



RS EXCHANGE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Tuesday, May 19th, 2026



Upcoming RSAC Meetings

Southern (Jackson and Josephine Counties)

Tuesday, June 2nd from 12:00-2:00pm

155 N 1st St, Central Point, OR 97502

[Virtual Link](#)



Plan for a Resilient Oregon RSAC Webinar Recap & Next Steps

Thanks to everyone who participated in our recent Community Resilience webinar with the Plan for a Resilient Oregon (PRO) team! This people-centered resilience strategy is being created to help communities around Oregon adapt and thrive in the face of increasingly severe disasters, and they want to hear from you as they craft the plan! Please take a moment to let the team know how you felt about what you heard, the seminar overall, and the topics at hand by filling out this [survey](#).

If you missed the webinar, you can watch it [here](#) and view the [slide deck](#), or see the below resources for more information on the PRO and for additional ways to get involved:

- Learn more about the PRO on their [website](#).
- Check out the list of local Regional Resilience Forum member organizations [here](#).
- Attend the next Statewide Resilience Forum meeting on May 20 from 1:00-3:00pm on Zoom. [Register here](#) to join in and watch.

Regional Updates

Central – Scott Aycock

4D Recovery Bend Ribbon Cutting: I had the great pleasure of attending and making brief remarks at the [4D Recovery](#) Bend site ribbon cutting ceremony on behalf of the Governor and First Lady on May 8. Other speakers included Bend Mayor Melanie Kebler, State Representatives Jason Kropf and Emerson Levy, Measure 110 Program Director Abbey Stamp, and 4D Recovery Bend site Director Gabriele Ward. Gabriele discussed the cycle of use, rehabilitation, and relapse when individuals



return to their former family and social environment (see this short [video](#) which profiles Gabriele Ward's own experience). 4D Recovery fills a key gap in addiction recovery by providing youth and young adults with a space to, in their terms, "kick it" and socialize/recreate with other young people facing the same issues. 4D also utilizes a peer mentoring approach, with onsite staffing by individuals who have personal experience with addiction and recovery. Services like what 4D offers are not reimbursable by Medicaid, so this is often a gap in many communities. Here in Oregon, 4D Recovery is funded through Oregon's Measure 110 funding.

Mid-Valley – Beth Wytoski

Mid-Valley Resource Awards:

- The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde were awarded \$1,383,789 in Tribal Housing Grand Funds for the development of Wind River Apartments
- Marion County Housing Authority was awarded \$29,138,120 in LIFT dollars, LIHTC funds, and Conduit Bonds for the redevelopment of the Farmdale Apartments in Woodburn

Agricultural Roundtable: In collaboration with SEDCOR's Alex Paraskevas, the Economic Development Manager for Polk County, an industry specific conversation was held to discuss agricultural interests, challenges, and ideas. Representatives from seed, growing, processing, and exporting were present, as was Oregon's Chief Prosperity Officer, Tim Knopp. Participants shared several ideas about needing greater investment into ag-research, enforcing pricing agreements, updating regulations, simplifying employment practices, and of course there were diverse ideas around wages and taxation. The meeting was well attended the conversation was candid and robust. There have been more than three dozen roundtable gatherings across the state to contribute to the Prosperity Council considerations for their June recommendations.

Santiam Canyon Fire Recovery: Renters affected by the 2020 Labor Day fires who are currently renting or working to buy their first homes can still apply for some supportive housing programs through Oregon Housing and Community Services. The Intermediate Housing Assistance (IHA) program can cover short-term needs like rent and utility assistance. The Down Payment Assistance Program can help with cash toward a home purchase as well as closing costs for first time buyers. Housing Counseling Services are also offered with HUD certified counselors providing assistance in a broad range of areas to help survivors create a personalized action plan to achieve their housing goals. Services may include budgeting, eviction protection, and legal aid. Please visit [Housing Support](#) for more information.

Housing Innovative Village Experience (HIVE): A group of affordability centered partners including the Missing Middle Housing Fund, SEDCOR, and



the Newberg Workforce Housing Consortium broke ground on a 10-unit cottage cluster designed to improve access to workforce housing for residents earning 80 – 120% of the area median income. The initiative is supported by local employers including Providence Health, A-dec, George Fox University, Habitat for Humanity, and Friendsview Retirement. To improve affordability and longevity of the housing, they are utilizing new building materials, modular assembly,

innovative financing, and advocating for policy updates to allow successful strategies to be scaled.

South Valley/Mid-Coast – Courtney Flathers

D River State Recreation Site: Construction is underway at the D River State Recreation Site in Lincoln City! This \$6.7 million project includes a new welcome center, upgraded parking and beach access, and increased accessibility features. State support for this project includes \$2.5 million in lottery funds. As part of this work, management of the D River site will be transferred from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to Lincoln City. Over the past several weeks I have worked with OPRD and the Department of Administrative Services to complete the final agreements so the city's contractors can get to work. Local officials marked the official groundbreaking on May 6th. The D River State Recreation Site is one of the most frequently visited places on the Oregon Coast with 1.5 million visits per season. Improvements are scheduled to be completed by early 2027.



