



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, April 7th, 2025

Regional Solutions Program Updates

- **Announcing our New Central and South-Central Oregon Regional Solutions Coordinator!**

After a robust recruitment process, we are happy to announce that Scott Aycock will be joining our team as the new Regional Solutions Coordinator for Central and South Central Oregon! Scott has served as the Community and Economic Development Director for the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) for the past five years and has served in related positions at COIC a total of twenty-two years. During his tenure at COIC, Scott has been an active partner with Regional Solutions and participant in the Central Oregon Regional Solutions Team. Overall, Scott has 30 years of public service working on community and economic development, housing, community infrastructure, transit and transportation, natural resource management, renewable energy, strategic planning, collaborative process and governance, and public policy. Scott will start in his new role on May 5th. Please join us in giving Scott a warm welcome!

- **RSAC Housing Production Webinar April 30th**

Continuing our series of informational sessions on topics arising in RSAC discussions around the state, Regional Solutions has scheduled our next webinar focused on Housing Production. Presenters include staff from OHCS, DLCD, and HAPO, who will cover housing finance, Oregon's housing needs assessment, and an overview of the Governor's Housing Production Framework. A recording and presentation slide deck will be shared in an Exchange after the webinar for those who are unable to attend. Please join us to learn from state agency partners about the programs and resources that support communities in advancing housing production!

- April 30; 10:00-11:30am
- [Virtual Link](#)

- **Upcoming Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RSAC) Meetings:**
 - [South Coast](#) (Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties) April 9, 3:30-5:30pm
 - Newmark Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Coos Bay
 - [Virtual Link](#)
 - [Mid-Valley](#) (Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties) April 10, 12:30-3:30pm
 - Chemeketa Community College, Bldg. 9, Rm. 128, Salem
 - [Virtual Link](#)
 - [South Valley/Mid-Coast](#) (Benton, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn Counties) May 21, 10am-12pm
 - [Mid-Valley](#) (Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties) June 12, 1:30-3:30pm
 - [North Coast](#) (Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook Counties) June 16, 1-3pm
 - [North Central](#) (Hood River, Sherman, and Wasco Counties) June 17, 3-5pm

Regional Updates

North Central – Nate Stice

- **Outreach Meeting with Wasco County Communities:** The North Central RS Team met with the City of The Dalles to discuss several exciting projects the city is engaged in, in particular the redevelopment of a downtown parcel and the development of the Federal Street Plaza. The city leveraged brownfields funding and other sources to clear the site of the former Tony's building in the core of downtown. The Urban Renewal Agency selected a project that would create a new production facility and pub for Freebridge Brewing along with a fermentation hub providing workforce and incubation space. Freebridge Owner Steve Light and Ben Gate with Urban patterns laid out the vision in their winning RFI bid, and the team discussed different funding program that might come into play. The redevelopment site is directly next to Federal Street. The city plans to decommission the street to create a pedestrian plaza. They shared designs with the group and talked about funding sources, including potential Oregon Parks and Recreation Department grants. These two projects compliment significant downtown redevelopment in The Dalles. The Federal Street Lofts—an upstairs housing redevelopment project that Regional Solutions helped to fund and supports—sits directly across from the site. The city and RS Team are working on an 80-unit vertical housing development—the Basalt Commons—and the city recently welcomed a grocery store back to downtown—The Farm Stand. The team looks forward to continuing to work with the city on its downtown redevelopment projects.

The team also met with the City of Mosier to discuss their ongoing projects, including water and wastewater needs and their ongoing work on a join city/fire hall, The Mosier Center.

North Coast – Nate Stice

- **Port of Astoria Biproduct Recovery Center:** The North Coast Team convened a meeting with the Port of Astoria, seafood processors, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Business Oregon, Clatsop County, and other stakeholders to review feasibility plans to create a biproduct recovery center to serve seafood processors located in Astoria. While there are still outstanding questions around permitting of the facility, the Port, processors, and DEQ engaged in a production conversation about the next phase of feasibility. Business Oregon and other funders shared potential funding sources.

