



RS EXCHANGE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, June 29th, 2026

Regional Solutions Updates

Take the Regional Solutions Survey by July 3rd!

It's not too late to weigh in on the Regional Solutions Survey. We greatly enjoy working with you and appreciate the many collaborations with all kinds of partners, all over the state... and we want to hear from you how we can better work together in the future! The survey also provides the space to highlight issues and opportunities that your local Regional Solutions Advisory Committee and Agency Team should consider as they work to advance community and economic development priorities and move projects forward in your area.

Please take a few minutes to share your perspective by [TAKING THE SURVEY HERE](#).



Regional Updates

Southern – Jessica LaBerge

Governor's Marketplace Conference & Tradeshow: The Governor's Marketplace is coming to the South Coast and will be well worth your time...even if you have attended previously. There will be opportunities to improve your company's bidding and business connections for more success! This one day in-person event brings information about public contracting opportunities and business resources to Oregonians across the state. This year's theme is Pathways to Partnerships. We must prioritize building shared prosperity across the state and for all communities, expanding opportunities for partnership with state agencies. Pre-registration is highly recommended as session space is limited and there is no charge for attending.



Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026

Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Ko-Kwel Casino, 3201 Tremont Ave., North Bend, OR, 97459

[Click here for more information](#)

For questions, contact info.gmp@oregon.gov.

Port of Coos Bay & Pacific Coast Intermodal Port Update (from the Port Newsroom):

The Oregon International Port of Coos Bay has formally executed its \$25 million Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation following approval by the Port's Commission at its special June PCIP Commission meeting. The agreement marks another significant milestone in advancing the Pacific Coast Intermodal Port (PCIP) project. The INFRA grant is one of several recent federal and state investments supporting the project, including a \$29.75 million Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant, an \$11.25 million Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) award, and a \$100 million investment from the Oregon Legislature. NorthPoint Development's \$25 million contribution to the INFRA effort represents the largest private investment in the project to date. Read the full press release [here](#).

Mid-Valley – Beth Wytoski

Mid-Valley Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RSAC): Our Advisory Committee met and heard from Melissa Baurer of the Santiam Hospital about the Service Integration Team (SIT) model which has been lauded and duplicated to provide efficiency, efficacy, and flexibility as an emergency response system. This model was designed more than two decades in advance of the 2020 disasters and was launched in the Santiam Canyon in

2017. One theme that was clear is that great systems are those that exist before an emergency. This 'integration' model brings more than 200 resource-focused groups together by partnering medical providers, school districts, non-profits, community-based organizations, philanthropy groups, and faith-based communities. They were tested in 2020 when services mobilized to respond to Covid-related needs, then in September they shifted to respond to the devastating fires in the Canyon, and again early in 2021 when there were severe cold snaps and ice storms. They are quickly able to pivot because: 1. They have trusting and established relationships across many sectors; 2. They operate with a 'say yes mindset'; 3. They believe housing is healthcare and work diligently to get people shelter first; 4. They can stand up funds immediately; 5. They work with the government and collaborate when agencies mobilize. An editorial note I will add is that this team benefits from Melissa's steady and dedicated leadership as she supported Longterm Recovery Group (LTRG) efforts and the consideration of hundreds of unmet needs. Despite the major disasters to have hit the region, they can now count 361 (100%) households as closed recovery cases. And while many survivors of the fires and storms are not truly recovered, as layers of loss leave lasting effects, their recovery plans have been achieved - what a huge accomplishment! We also enjoyed a presentation from Arthur Chaput of Business Oregon, who explained Opportunity Zones 2.0, including the potential for concentrated investments, an update of the applications received and next steps before the Governor makes her final designations by September.

