



## **RS EXCHANGE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS**

Tuesday, July 14th, 2026

### **Regional Solutions Survey**

The survey deadline is extended to JULY 24th!

It was brought to our attention that the link to our survey was not working for everyone who tried to click through. Apologies for the technical difficulties. In order to make sure all of our partners have an opportunity to weigh in, we are extending the deadline a couple weeks. Please complete the survey to inform our team about the issues and projects that are front of mind while also sharing about how we can work better together!

If you have not had an opportunity to complete the survey, please do so [here](#).



## Regional Updates

### **Southern – Jessica LaBerge**

**South Coast Community Water Assessment Roadmap:** Hot off the presses, Willamette Partnership has released their Roadmap and educational materials on the topic of community water and the infrastructure that supports it. Thanks to multiple funders, Willamette Partnership spent months researching, interviewing communities, digging into supporting documents, and hearing what would most likely move the needle for communities and their water systems. [From their site](#) - The South Coast is a region facing serious water challenges. Infrastructure is reaching the end of its life span, precipitation patterns have changed and capacity to operate, fund and manage water systems is at a pivotal point. This [Roadmap](#) specifically focuses on South Coast communities and identifies short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions that communities can take to tackle these challenges with a “One Water” mindset. The Roadmap aims to bring findings to water users and providers but could be helpful to other water stakeholders as well. Willamette Partnership is working to secure funding to continue and expand on this work. In addition to the Roadmap they built several Community Water Handouts, including '[Drinking Water Infrastructure 101](#)', '[When to Build Regional Capacity](#)', '[Project and Funding Sequencing: Where to Start?](#)' and more! These will be extremely useful to many – so please share this Roadmap and the Handouts. [Link to the Assessment and Handout here.](#) If you have opportunities to utilize, adapt, or build off of these resources, please let us know.

### **South Central – Scott Aycock**

**Lakeview Community Resource Center:** Last week on my regular visit to Lake County I spent some time at the Community Resource Station in Lakeview. Lake County Resources Initiative (LCRI) started the Community Resource Station in 2024 to serve as a shared place where people can get connected to the support they need. The Station is located on the main drag downtown and is shared by Klamath & Lake Community Action Services (KLCAS), WorkSource Oregon, East Cascade Works, Klamath Works, and The District

(SCOEDD). This year, LCRI contracted with a local craftsman to build a hand-carved wooden sign that now hangs out front. According to Ella Weidner, LCRI Executive Director: "The sign turned out beautifully, and it reflects what this place represents — local pride, local hands, and a shared commitment to making sure people in Lake County have a reliable place to go when they need support." Inside, the open layout helps the agencies work together in a way that only happens when you share space. Someone might come in needing help with their electric bill but also needs help finding a job. Or they're looking for work while dealing with housing issues. Because the agencies are all in the same building, staff can walk someone across the room and connect them directly to the next person who can help. It's simple, but it makes a huge difference for folks who don't have the time, transportation, or ability to navigate multiple agencies on their own. LCRI has been steadily growing the Station and is actively recruiting additional service providers who want to have a presence in Lake County. LCRI is currently working to purchase the building to ensure that Lake County residents may rely on this resource for years to come.



### **Central – Scott Aycock**

**Governor Kotek Visits Central Oregon:** Governor Kotek visited Central Oregon on June 29, in part to celebrate the great accomplishments of our region's local governments and service providers in reducing homelessness in the region by 19% as compared to 2025. The Governor participated in a variety of events at Shepherd's House in Redmond, including a local service provider roundtable, coffee service with local and state elected officials and Tribal officials, a private conversation with individuals having personal

experience with houselessness, and a press conference featuring Governor Kotek, HLC Co-Chair and Rooted Homes Executive Director Eliza Wilson, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs COO Caroline Cruz, Redmond Mayor Ed Fitch, Bend Mayor Melanie Kebler, and state Senator Anthony Broadman.



### **Eastern – Courtney Crowell**

**Wallowa Lake Dam Project:** Things are on track for all the federal and state permitting to be completed on this project by the end of August with the hope of starting construction in September. The construction for this project will be phased over two winters with the dam being retrofitted this upcoming winter and the fish ladder being constructed next winter. Regional Solutions will continue to convene the parties as this project continues moving forward. Overall, great progress!

**Prairie Wood Products Co-Gen Project:** I visited the DR Johnson plant in Prairie City last week and got an update on their efforts to revive their co-generation facility on both the eastside (Prairie City) and westside (Riddle). I'm continuing to work to see if there's anything our office can do to help as their efforts move forward. I'll be engaging with the company again in the coming weeks.

