



RS EXCHANGE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, May 5th, 2025

Regional Solutions Program Updates

- **Welcome Scott Aycock to the Regional Solutions Team!**
Our Central and South Central Regional Solutions Coordinator has officially joined the team. Scott Aycock comes to us from Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, bringing deep knowledge and relationships within these regions. Scott's new email address is Scott.Aycock@oregon.gov. Please offer him a warm welcome as he starts this work!
- **RSAC Housing Production Webinar Recording**
Thank you to all our panelists and attendees who participated in last week's Housing Production webinar! If you were unable to attend or would like to review any of the content, a recording of the presentation can be found at the following link. Slides are included as an attachment to this email
 - [Virtual Link](#)
 - Password: 6YJ+W8T!
- **Upcoming Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RSAC) Meetings:**
 - [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

South Valley/Mid-Coast – Courtney Flathers

- **City of Sodaville Drinking Water Projects:** Members of the South Valley/Mid-Coast Regional Solutions team have been meeting monthly with the City of Sodaville since August 2024 to support the city with several drinking water projects. In 2024, the city secured legislative funding for a new well and they are in the process of securing a new water right to complete the project. Last month Sodaville was awarded a \$50,000 grant through Business Oregon's Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Project (SIPP) program for a water master plan. This master plan will position the city to apply for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for a water storage reservoir that will be an important step in helping the city build out a more reliable drinking water system to serve the community. Our regular team meetings with the city will continue while these projects take shape.
- **2025 Community Solutions Summit:** On April 24th, the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce held its 2025 Community Solutions Summit focused on the crucial role of child care in the economy. The event brought together business leaders, educators, policymakers, and more to learn about the challenge of finding affordable and accessible child care and the many ways leaders across the county are working to address this shortage. The half-day event featured several speakers including the Senior Director of Workforce & International Labor Policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce speaking on the impact of child care on the latest workforce trends as well as panels of local employers, child care providers, and emerging public/private partnerships. There was also a discussion about innovative local efforts to increase the supply of child care slots in Lane County, including the Early Child Care Business Accelerator program and the recent approval of the Lane Early Learning Registered Apprenticeship. Affordable and accessible child care is a key priority for the South Valley/Mid-Coast Regional Solutions Advisory Committee and we look forward to learning from and supporting the impressive work being led by the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce.
- **Best Place for Working Parents[®]:** Featured at the 2025 Community Solutions Summit, Best Place for Working Parents[®] is a growing national network focused on spurring economic development by engaging the business community in adopting research-backed policies that benefit working parents and businesses' bottom line. Businesses that achieve the Best Place for Working Parents[®] designation through the online self-assessment receive instant access to digital badging and PR messaging. [Here](#) you can see a list of current Best Place for Working Parents[®] designees in Lane County and find a link to the self-assessment. [Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties](#) are also engaged in the effort to grow this network.

South Coast – Jessica LaBerge

- **Registration closing soon for the [Southwest Oregon Economic Summit](#):** Tours set for May 13th in either Coos Bay, Roseburg or Grants Pass; Conference May 14-15 at Seven Feathers Casino Resort. Link in the title for more information.

- **Fueling the Future of Skilled Trades** – Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board (SOWIB) announced investments in the future of skilled trades with a \$100,000 donation tied to the launch of a diesel mechanic technology program at Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC). This donation is the first step toward the college constructing



a shop building for the new hands-on training designed to prepare students for in-demand careers in the diesel repair industry. The program will provide students with entry-level skills in engine and truck maintenance and repair fundamentals, creating a direct pathway to high-paying jobs in industries such as trucking, maritime, fleet management, rail, forestry and agriculture. Graduates will have the opportunity to earn short-

term certificates and advanced certifications, equipping them with valuable credentials to secure jobs in high-demand fields. “This program is a game-changer. Our region’s businesses and agencies have struggled with a shortage of mechanics, and this program will help quickly,” said Patty Scott, college president. “This project is a perfect example that when we work with industry partners, we innovate to meet workforce needs, design hands-on programs, and put students on career paths where they are in high demand immediately when they complete training.”