Conceptual image of the new Lincoln City Welcome Center at the D River Wayside

GP Toledo: I recently visited GP Toledo's pulp and paper mill with Business Oregon's Regional Development Officer Heather Stevens and Chief Prosperity Officer Tim Knopp. GP Toledo is an anchor of Lincoln County's economy, employing approximately 450 people and accounting for approximately 10% of the County's GDP. It was a great opportunity to take a deep dive on GP's operations in Toledo and gain an understanding of the state and federal regulatory landscape that shapes their footprint in the state. Many thanks to GP for the hospitality.

Van Buren Bridge Ribbon Cutting: On May 6th I attended the ribbon cutting for the Van Buren Bridge in Corvallis. This \$85 million project funded by the 2017 transportation package is the second seismically resilient bridge over the Willamette River in Oregon. The new bridge includes two eastbound travel lanes, a bike lane, and a protected bicycle and pedestrian path. The bridge's supports feature a carved mural of an Oregon landscape and flowing river created by Steph Littlebird, an artist and enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde. After the groundbreaking, attendees were invited to walk the new pedestrian path across the river.



North Central – Nate Stice

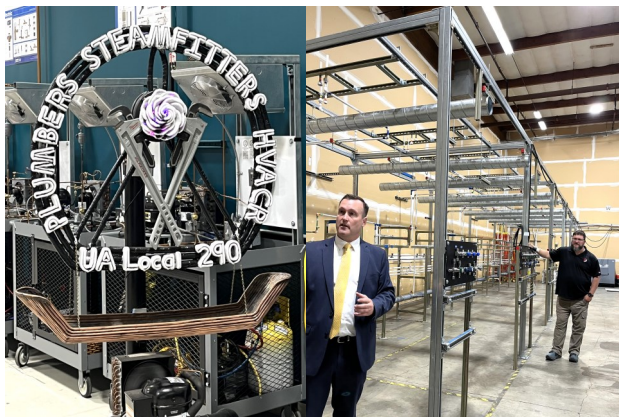
Gilliam County Get-to-Know-You Visits: Regional Solutions joined MCEDD's get-to-know-you visits with Gilliam County, the cities of Arlington and Condon, the Port of Arlington, and Pioneer Community Development Corporation following Gilliam County's formal addition to the MCEDD region. The visits provided an opportunity to build relationships with local partners and discuss a range of community and economic development priorities, including infrastructure, transportation, industrial lands, port-related development, public services, and opportunities to better connect Gilliam County projects with state and regional resources. Housing emerged as a key area of focus. Gilliam County is exploring how to take its housing efforts to the next level, building on successful work through Pioneer CDC and site-

specific opportunities connected to the former Condon Grade School and housing development in Arlington. The county is also contemplating a housing study to help clarify next steps, assess local and workforce housing needs, and position partners for future funding opportunities.

Metro – Kathy Hyzy

RST Meeting with City of Fairview: The Regional Solutions team met virtually with the City of Fairview to learn more about their challenging budget situation and to look for opportunities for the state to provide some support. This city of 11,000 residents has been paying for its public safety services out of the general fund for many years, and costs now exceed revenue. Combined with deferred maintenance on essential facilities and water systems, they are in a tight spot that is familiar to many smaller cities around the state. As resources continue to be constrained by Measures 5 and 50, cities like Fairview are faced with difficult decisions: how much to raise costs for residents, who may not be able to afford increases, and how much to cut back on things like policing or continue to defer basic upkeep on roads, buildings, and pipes? The team was able to identify a number of potential programs at the state that could help meet some needs and are following up with city staff.

UA Local 290 Training Facility Tour: I had the opportunity to join several state representatives and other leaders on a tour of the incredible United Association Local 290 College of Mechanical Systems and Technology in Tualatin. The center trains plumbers, steamfitters, and HVAC apprentices how to install everything from legacy boiler systems to the latest technologies in HVAC systems for ultra-clean rooms in semiconductor fabs and bioscience labs. Once an apprentice is accepted, training takes place in five one-week sessions a year, and all training is financed by current union members. It was incredible to see a mock-up of gas lines for oxygen and other critical gases, just as you would encounter in a hospital, and stations



that replicate what a technician will find in the ceiling of Intel. The chance to build familiarity with these systems in the classroom helps ensure apprentices receive the training they need to do extremely important, technical work. Thanks to Local 290 for the great experience!