South Coast – Jessica LaBerge

- **SW Oregon & Douglas County Responds to March Flooding:** Douglas County is still seeking damage assessment and reports – [information below from the County website](#):

REPORT YOUR FLOOD DAMAGE FROM THE MARCH 2025 STORM – FLOOD EVENT!

We strongly urge all residents to take part in our damage assessment survey. If your home, business, church, or non-profit organization was affected by the flooding on March 16, 2025, we want to hear from you! This report is critical in our mission to try to get money and additional resources headed to Douglas County to help our county, communities, and residents recover. If your home, business, church, or non-profit organization were impacted in any way by the March 2025 Storm Event, please take the time to log onto our reporting portals and share your damage assessment.

If your Douglas County home or property was impacted by flooding from the March 2025 Storm, please copy and paste this link:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/ed438c451ca641ff8c6063a401b52d4d>

OR click [Homeowners Survey](#) to report your damage.

If your Douglas County business, church or nonprofit organization was impacted by flooding from the March 2025 Storm, please copy and paste this link:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/dbfa37426a0e46cb9f312823b85f90f2>

OR click [Business Survey](#) to report your damage.

Southern – Jessica LaBerge

- **[SOU to host official memorial service for William Thorndike, Jr.](#):** I hope you will consider joining the community for a celebration of life in honor of Bill Thorndike on Sunday April 27th at 1:30pm in Ashland. (Cameron Aalto, 2025, Ashland.news) SOU will host a public gathering and celebration of the life of William Downie (Bill) Thorndike, Jr. — a prominent statewide civic servant, the university's first board chair and recipient of SOU's highest honor — on Sunday, April 27. Those who attend the event, at 1:30 p.m. in the SOU Music Recital Hall, are encouraged to wear something identifying their affiliation with Thorndike — whether a hat, uniform, sweatshirt or organizational name tag.

“We are honored to host Bill’s memorial service. His service to our university, and to organizations and groups throughout Oregon and beyond, was absolutely unmatched,” SOU President Rick Bailey said in a news release. “We will join his family in paying tribute to him and to the wide variety of causes that were so meaningful to him.”

Thorndike passed away at age 71 while vacationing with his wife, Angela, at the family’s cottage on Whidbey Island, Washington, on Feb. 15. He was a third-generation native of the Rogue Valley, graduating from Medford Senior High School in 1972. **A link to the full article can be found in the title.*

- **ODOT area manager retires after 23 years:** The Southern Regional Solutions Team (RST) bids Jerry Marmon, the Rogue Valley Area Manager for Oregon Dept. of Transportation, congratulations on 23 years of public service and wishes you the very best in retirement. ODOT is a member of the RST and Jerry has been helpful navigating funding, concerns and questions from communities, and helping to advance regionally significant projects. Wishing you all the best in retirement Jerry!
- **Oregon CEO Brian Hall nominated for Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award:** I’m very excited to share the news below. Having met Mr. Hall and toured NIC Industries in 2024, I’m impressed with their growth and the culture of the organization. Brian invests in the company and the people getting it done; he’s energetic and engaging. Way to go Brian! (David Meador, April 1, [NIC Industries](#) Press Release) Brian Hall, CEO of NIC Industries, has been nominated for the prestigious Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the Mountain West region. Established in 1986, the award honors visionary business leaders driving innovation, growth, and purpose. Past recipients of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award include leaders such as Mindy Grossman of HSN, Howard Schultz of Starbucks Coffee, and John Mackey of Whole Foods Market.