**Wheeler County EMS Oregon Solutions Project:** We are nearing the end of the Oregon Solutions Project that is looking at rural EMS service in Wheeler County. We had a final project team meeting where the group reviewed and initially approved a final proposal that would create a unified countywide special taxing district. This proposal would bring together three separate ambulance districts (Fossil, Spray and Mitchell) into a unified district and would create a stable tax base and billing revenue. It would also build a countywide volunteer pool so that any of the three stations can draw on coverage when needed. This proposal identifies the need for community

education, and the foundation and formation of the taxing district. The county has received a rural health transformation grant that would help provide funding for an EMS director on an interim basis while the county votes on a taxing district. We are hoping for a final signing of a declaration of cooperation in September.

### **Mid-Valley – Beth Wytoski**

**Small Towns with Big Events:** On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the St. Paul Rodeo hosted a legislator talk & tour event which I attended on behalf of the Governor. We enjoyed a great walking tour that introduced us to some of the board Directors, rodeo personnel, and professional staff like veterinarians. We heard a great deal about community history, from quilt making to local celebrities and custom hats. We walked through several facilities as well: temporary tents hosting rodeo officials and historians, vendor-packed booths, beverage focused outlets like The Outpost and Tack Room Saloon, as well as a complete tour of the stands and the jewels beneath. I learned that the 434 people who live in St. Paul host 80,000 visitors during this event; and that the rodeo grounds are smoothed and seeded to become the football field each fall. Inviting policy makers to experience this lasting Oregon tradition was humbling, nostalgic, and so, so fun! You can learn more [here](#).



**SEDCOR Summer Happy Hour:** Yamhill County is the next stop for these SEDCOR convened conversations. On Thursday, July 23 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm, consider joining colleagues and regional leaders at the Root & Rye Hop Farm & Brewery in Carlton. You will have the opportunity to catch up with counterparts to share challenges and solutions about shared experiences over farm-brewed craft beer and/or local wine.

## **South Valley/Mid-Coast – Courtney Flathers**

**CedarStone Design & Build:** Business Oregon staff and I recently visited CedarStone in Springfield. CedarStone is a design-build firm that utilizes mass timber in housing construction. They recently expanded into producing modular mass timber units for transitional housing projects. In fact, CedarStone is a partner with Hacienda CDC on the Illahee Timber Townhomes project, a 27 home, permanently affordable housing development in Gresham. This project was awarded more than \$5 million in Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) funds by Oregon Housing and Community Services. It is one of five projects supported by the Factory-Produced Housing Initiative established in the 2025 legislative session which seeks to spur awareness and adoption of factory-produced housing across Oregon. CedarStone is poised for growth and Business Oregon provided the company with several resources to consider as they look to their next chapter as part of the expanding footprint of mass timber businesses in the Willamette Valley.

**SVMC Regional Solutions Team Visits Veneta:** The SVMC RS Team visited the City of Veneta in late June. The visit focused on some current priority projects including a wastewater system expansion, downtown development, the Bolton Hill Sports Complex, and a community green infrastructure project. It's exciting to see the momentum in the city and we look forward to continuing to support the community as you advance the great work. Many thanks to Mayor McCoy and city staff for spending an afternoon with our team!

**PNW Industrial Symbiosis Conference:** The Center for Sustainable Infrastructure hosted the inaugural [PNW Industrial Symbiosis Conference](#) in Vancouver, Washington June 28-30. Regional Solutions Coordinator Nate Stice and I attended on behalf of the program. Industrial symbiosis (IS) is the practice of capturing waste streams (i.e., energy, water, and materials) from one facility and repurposing them as input for another. During the conference, we learned how this field emerged and has grown with IS initiatives underway in the Pacific Northwest and recent legislative work in Oregon and Washington in support. In 2026, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 4086 which includes investments in four industrial symbiosis pilot projects and directs Business Oregon to develop an industrial symbiosis roadmap by May 1, 2027.

