to cancel summer events. Chamber partners are concerned about loss of revenue, as these events are a major source fundraising, but also grieve the loss of community spirit these events engender.
- **NW Oregon Outdoor Recreation Subcommittee** – Regional Solutions and Oregon State Parks continue to convene regional outdoor recreation partners to discuss plans for reopening. Cities, counties, and ports along the coast, including Tillamook, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, and coastal Lane counties, meet weekly to discuss reopening strategies and address readiness concerns. Communities continue to express a strong desire to coordinate timing and policies associated with reopening the region for day use and outdoor recreation activities. Short-term lodging and overnight accommodations remain closed in most of these North Coast communities, with plans to reopen post-Memorial Day weekend.
- **Tillamook County Creamery Association** – The Tillamook Creamery recently announced the farmer-owner cooperative established a \$4 million COVID relief fund. \$500,000 has been set aside to support small businesses and business revitalization efforts in Tillamook and Morrow counties. Regional Solutions and Business Oregon met with Creamery representatives to share information from the North Coast Regional Economic Recovery Team, discussing business impacts, identifying needs and gaps, and exploring opportunities to leverage the investment.
- **Tillamook Coast Visitors Association** – Tillamook Coast Visitors Association (TCVA) distributed more than 500 "Stay Safe. Stay 6 Feet Apart" window clings, pavement clings and posters throughout Tillamook County in preparation for Phase I reopening. Restaurants, retail stores, museums/attractions and hotel properties received the signage, creating a consistent message for the public. The signage is a key element of TCVA's "Reopen, Respect, Recover" COVID-19 strategic messaging.



## Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **Mid-Valley Economic Recovery Team (M-V ERT)** – 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 Economic Development Alliance, Mid-Valley Chambers Alliance, and the Mid-Valley Community Outreach Alliance.

- Updates
  - Chris Cummings, Business Oregon Interim Director, joined a recent call to share how the agency is responding as a resource for businesses and communities. He gave updates on the planned deployment of the \$10M fund from the Legislative Emergency Board. The first \$2.5M went out as a Request for Proposals for funds in a 1:1 match model. The remaining amount will go out in phases over the next few weeks.
  - Yamhill County Casey Kulla gave an overview of the county's Phase 1 opening on May 15. He stated that while some businesses felt ready to open, some are choosing to wait. The County Public Health department has been working to make sure everyone has the guidance and education to open.
- **New PPE Resource** – The Strategic Economic Development Corp. (SEDCOR), in partnership with the McMinnville Economic Development Partnership (MEDP), has launched the [Mid-Valley Manufacturers PPE website](#). The goal is to support companies that pivoted to PPE production with a “shop local” model for business-to-business connections.
- **Marion County Outreach** – RS convened a meeting with Latinx leaders, Marion County Commissioner Cameron, and the Public Health Department. The focus was on building stronger, consistent communication and collaboration on COVID response initiatives and longer term work. The group has committed to meeting weekly.

## South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **The SVMC Economic Recovery Team (SVMC-ERT)** – 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/opportunities this past week include:
    - The ERT received an update and were able to ask questions on the upcoming E-Board meeting from Representative Gomberg.
    - A number of communities have been working on submitting proposals to Business Oregon for the small business fund. Additionally Business Oregon was able to provide an update on potential Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding that might be ready in the near term.
    - Georgia Pacific Toledo announced a temporary lay-off of approximately 300 employees. The lay-off will be from 5/21 – 5/28. The expectation is that the employees will come back after the down week.
    - Many communities are looking at creative ways to allow for more physical distancing – looking at how public spaces can be used to help with the larger space needs. Many SVMC communities are collaborating and sharing best practices on the topic.
    - Chinook Winds Casino has a soft opening on 5/20 with a planned full reopening on 5/21.
  - Best practices include:

- The Eugene and Springfield Chambers of Commerce developed a Back to Business Guide that is being updated regularly. The guide has placed all of the state guidance in a single location in an easy to read format. It can be found [here](#).
- The City of Newport just announced their small business funding program that is using available urban renewal funds. The focus is on small business – less than 30 employees – with a primary focus on restaurants.

## [Southern](#) & [South Coast Regions](#) – Alex Campbell

- **South Coast Umpqua Recovery Team:**
  - Held abbreviated meeting, focused only on questions about Phase 1.
  - Comments/concerns were raised about fraternal organizations, bowling alleys, swimming pools, small theaters, faith-based organizations -- and when those types of venues can open.
  - Rep. McKeown discussed a proposal that Rodger Craddock had put forward and is being discussed at League of Oregon Cities (LOC)/ Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) regarding the possibility of allowing some local flexibility in these areas if local public health has the capacity to monitor.
  - Seven Feathers will be open by the end of the month.
- **Coos Bay Village-Brownfield loan approved** – Coos Bay Village is a new multi-use development on Highway 101 in a targeted redevelopment area. Business Oregon and Department of Justice pushed through the contracting on a brownfield loan that was very important to the developer's cash flow situation.
- **Southern Oregon Recovery Team:**
  - Jackson County and Medford, Grants Pass and Ashland submitted applications for the State's small business assistance matching grant program. The relatively simple application process was appreciated.
  - Several communities reported on re-opening that Friday saw a flurry of activity, but weekend was relatively quiet.
  - Multiple reports of challenges bringing back staff or hire new - \$600 bonus UI checks and limited childcare with closed schools were cited.