Hall’s nomination comes as NIC Industries is gaining a wider reputation as the manufacturer of one of the highest performing coatings solutions available, resulting in substantial company growth. The Oregon company now maintains a network of over 4,000 certified applicators across the globe and has established a first-of-its-kind robotics application program utilized by some of the largest companies in the world. Under Hall’s leadership, NIC has evolved from a niche coatings manufacturer into one of the top 20 in the United States by revenue. The company has developed global reach and secured national partnerships with Walmart and Amazon – all while staying rooted in southern Oregon

Metro – Kathy Hyzy

- **LOC Small Cities Meeting:** Maywood Park recently hosted the Region 2 Small Cities meeting, which was a great opportunity to connect with cities around the region. Glen Bolen from ODOT gave a great presentation on the [Transportation and Growth Management Program](#) (TGM) that highlighted the many ways it works with cities, counties, tribes and special districts. This program is a joint project of ODOT and DLCD, and helps governments across Oregon with skills and resources to plan long-term, sustainable growth in their transportation systems in line with other planning for changing demographics and land uses. The program provides both grant resources and technical expertise, making them an especially valuable resource for smaller cities and tribes.



- **Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable:** PILR's bi-monthly meeting was hosted by Barbie's Village, an Indigenous-owned former church campus in inner NE Portland that serves as a gathering place and resource for Indigenous women and families. They are working to add a tiny homes village to the campus in the future. Portland has one of the highest urban indigenous populations anywhere in the country, and so gathering spaces that provide a place to connect and build community are crucial. The meeting covered a lot of ground, but kept circling back to the uncertainty and growing impacts of federal funding freezes and cuts. NW Native Chamber is convening native and indigenous-serving nonprofits to discuss these impacts and will bring their findings back to a future PILR meeting.
- **Salmonberry Trail:** I had the chance to join staff and other trail enthusiasts for the Salmonberry Trail out on a walk along their "Learning Mile", a section of the trail near the western terminus of the trail just outside of Banks. Not only was it a rare dry spring day, it was a fun and informative to hear about their work to build relationships with local communities and landowners, and to witness the restoration efforts already underway. We also heard from educators who are planning for a future where the trail can serve as a living classroom, hosting field trips that focus on Indigenous history, ecology, and more. Our walk led to just one of dozens of trestles that will one day be part of the 82-mile trail connecting Banks to Tillamook. More walks are in the works, and are open to the public.



Greater Eastern – Courtney Crowell

- **Harney County Flooding:** Things are stabilizing but still pretty dire in Harney County and there are worries about additional flooding from the warm weather that is expected over the next week, so everyone is still on high alert. Huge kudos to everyone in Harney County working so hard on this devastating flooding event and to all the state agencies working closely with the communities in the County. Included below is a link to a survey to help those impacted to do an initial damage assessment.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS
2025 FLOODS



English:  If your home and/or business was impacted by flooding in 2025, please complete this Initial Damage Assessment Survey. This survey is focused on identifying the physical and economic impacts of the flood on our local communities.

Español:  Your participation in this survey helps us better understand the impacts.

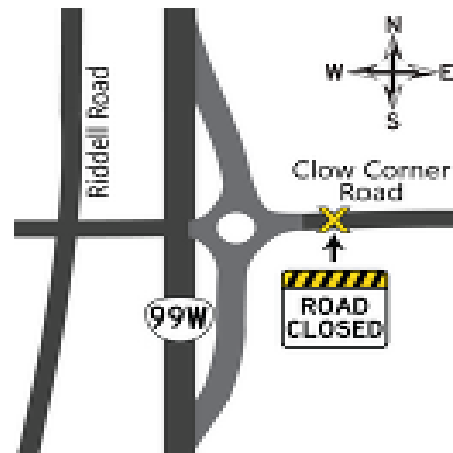
Event Type: Flood 

- **Treasure Valley Reload Facility Project:** Regional Solutions continues to work closely with the Malheur County Development Corporation as they finalize the rail portion of the project and work on finding a path forward for the project. We continue to help with ongoing conversations between MCDC and ODOT and ensuring a successful project at the end. Big thanks to everyone for leaning in and working together over the past few weeks.