**Lift Off EUG:** Last week I shared remarks on behalf of Governor Kotek at the Lift Off EUG Expansion Showcase. Other speakers included Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knudson, Airport Director Cathryn Stephens, Congresswoman Val Hoyle, UO President Scholz, OSU President Murthy, and Rep. Nathanson. The purpose of the event was to mark a year of feasibility work at the Eugene Airport (EUG) aimed at building a new concourse – Concourse C – and to celebrate construction progress on Concourse A. EUG saw 1.8 million passengers in 2025 and has operated at or beyond capacity since 2021. The improvements at Concourse A include expanded seating capacity and improved ADA access. Concourse C will add eight new gates, expanded ticket counters, a modernized baggage claim system, and a dedicated charter gate to accommodate university athletic teams and larger charter flights. This phase of the expansion is estimated at more than \$240 million and is projected to nearly double the economic impact of EUG from \$1.6 billion to \$3.6 billion annually. You can learn more about this project at [LIFT Off EUG](#).



### **Metro – Kathy Hyzy**

**National University of Natural Medicine Opening:** Governor Kotek joined NUNM staff, board, students and friends for a celebration of their 70th anniversary and the grand opening of their brand new campus in downtown Portland! NUNM Is the first and oldest naturopathic medical program in North America. Their leadership has paved the way for countless professionals to provide whole patient care to patients across the country. With more than 100 faculty and 400 students, this investment in workforce development and healthcare is an exciting addition to the downtown core. In the future, NUNM's clinic, which serves patients from all walks of life, will move to this location. They also plan to offer classes to the public on healthy cooking and eating. The governor was joined by Mayor Wilson and Senator Reynolds in welcoming this valuable addition.

## Resources and Opportunities

### **Industrial Site Development Loan Fund accepting applications through September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Business Oregon is now accepting applications for the 2026 Industrial Site Loan Fund, a \$25 million deferred loan program designed to help municipalities and private businesses prepare industrial land for development across the state.

The Request for Applications (RFA) is open through September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Eligible applicants include Oregon cities and counties, ports, tribal councils, airport districts, and private property owners partnering with a public entity on its industrial site.

This new program is a result of Governor Kotek's proposed legislation last legislative session and helps address needs around industrial land development that are highlighted in the [Governor's Prosperity Roadmap](#) to grow Oregon's economy, retain and expand Oregon businesses, and accelerate job creation statewide. Governor Kotek [testified before the Legislature](#) in February 2026 in support of House Bill 4084, which advanced industrial site readiness as part of her economic development package, and [signed the bill into law](#) in April 2026.

The Oregon Legislature allocated \$25 million to the ISLF for the current biennium to support industrial land development that strengthens Oregon's competitiveness for manufacturing, food processing, clean technology, semiconductor, and other traded sector uses. Applicants may apply for one of two funding types:

- Planning Projects: for land-use planning, engineering, feasibility studies, surveys, and related pre-development work. Forgivable loans of up to \$250,000 will be considered.
- Development Projects: for site acquisition, infrastructure, environmental remediation, construction, and related improvements. Loans of up to \$4 million will be considered.

The survey seeks your input during Phase 1 of the Roundtable, which is focused on making the best use of existing resources to strengthen

The minimum award per project is \$25,000. Loan repayment may be deferred for up to five years, with a maximum loan term of 30 years or the useful life of the project, whichever is less.

Applications will be evaluated on criteria including project readiness, sound budget estimates, potential for site readiness and business investment, leverage of outside funding, and alignment with local or regional economic development plans. A full scoring matrix and eligibility details are available in the RFA.

Applicants are encouraged to review the complete RFA for eligibility requirements, application materials, and submission instructions at: [www.oregon.gov/biz/programs/ISLF/](http://www.oregon.gov/biz/programs/ISLF/).

All information on the program and contact for RFA questions are [listed on the website](#).

### **Reminder – Governor’s Early Childhood Care & Learning Systems Roundtable Survey**

Thank you to all who’ve already provided input to the Roundtable, which has been charged with advancing statewide expansion of access to affordable, high-quality, equitable 0-3 care and preschool options, regardless of zip code, through scalable, sustainable strategies.

The survey is still open for another couple weeks – if you haven’t had the chance, please share your perspective! The survey will close on Friday, August 7th.

- English Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H8GGYZT>
- Spanish Survey: <https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/H7QTTNT>

The survey seeks your input during Phase 1 of the Roundtable, which is focused on making the best use of existing resources to strengthen access for families, workforce support, facilities & infrastructure, and quality assurance/ agency operations. Phase 2 of the Roundtable will focus on infant-toddler care, and Phase 3 will focus on expanding access to preschool care. There will be additional opportunities to provide input in those phases.

### **Training Opportunity: Navigating Oregon Environmental Permits**

(Reposting with corrected link)

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](#)