## [Metro Region](#) – Raihana Ansary

- **Metro Economic Response Team:**
  - Background: 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: Metro RS reviewed the Governor's latest Reopening Framework and Guidelines and provided clarity on commonly asked questions regarding the process and

prerequisites for reopening, metrics for re-imposing guidelines, statewide guidance that will apply effective May 15 including for retail. The Metro Economic Response Team was joined by Martin Golden, Portland District Director for the Small Business Administration. He shared the following information:

**Economic Injury Disaster Loans:**

- These have been around for decades, used to help businesses whose business was interrupted by disasters (hurricanes, floods, etc.)
- In general, EIDL loans are up to \$2M, and carry an interest rate of 3.75 percent. Payments are deferred for 12 months. Generous repayment terms of 15 or 30 years in general. Normally you have to provide a personal guarantee, but that's been waived for loans under \$200,000.
- Loans can be used for unpaid expenses, but cannot be used to prepay a lender.
- This program administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA)'s disaster office. The SBA has received millions of applications.
- Countrywide, as of last week, the SBA has provided 39,000 loans for \$8B. In Oregon, the SBA has provided 423 loans for \$91M.
- Congress, as part of the CARES Act, added option for an advance of up to \$10,000, about \$1,000 per employee. Those are going more quickly. Nationwide, SBA has provided 3 million of these advances, and about 40,000 in Oregon.
- Due to volume of requests, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) loan portal has been closed for the last couple of weeks. It has been reopened for agricultural businesses. Those who have 200 series applications (those with an application number starting with a "2") can also re-apply. Others won't be able to apply until they reopen the portal.

**Paycheck Protection Program (PPP):**

- \$349B awarded in 14 days. These loans are intended to be forgivable, and primarily used for payroll.
  - The intent of the program was to get people off unemployment by either rehiring them or avoiding layoffs, even if work is not available.
  - Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) offers up to \$10M per company. Anything not forgiven turns into a loan with a 1 percent interest rate that must be paid off within 18 months.
  - Plenty of money left in the PPP, though loans are much smaller than they were in the first round.
- **City of Portland/Prosper Portland Economic Intervention Task Force** – Metro RS provided an update to over 75 people on the Governor's latest Reopening Framework and Guidelines and provided clarity on commonly asked questions regarding the process and prerequisites for reopening, metrics for re-imposing guidelines, statewide guidance effective May 15 including, but not limited to, face coverings and retail. The City of Portland's/Prosper Portland's Economic Intervention Task Force includes Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, Portland Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, Prosper Portland Director, Kimberly Branam, Worksystems Director, Andrew McGough and a number of other local private, public, and non-profit leaders.
  - **State COVID-19 Recovery Function** – Metro RS participated in the initial state recovery function partner call regarding COVID-19 response and recovery with a number of state agencies. Metro RS shared efforts underway in the tri-county metro region (Clackamas, Multnomah and

Washington Counties) including the Metro Economic Response Team and work that we are engaged in with Greater Portland Inc. around their Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update, which includes a resiliency component and their regional recovery plan. Metro RS stands ready to engage in the development of a statewide recovery plan.

- **Greater Portland Inc. Road to Recovery** – Metro RS presented the Governor’s latest Reopening Framework and guidelines to over 40 private-sector representatives in the greater Portland region including from Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, and Clark Counties. Metro RS was joined by Governor Jay Inslee staff, Schuyler Hoss, who shared Washington’s strategy for re-opening. We spoke favorably about the West Coast Governor’s Pact and the coordination and collaboration between our states.
- **Greater Portland Inc. Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** – Metro RS participated in strategic discussion with economic development practitioners across the metro region about industry-clusters and economic disruptions i.e. pandemics, natural disasters, automation, etc. that will be addressed in Greater Portland Inc’s CEDS Update.