Mid-Valley - Beth Wytoski

- **Child Care Infrastructure:** House Bill 3005 authorized a \$50 million investment to expand child care and preschool facilities across Oregon. The funds are intended to be a partnership with private providers to support the establishment, expansions, and/or improvements of childcare facilities. Business Oregon awarded Creative Kidz One LLC and Creative Kidz Nursery, located in Newberg, \$40,000 to improve their facilities to better accommodate the children in their care without impacting the rates paid by the parents they serve. We are especially pleased to see investments in locally owned businesses, in this case operated by Newberg natives, who recognize the growing need for quality childcare. Their model provides more than basic supervision, with a program that emphasizes STEM and school readiness.

- **Dallas and Rickreall ODOT Work:** The Dallas Transportation System Plan process is well underway and there is a virtual open house until April 7, where visitors can learn more about the TSP as well as the process, learn how to become involved, and share thoughts about the direction of the plan. These plans consider roadway, pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit systems. Multiple perspectives are very important to creating a plan that works for the entire community! The ODOT crews are also bringing curb ramps and ADA standards in Dallas and nearby in Rickreall. These improvements will help improve accessibility for everyone whether users drive, ride, walk, or roll. During construction, crews will be working mostly during the daytime so please watch for flaggers, shoulder and lane closures and expect delays and noise.
- **Clow Corner Roundabout:** ODOT crews have also been working to build a new roundabout at the intersection of 99W and Clow Corner Road. Clow Corner Road was closed east of 99W in February and is expected to remain out of commission for about 5 months. There is a signed detour for daytime travel and nighttime closures may be necessary on 99W. Some components of the roundabout are already placed and it's looking very nice. This work is expected to conclude around August and the traffic should flow much better (and safer).



Resources and Opportunities

- **Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Member Recruitment:**
We are still accepting applications for those interested in serving on a Regional Solutions Advisory Committee. Please consider applying, and share this opportunity with others who might be interested in lending their energy and expertise to this collaborative program. For more information about our regions and committees, visit the [Regional Solutions website](#) or contact your local RS Coordinator. Details about the application process, and the links to apply, can be found on the Governor's [Executive Appointments website](#).
Applications are due by May 30th.

- **DEQ Stormwater General Permit Listening Session:**

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has begun work on the renewal of the current 1200-C Construction Stormwater General Permit which is set to expire on Dec. 14, 2025. Please view [DEQ's construction stormwater permit web page](#) for the latest information.

DEQ will host three listening sessions to begin to engage interested parties on permit renewal efforts. Sessions will include a summary of proposed changes followed by an opportunity to share feedback or ask questions. Please register for a session using the links below. After registering, attendees will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Virtual listening session schedule

Session 1: Thursday, April 24, 2025, 8:30-10:00 a.m.

[Register for this session via Zoom.](#)

Session 2: Monday, April 28, 2025, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

[Register for this session via Zoom.](#)

Session 3 - *for municipalities and government**

Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

[Register for this session via Zoom.](#)

**While this is a targeted session for municipalities and government entities, if representatives from these groups can't make this session, they can come to any other session, and this session is still open to anyone.*

If you cannot attend any of these listening sessions and would like to submit suggestions for consideration, email 1200cpubliccomment@deq.oregon.gov.

- **Cultural Development Program Grant Application Now Open**

The [guidelines](#) and [required budget form](#) are posted for those planning to apply for the Cultural Trust's fiscal year 2026 Cultural Development grant awards. The application went live the week of March 31 with a deadline of 5 p.m. on Friday, May 7.