Business Visits: Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR), Regional Solutions, McMinnville Economic Development Partnership (MEDP), and several local governments are continuing to build connections with business partners to build relationships and identify paths to innovation and growth. This week included conversations with:

- **Universal Seed in Independence:** This visit highlighted some of the limitations of growing in the valley with respect to the field pinning system that preserves crop purity and shifting weather conditions. Despite challenges, there are family focused folks working hard to produce maximum-yield clean seeds, often with very individualized needs. Their focus is on vegetable seeds, particularly high-quality baby greens with spinach, chard, radish, kale, and cabbage varieties topping the list. I look forward to watching and supporting their growth as they certainly seem to be a company always looking forward.
- **BRUCEPAC in Woodburn:** BRUCEPAC prepares pre-cooked proteins, relying on decades of industry experience and adding modern technology to support foodservice operators in commercializing items to individual specifications. They can guarantee a natural product without antibiotics, genetically modified organisms (GMO), or other chemical interventions and offer chicken, beef, pork, and poultry that end up in many



heat-at-home meals. With a significant workforce and other large employers located nearby, this conversation was convened to talk about transportation safety. Wood-burn convened state agency leadership with corporate leaders to talk through current risk and potential solutions in a respectful and productive environment - a good example of a public-private partnership.

- **Hazelnut Growers of Oregon:** This visit was led by SEDCOR and offered a behind-the-scenes look at an agricultural powerhouse. At Hazelnut Growers of Oregon, Oregon hazelnuts are processed and prepared for the global marketplace through orchard



harvest, advanced processing, quality control, and distribution. Leveraging a strategic investment, the facility has upgraded equipment that can turn out whole kernels, diced nuts, meal & flour, paste, praline, and industrial inclusions. They are also Safe Quality Food Level 3 (SQF3) certified, which means they have international recognition of a comprehensive standard for food safety and excellence. As they look forward, they are now brainstorming sustainable options for shell disposal whether that is as fuel, landscaping material, or value-added products.

Central—Scott Aycock

OSU-Cascades Energy Innovation Center: I recently had the pleasure of touring OSU-Cascades' new Energy Innovation Center (EiC). The EiC brings together research expertise, industry partners, and workforce development to accelerate energy-related business development. By advancing new technologies, testing real-world applications, and preparing highly skilled talent, the EiC helps move solutions from concept to deployment. Business commercialization happens in one of two ways at the EiC – the facility provides a commercialization space for research initiated at OSU where researchers and students can hone ideas from the “lab” and seek opportunities for business development, and entrepreneurs can take their ideas and needs to the EiC to help generate business solutions. The EiC also provides an excellent opportunity for students to



get real-world internships and on-the-job training, helping to bolster their resumes and prepare them for employment. The EiC features open/shared office spaces as well as closed offices and labs for private company commercialization and incubation. The EiC has several business partners on site and has successfully launched two highly successful companies.

South Central— Scott Aycock

MountainView Townhomes Grand Opening in Klamath Falls: Stewardship Development, Klamath Housing Authority (KHA), and Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) held a June 23 grand opening of their new 72-unit affordable housing development in southeast Klamath Falls. The development offers 18 one-bedrooms, 27 two-bedrooms, and 27 three-bedrooms; and provides solar panel energy at no cost to the residents. The development also includes a large clubhouse (equipped with a laundry area and a public kitchen) and outdoor play and picnic areas. Income eligibility is limited to households with less than 50-60% of area median income. Mountainview Townhomes received 4% Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, as well as Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credits, and Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) funds from OHCS. National Equity Fund (NEF) is the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) syndicator, construction lending was provided by US Bank, and permanent financing is through Network for Oregon Affordable Housing (NOAH). The Oregon Department of Energy also provided a grant to assist with the installation of solar panels, and Cascade Health Alliance provided a grant for the development. Additionally, Mountainview Townhomes received eight project-based vouchers to serve very low-income families and individuals. Congratulations to all the project partners and to Klamath Falls for bringing needed affordable housing to the community!

North Coast – Nate Stice

North Tillamook Water Collaboration Regional Water Study Update: Regional Solutions convened North Tillamook communities and state partners on June 18 to discuss whether to update the 1993 regional water study for the Manzanita, Nehalem, Wheeler,



Neahkahnie, Rockaway Beach, and surrounding water systems. The original study identified regionalization as a potential path forward, but several assumptions need to be revisited given growth, drought conditions, water-right reliability, housing needs, interties, and source-water protection concerns.

The communities represented expressed support for moving forward with an updated study,

with long-term water supply as the primary focus. Willamette Partnership is exploring United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Finance Center technical assistance to help convene the group, develop a scope, identify an eligible project sponsor, prepare a funding roadmap, and support selected grant applications. Next steps include Willamette Partnership preparing an engagement letter, following up with individual communities, and bringing additional systems such as Garibaldi, Brighton, and Twin Rocks Friends Camp into the conversation.