## 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 [Mid-Columbia Economic Development District \(MCEDD\)](#), based on work Regional Solutions led efforts around fire recovery for the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire and 2018 Grass Fires. This emphasis of the team this week has been three-fold: 1) coordinating on outdoor recreation; 2) helping to connect state and regional efforts to protect farmworker and prepare for harvest; 3) launching a sub-team for regional long-term economic recovery; 4) answering questions related to phase 1 reopening.
  - *Highlights:*
    - Co-Convended with United States Forest Service (USFS)’s Lynn Burditt a 70 person meeting to provide a forum for decision makers around rec to coordinate opening, share safety concerns, and best practices. The inner Gorge in particular is very concerned about the impact of visitors on public health, natural landscapes, the safety of recreation staff, and public safety.
    - Many thanks to Amira Streeter, Linda Roman, Shannon Singleton, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) team, Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and many others for their work to address farmworker safety. I have participated in many meetings this week to help bring an on-the-ground perspective and really appreciate all of the work around that subject. RS has also been in constant communication with The Next Door and local Oregon State University (OSU) extension, who are leading local efforts to address farmworker safety. We expect 6500 farmworkers to arrive in the region in the next week.
    - RS is working with the SBDC, Chambers, and Business Oregon to create communications process to help troubleshoot business questions around reopening. We have found that a lot of questions can be answered by the guidance, and many businesses just needed a little help in understanding the guidance. Last week, 300 people attended a business adaptation training, which included trainers close to the guidance who helped create more broad-based understanding of the framework.

- The team launched a sub-team to work on regional economic recovery with MCEDD staff in the lead. We will discuss recovery at this Friday's resilience team meeting.
- **Process highlight** – Mirroring the State of Oregon process, the team has designated a few folks as the initial leads for recovery, while the rest of the team continues with ongoing work. We are thinking of recovery less as a report writing exercise and more as a process to communicate to needs around recovery to local, state, and federal leadership in real time as well as to enhance the structures that will enable us to fully leverage any tools that become available.
- **Next week:**
  - 1) Preparing communications framework for further phases.
  - 2) Solidifying industry partnerships created through business adaptation training

## Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **OSU Cascades Innovation Summit** – Regional Solutions was a co-sponsor for this event; the event was well received by more than 350 registered participants. Business owners received practical guidance on the sector specific protocols and how to prioritize what is most important to avoiding spread of the virus. There were virtual break out groups for restaurants, construction, retail, personal services and childcare. The childcare break out did not have very many participants, but those who participated were grateful to hear about resources to assist them with obtaining needed supplies.
- **Central Oregon Economic Response/Recovery Team** – met and heard updates on re-opening for Jefferson, Crook and Deschutes Counties and the Warm Springs tribe. The tribe isn't planning on starting their re-opening until June 1<sup>st</sup>. The tribe indicated they needed help procuring hand sanitizer; regional tools and assets were immediately shared. There is interest in testing for employees and some early indication that the super Wal-Mart in Redmond may open a testing site for the public. Deschutes County and the City of Bend both contributed \$50k to a grant fund for childcare providers. City of Bend and Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council will be applying for Business Oregon matching funds for local small business grant funds.
- **Central Oregon Regional Solutions Team** – took a virtual meeting that highlighted cross agency COVID related activities. Of particular interest was the Main Street program developing a recovery action plan for downtowns with a webinar soon for downtown association. Oregon Department of Agriculture is exploring opportunities to develop a state inspection program for meat processing that could be delegated from USDA. Goal is to increase meat processing in state. The Deschutes Basin is expected to be in drought conditions this summer; Deschutes Basin Board of Control is assessing whether to seek a drought declaration from the county commissioners.

## South Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Site visit project Waterfall** – Several Regional Solutions Team (RST) members participated in a virtual site visit for this economic development project in Klamath Falls. Project proponents appear to be ready to move forward. This would be great news for the community (45-50 jobs).
- **South Central Oregon Response/Recovery Team** – Reviewed EO 20-25, the masking guidance and guidance for the public. Klamath Tribes will not open before June 1<sup>st</sup>. The tribe is doing a lot of training for their administrative and casino staff. There was discussion about the continuing challenges for sole proprietors; only one in the region was successful in securing an Economic Injury Disaster Loan through SBA and the Paycheck Protection Program isn't well suited for sole

proprietors. The cities and counties have contributed matching funds (\$165k total) for a small business grant program to be administered by the South Central Oregon Economic Development District (SCOEDD); SCOEDD has applied to Business Oregon's Small Business grant program to match the local funds.

## Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Eastern Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team** – This week the Eastern Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team met and got updates from each county about how the Phase 1 reopening is going so far. Almost all counties shared that most restaurants are taking things slowly and waiting a bit to open up their dine-in seating. There have been some outliers of businesses not following the rules, but the majority are following the guidelines. The local public health folks are working hard to manage communication around the guidelines and contact tracing.
- **Eastern Oregon Flooding** – Unfortunately, Eastern Oregon (and Umatilla County) continues to get plagued with spring flooding. As of this morning there is flooding occurring in Union County (near the cities of Union and Cove), Grant County and Umatilla County (Pilot Rock, Weston and along McKay Creek in Pendleton). The weather is starting to dry out so hopefully we have seen the last of the flooding this week.
- **City of Umatilla Industrial Wastewater Permit** – After almost a year of monthly coordination calls between Regional Solutions, the City of Umatilla, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the private company a final permit modification for the industrial wastewater system for data centers in Umatilla has been finalized. This allows the water from the data centers to go through the City of Umatilla system and then go into an irrigation canal to be used for agricultural irrigation.