To learn more about SOWIB visit, www.sowib.org

Mid-Valley – Beth Wytoski

- **Site Visit in Monmouth:** The Mid-Valley Regional Solutions Team, including leadership from ODOT, DEQ, and Business Oregon, visited the City of Monmouth. We toured some local



projects and discussed several recent success stories. They are especially focused on improving local infrastructure and housing accessibility. We enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the local officials with a lunch meeting that included several staffers who provided a great view into the operations and priorities of the City before boarding a bus to view a

repaving project and talk about transportation needs; a state owned bridge in need of improvement; and a Housing Development - a great example of increasing housing stock through updating regulations. Back at City Hall we talked further about the need to develop a site with irrigation lines for effluent to flow from treatment to land where it can be

discharged. Business Oregon and DEQ are both collaborating on the project and explained potential funding sources. The city is also working with Representative Evans' office to seek a direct appropriation. We discussed their housing needs and some of the adjustments they've made to allow for housing development like changing vertical limits and working toward a UGB swap; and we acknowledged challenges like the growing number of unhoused seniors. One standout project in the community is the MI Trolley. A joint transportation project with Monmouth and Independence, the bus service has resulted in several local improvements from increases in park utilization to decreases in senior medical appointment no-shows. The trolley is also, *incredibly*, FREE - so they are working toward long term funding mechanisms to cover the \$900K operating budget, which sustains more than 10,000 monthly rides. We will work together to facilitate paths through state systems, identify funding sources, and support reviews of best practices to support the City's pursuit of their goals.



Metro Region—Kathy Hyzy

- **Portland's Mayor Wilson, Governor Kotek Announce SDC Waiver Proposal:** Last week, Governor Kotek and Portland Mayor Keith Wilson announced a city initiative to usher in the development of 5,000 new units of housing in Portland as an early action of the [Multifamily Housing Workgroup](#) launched earlier this year. If passed by the City Council, the City of Portland would waive the System Development Charges (SDCs) in Portland until 5,000 housing units are built or three years have passed. The intent of this initiative is to be a temporary, crisis-time opportunity for developers to build with lower costs in Portland.

Portland's housing construction crisis is real: in 2023, the city set a goal of constructing



roughly 5,200 units of housing per year. Last year they were on track to build only 500 new homes. As housing doesn't get built, it becomes more scarce and more expensive, adding to the region's challenges with houselessness.

SDCs are an essential tool for local governments to facilitate the provision of urban services. They pay for the

construction of new infrastructure, parks, and utilities in places where housing is added. Unlike many other cities in the region where growth is happening in newly-developing sites, Portland needs to build housing in parts of the city where infrastructure like roads, sewers and parks already exist. The governor recognizes infrastructure is necessary for housing development, and has recommended \$100 million to support this work in HB 3031, the Governor's Infrastructure for Housing Program.

- **Women's Professional Sports Training Facility Groundbreaking:** RAJ Sports, owners of both the new Portland WNBA team and the Thorns soccer team recently held a groundbreaking celebration for their new \$150 million facility in Hillsboro, and Governor Kotek was on hand to applaud the development. This 12-acre state-of-the-art facility will be the first in the world dedicated to excellence in professional women's sports, providing practice fields as well as training and sports medicine equipment designed specifically for women. Fun fact: Governor Kotek was chosen as a point guard for the All-County team for basketball two years in high school! As she said at the event, "I couldn't be more proud to see this investment in our state, in women's sports, and in a future where industry excellence doesn't discriminate based on gender. The path to championships for both the Thorns and our new WNBA team runs right through this performance center, and we're all going to be there cheering them on."



Northeast – Courtney Crowell

- **Wallowa Lake Dam:** Regional Solutions continues to engage with stakeholders on fish passage options related to the Wallowa Lake Dam. This week Trout Unlimited brought together all the stakeholders in the Wallowa Lake Dam project to discuss a preferred alternative volitional fish passage option for the dam rehabilitation project. Regional Solutions will continue to work closely with ODFW and all the stakeholders as we look at this alternative option and its feasibility.
- **Dayville Wastewater Project:** We had another good conversation with the city of Dayville and DEQ this week to discuss their ongoing enforcement issues around their wastewater system. The good news is that DEQ and the city have worked on a mutual agreement order (MAO) that should be close to signing that will get the city back into compliance and

address previous fines. The city is also applying to DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund to do some planning work and a rate study to further address future needs with the system. Regional Solutions will hold one more monthly collaborative call but we are close to calling this a win in helping this very small city get back into compliance and address their wastewater challenges.