Greater Eastern – Courtney Crowell

Oregon Business Development Commission Visits Eastern Oregon: Business Oregon leadership and the Oregon Business Development Commission were out in Eastern Oregon this week with visits to Baker City and Ontario. I was able to join Business Oregon leadership for conversations in Ontario with local economic development partners and the Eastern Oregon Border Board, and visited the Treasure Valley Relief Nursery who was awarded a recent childcare infrastructure grant through the agency. I was also able to attend the commission's reception the evening before their board meeting.

Harney Groundwater Oregon Solutions Project: We had our last meeting of the Oregon Solutions project and are working on finalizing the declaration of cooperation and setting the stage for the long-term implementation collaborative. We hope to have the signing of the declaration of cooperation and the first long-term implementation collaborative meeting later this summer. Additionally, on my way to Burns last week I almost ran into a black bear that was crossing the highway near Sumpter. Definitely my most exciting wildlife encounter of the year!!

Resources and Opportunities

Provide Comments on the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Program by July 9

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is seeking public comments on proposed updates to its Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program rules. The LWCF is a federally funded grant program that helps local governments, federally recognized Tribes, and state agencies acquire and develop outdoor recreation areas across Oregon.

Under the proposed update, the OPRD will institute a biennial grant funding schedule: at least one year of each biennium will feature a competitive grant round open to eligible applicants, while the alternate year all available funds will be dedicated solely to OPRD for eligible state park projects. OPRD proposes this approach to help maintain a robust and efficient grant program while also supporting critical state park initiatives.

You can provide public comments through July 9 at 5 p.m. in one of two ways:

Through the [OPRD rulemaking webpage](#)

By email to: public.comment@opr.d.oregon.gov

Marie Lamfrom Foundation Accepting Grant Proposals Until July 10

The Marie Lamfrom Foundation offers a variety of grant programs for community organizations at various stages of development. These unique grant programs are designed to invest unrestricted general operating dollars in Oregon nonprofits doing essential direct-service work in Oregon communities.

☐ **Sunflower Grants** are awards up to \$10,000/year for grassroots and emerging organizations with budgets near or under \$250K.

☐ **Rose Grants** are awards up to \$75,000/year for established nonprofits delivering proven programs or investing in organizational capacity, typically with budgets above \$250K.

☐ **Daffodil Grants** are especially competitive, often multi-year awards up to \$250,000 supporting high-performing organizations with robust infrastructure and demonstrated local or regional impact.

For more information on the Marie Lamfrom Foundation and its programs, click [here](#). Information on funding requirements and priorities can be found [here](#).

Provide Feedback on ODOT's Transportation Action Plan

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is seeking feedback on the updated draft of its Transportation Safety Action Plan. The plan guides ODOT decisions and investments to make roads safer for everyone, including people who walk, roll and bike. ODOT updates the plan every five years, and community feedback is a vital step in their process.

The [updated draft plan is accessible online](#).

You can provide comments on the plan [through an online form](#) or attend the Oregon Transportation Safety Committee on July 8 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The meeting will be in person in Salem and have a virtual attendance option. To provide comment at the meeting, either in person or virtually, participants must [register for the 2026 Transportation Safety Action Plan Public Hearing](#) by noon on July 7.

ODOT will review public feedback and complete the final draft of the updated plan over the summer. The Oregon Transportation Commission is expected to receive the final plan at their October 2026 meeting.

Training Opportunity: Navigating Oregon's Environmental Permits

Clackamas Community College is offering a training for consultants and practitioners on Joint Permit Applications from the Department of State Lands (DSL), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other state and local agencies. The intensive one-day course covers the practical skills and strategies needed to successfully complete Oregon's Joint Permit Application (JPA) and navigate the review processes of multiple permitting agencies. Projects covered range from stream and wetland restoration to private development and public infrastructure.

The course offers practical insights on permit timelines, functional assessments to support mitigation, and effective coordination with agencies from project concept through final approval. Class includes an interactive workshop session where you can bring your project for group discussion, scenario analysis, permitting strategy, Q&A.

[Joint Permit Applications: Navigating Oregon's Environmental Permitting Tickets, Thursday, November 12-Friday, November 13 | Eventbrite](#)