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People's Day: I joined Shana McConville Radford, Governor Kotek's Director of Tribal Affairs, at Metro's coffee hour and presentation in recognition of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People's Day. It was great to be a part of the community-building and to hear the moving presentation to Metro Council. As Governor Kotek stated in her proclamation, "For far too long, the unsolved deaths and disappearances of Indigenous persons, especially women, have not seen justice. On Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day, we recommit ourselves to addressing the root causes and systemic obstacles contributing to this crisis."

Estacada Open House: A portion of the Metro Regional Solutions team joined Estacada for an event that was part tour, part report-out on the work the Rural Community Assistance Corporation has been doing with the City of Estacada for the past year. They highlighted conversations around possible paths forward for a new fire station for the Estacada Fire District, lots of creative, low-cost ways to address traffic congestion around school pickup times, thanks in part to a Safe Routes to School grant, and the ongoing funding challenges for Estacada School District. We also received an update on the work to redevelop a 90-acre mill site that is situated in the heart of Estacada. The city received a 2025 Transportation Growth Management grant for site redevelopment planning from DLCD and ODOT, and the community engagement work will soon be underway. The DEQ Phase 2 evaluation of the site has been completed and identified only minor remediation needs. The developer is moving ahead with removal of extensive pavement, with plans to use the materials as fill in other parts of the site as it proceeds. It's exciting to see the potential for this piece of property finally being unlocked!

Eastern — Courtney Crowell

Wheeler County EMS Project: This Oregon Solutions project continues to move forward with a draft document that outlines a consolidated EMS service for Wheeler County. The team is still putting together significant background information, data and planning scenarios so the community has a comprehensive plan for how to consolidate EMS service and contingencies they need to plan for in the future. Overall, it's a great, comprehensive plan that identifies needs and plans around funding, workforce, community education, and sustainability. I'm hopeful we'll have a declaration of cooperation ceremony later this summer as well.

Wallowa Lake Dam Project: Regional Solutions is continuing to coordinate stakeholders in the development of the Wallowa Lake Dam project and we are hopeful that permits and approvals will be moving in the

coming weeks. We've had many great conversations to finalize all questions and concerns from regulatory agencies and are feeling good about finalizing remaining information needs. Stay tuned for more progress soon!

Highway 20 Wildlife Crossing Project: This Oregon Solutions project is getting close to finalizing with a declaration of cooperation signing later this summer in the canyon of highway 20 between Harper and Juntura. All partners have agreed to a set of short, medium and long term goals and significant funding has already been secured for some of the goals. We are planning to have a final community engagement meeting in June and then schedule the final meeting of the project team later in the summer.

Mining Projects in Malheur County: Regional Solutions is working on a variety of mining projects in Malheur County and are convening many different state agency coordination discussions around permitting for the different projects. Lots of exciting opportunities coming in the future!

Super-NOVA Meeting: Attended the quarterly NOVA (Nyssa, Ontario, Vale, Adrian) meeting recently and heard updates on the Biofuels Opportunity Zone that has been designated in Malheur County and the opportunity for a large digester to be built in the region. Additionally, we heard from the Friends of the Owyhee about the recreation opportunities and challenges that Malheur County faces. There are significant infrastructure needs related to recreation in the Owyhee area, including updates to the road leading to the Owyhee Reservoir and at the state park. Our Lake Owyhee road group is addressing some of these needs, however, there has been a huge increase in recreation in the region and the infrastructure to capture that increase has not occurred.

Eastern Oregon Border Board: The Border Board has completed their first cohort graduation for their Rural Roots program which is designed as a leadership program for the Border Region. It was a huge success with 15 individuals completing the training program and putting together a capstone project to help the community. The cohort worked on a project to build a stage in an unused park in downtown Ontario. The planning and design work that they did for their capstone project has led to the Revitalize Ontario project to back a larger park project and for the city of Ontario to commit \$500,000 towards the park upgrades. The Border Board will be moving forward with their second cohort group of this program later this summer.

Resources and Opportunities

Free Water Infrastructure Technical Assistance from EPA

EPA's RealWaterTA aims to assist water utilities, local governments, and communities with challenges such as updating aging infrastructure, returning to and maintaining compliance, accessing financial assistance, or even planning for lead service line removal. RealWaterTA is not a grant program, nor does it provide direct monetary assistance, but they help water and wastewater systems reliably provide safe drinking water and effectively treat wastewater over the long term. To receive support, learn more about [who can receive RealWaterTA services](#) and then submit a webform request on their website. Contact RealWaterTA@epa.gov if you have any questions regarding your organization's eligibility or [learn more here](#).

Opportunity to Sponsor a PSU Public Service Hatfield Fellow

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 2026-27. Fellows provide skill capacity near-term to ensure critical projects are completed, despite staffing constraints. Sponsorships can be 10 or 32 week commitments. Have a project in mind? Email psfellows@pdx.edu to request a virtual meeting or call with a member of the CPS fellowships team! [Become a Sponsor | Portland State University](#)