- **Milton-Freewater Water Collaborative Project:** We had our second meeting of the Oregon Solutions Milton-Freewater Water Collaborative project and we remain focused on getting the MOU completed between the CTUIR, Milton-Freewater Water Control District and other key stakeholders. We hope to have an MOU draft in the next month for stakeholders to review and react to.
- **R3 Housing Updates:** Regional Solutions had a chance to connect with Nick Green of R3 (Regional Rural Revitalization Strategies Consortium) recently and hear about the progress they have made on developing housing across Eastern Oregon and the state. R3 received \$10 million in the 2023 session to develop housing and below is the progress they have made to date. They have an ask in the legislature for another \$20 million to continue the model across the state.

County	Funds Committed	Units
Harney	\$3,355,000	183
Baker	\$2,740,000	116
Grant	\$760,000	42
Lake	\$412,000	18
Crook	\$250,000	132
Union	\$560,000	27
Wallowa	\$90,000	3
Wasco	\$25,000	
Statewide	\$50,000	
Total	\$8,242,000	521

Per Unit Investment \$15,820

- **CTE Home Building Projects:** Recently, Regional Solutions met with a GCT Land Management out of La Grande who has been doing cottage cluster projects across Eastern Oregon and was instrumental in developing the home building CTE program out of La Grande high school. They are looking to expand this model across other Eastern Oregon high schools so between Regional Solutions and the Eastern Oregon CTE regional director, we are going to help identify a few other schools that might be possibilities over the next year or so. It was a good meeting with the developer, DCLD regional rep and the HAPO and the regional CTE director.

Resources and Opportunities

- **Ford Family Foundation Rural Community Economic Development Planning**

The Ford Family Foundation would like to partner with rural jurisdictions creating or updating their economic development plan. An economic development plan is a strategic document outlining a community's economic development vision, goals, objectives, and actionable next steps over a 5-to-10-year timeline. This plan allows a community to take control of its economic future by diversifying the local economy on its own terms, strengthening partnerships, and unlocking funding opportunities for identified projects. A community-based approach aligns the planning process with and supports broader regional economic development strategies. This creates cohesion and coordination among different organizations and levels of government and agencies. Rural jurisdictions can then better demonstrate evidence-based decision-making, intentionality, and collaboration, increasing their competitiveness for funding opportunities. To learn more about this opportunity, contact community economic development program officer Rozalyn Mock at rmock@tfff.org.

- **PSU Calling for Projects for 2025 Public Service Fellowships**

Portland State University's Center for Public Service Fellowships Program has recruited exceptionally qualified, trained, and diverse fellowship candidates from prestigious institutions throughout the U.S to serve as project managers for Oregon's public sector in 2025-26. Fellows provide skill capacity near-term to ensure critical projects are completed, and are prepared to support sponsors in areas such as research and analysis, community engagement, program evaluation, and more. PSU is actively seeking new projects for summer 2025 start dates for the following programs:

- **The Hatfield Resident Fellowship:** 32-week (32-hours/week) assignments, specifically designed for recent graduates who have completed a Master or Ph.D. program within the last year, or who will receive their degrees before their Fellowship begins. Fellows are hired as Portland State University staff and contracted to work with public agencies through intergovernmental agreements. Start dates range between June and September. The cost for this fellowship is \$48,420.
- **Oregon Summer Fellowship:** 10-week, full-time Fellowship (400 hours total) designed for current graduate students who are on summer break from their regular enrollment. Oregon Summer Fellows retain their status as students at their home institutions during their Fellowships. Start dates range between May and early July. The cost for this fellowship is \$11,816.

Review the [talent bank](#) or [learn how to sponsor](#) one of this year's candidates.

- **RSAC 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.**

PACIFIC POWER Wildfire Prevention Forum in Josephine County

Date: Wednesday, May 14th, 5:30 - 7:30pm

Location: Josephine County Fairgrounds, Floral Building, 1451 Fairgrounds Road, Grants Pass

Pacific Power is hosting a Wildfire Customer Forum to discuss:

- How Pacific Power is adapting to this new era of extreme weather in the areas of meteorology, wildfire mitigation and emergency management.
- How we use advanced forecasting to put us ahead of the weather and hear about our ongoing work to strengthen the electrical grid.
- Learn how Public Safety Power Shutoffs, emergency de-energizations, enhanced safety settings and other methods are used to reduce the risk of wildfire and keep communities safe.
- Get answers to your wildfire mitigation questions during a Q&A session.
- Enjoy a free meal.

Spanish and American Sign Language interpreting services will be available.