The Cultural Development Program supports cultural projects addressing one of four application categories: Access to Culture; Cultural Heritage & Preservation; Cultural Creativity; or Strengthen Cultural Capacity. In 2024, 98 grants ranging from \$5,000 to more than \$35,000 were awarded; those numbers should increase this year due to the increase in fundraising results – thank you donors! [General information on the program here.](#)

- **DLCD GIS Explorer:**

The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is introducing a comprehensive and interactive Equitable Engagement Toolkit and Geographic Information Systems-based Community Explorer. These tools will assist communities in meeting several regulatory, grant writing, and reporting requirements for Climate Friendly and Equitable Community, housing, and technical assistance grant work. It will also be available for voluntary use in a variety of other community applications. Users will be able to look at property specific potential uses, restrictions, and other factors in development, helping to inform investment decisions and save planning time as well as staff time. DLCD is offering training for community partners and consultants who support partners in this work. There are two opportunities to attend the training and they will also be recorded and available on the website afterward.

May 8th. 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

[Register in advance for this meeting here.](#)

May 20th, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

[Register in advance for this meeting here.](#)

- **DLCD Hosting Coastal Community Meetings on Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap**

The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) will be hosting a series of community meetings along the Oregon coast related to the development of a state Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap, as directed by the Oregon Legislature. DLCD has been hosting meetings with an [Offshore Wind Roadmap Roundtable](#) since November 2024, with a goal of completing a Roadmap by mid-2026.

The community meetings will be an opportunity to learn more about the status of offshore wind in Oregon and the state Roadmap, as well as the opportunities community members have to add their perspectives to the process.

DLCD Community Meetings		
Date	Time	Location
April 24th (Thursday)	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.	Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, OR 97138
May 14th (Tentative)	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.	Brookings-Harbor High School 8293, 625 Pioneer Rd., Brookings, OR 97415
June 16th or 18th (TBD)	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.	Sunset Middle School 245 S Cammann St., Coos Bay, OR 97420

More About the Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap

[House Bill 4080](#) in the 2024 Legislative Session directed DLCD to develop an Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap that defines standards to be considered in the processes related to offshore wind energy development and approval. According to House Bill 4080, the standards defined in the Offshore Wind Roadmap must support:

- Effective stakeholder engagement
- Local and regional coastal communities
- The creation of economic opportunities and sustainment of existing local and regional economies
- The creation of an offshore wind energy workforce that is local, trained, housed and equitable
- Protection of tribal cultural and archaeological resources, culturally significant viewsheds and other interests of Indian tribes
- Protection of the environment and marine species
- Achievement of state energy and climate policy objectives, including energy resource diversity, reliability and resilience of state and regional energy systems

Visit the DLCD [Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap web page](#) to find more information about the Roadmap process, sign up for notices and updates related to the Roadmap, and find information from our past and upcoming meetings. Every meeting of the Roadmap Roundtable is open to the public, with a remote participation option and an opportunity for comment. Meetings are livestreamed on YouTube and available to view afterward. The Roadmap webpage also includes past meeting materials and registration links for upcoming meetings as they become available. DLCD intends to provide a draft Roadmap for broad public comment before submitting it to the legislature.

- **Legislative Community Budget Hearings Continue**

The Joint Committee on Ways and Means continues its tour of the state to hear directly from Oregonians regarding the 2025-2027 budget. Oregonians are encouraged to sign up to testify about which projects and programs the state should prioritize this budget cycle. Individuals interested in testifying before the committee should sign up in advance for the hearing they plan to attend. The April 16 public hearing will prioritize virtual testimony so everyone in the state has an opportunity to testify on their budget priorities. Upcoming dates and locations of the community budget hearings are:

La Grande | Friday, April 11 (5:00pm – 7:00pm)

Eastern Oregon University, Hoke Union Building #339, 1 University Boulevard, La Grande
[Members of the public can register to testify here](#)

Salem, Virtual Testimony Prioritized | Wednesday, April 16 (5:00pm – 7:00pm)

Oregon State Capitol Building, Hearing Room F 900 Court St NE, Salem
[Members of the public can register to testify here](#)

Klamath Falls | Friday, April 25 (5:00pm – 7:00pm)

Klamath Community College, Building 4 Commons 7390 South 6th Street, Klamath Falls
[Members of the public can register to testify here](#)