



RS EXCHANGE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, October 20th, 2025

Upcoming RSAC Meetings

North Coast (Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook Counties)

Wednesday, November 5th from 2:00-4:00pm

[Virtual Link](#)

South Valley/Mid-Coast (Benton, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn Counties)

Thursday, November 13th from 2:00-4:00pm

[Virtual Link](#)

South Coast (Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties)

Wednesday, December 3rd from 11:00am-1:00pm

[Virtual Link](#)

North Central (Hood River, Sherman, and Wasco Counties)

Wednesday, December 3rd from 2:00-4:00pm

[Virtual Link](#)



2025 Tribal-State Government-to-Government Summit

Earlier this month, Regional Solutions attended the 2025 Tribal-State Government-to-Government Summit, convened by Governor Kotek and co-hosted by the Coquille Indian Tribe at the Ko-Kwel Casino Resort in Coos Bay.

The annual summit brings together the Governor, Tribal government and senior staff from the nine federally recognized sovereign Tribes in Oregon, and Oregon state officials to address critical shared issues through government-to-government communication, coordination, collaboration,



and consultation. The summit represents Oregon's ongoing commitment to recognizing that Tribal governments represent the oldest sovereigns in Oregon by thousands of years. Ongoing relationships with the Tribes bring invaluable expertise, knowledge, and resources to address shared challenges and promote prosperity for all Oregonians.

The summit featured keynote addresses from Coquille Indian Tribe Chairman Meade and Governor Kotek, bill signing ceremonies for tribal-related legislation, and a historic Sovereign Leaders' Assembly where each Tribal Head of Government presented priorities directly to the Governor as equal partners.

Programming included cultural demonstrations at the Coquille Community Plank House, an inter-tribal celebration with traditional games and music, and an innovative neuroscience-informed workshop on strengthening government relationships. Pre-summit and post-summit cluster meetings addressed health and human services, economic development, natural and cultural resources, and public safety priorities, ensuring sustained collaboration between the federally recognized sovereign Tribal nations of Oregon and the State of Oregon.

It was an honor to attend the summit, connect with Tribal leaders and staff, and work to deepen our relationships and support the resiliency of Oregon Tribes.

Regional Solutions Joins LOC in Celebrating its 100th Birthday

Regional Solutions was glad to attend LOC's 100th Annual Conference in early October, joining leaders from 140 cities for meaningful conversations,



and opportunities to learn. With agenda topics ranging from City-State partnership for Housing and Water to City/County Coordination in Homeless Response, engaging keynote speakers and even a dueling pianos show, it was a great way to spend time connecting over a few beautiful fall days in downtown Portland.

Regional Updates

South Central – Scott Aycock

Town of Lakeview: In May of this year, in my first week on the job, I was approached by the Town of Lakeview requesting assistance on a variety of serious concerns. The Town was struggling with debt service payments, attempting to manage aging and deteriorating infrastructure, and experiencing considerable community strife. Regional Solutions helped stitch together a variety of key connections for the community – engaging lenders, technical assistance providers, and philanthropic support. Interim Town Manager Stan Foster, Town Council, and staff have been working together on many fronts, with the understanding that they need to work

very closely with Lakeview residents to ensure that the good work they are doing is responsive and durable. Some notable accomplishments so far include the renegotiation of a significant amount of debt, meaningful progress on economic development projects that will help increase revenues (and community prosperity), new Town accounting and transparency/accountability standards and the development of a 5-year sustainability plan, new partnerships with the Energy Trust of Oregon to lower energy costs and increase local energy resilience, and a series of community committees to help guide their progress forward. The Ford Family Foundation, Business Oregon, USDA Rural Development, Lake County, Community Solutions Innovators, and many more partners have contributed to the progress thus far. The issues the community is facing are considerable - we are staying closely engaged with Lakeview as this early progress will need to be sustained and momentum maintained in order to be solidify their success.

Central – Scott Aycock

Symons Beef: Symons Beef is a family-owned local cattle company outside Madras, OR. The company is highly vertically-integrated: they grow their own feed, pasture cows, and then finish them at their own feedlot. They also compost carcasses into a highly-valuable soil amendment for feed production. Symons also imports cattle from across Oregon and adjacent states for their feedlot. However, like many producers in Oregon, they then export them out of state for processing and packaging. Symons is now working on developing a processing and packaging facility that could fill this gap for the cattle industry in Central Oregon, and due to the proposed scale (12,000 cattle annually), it could have statewide impact. It's an exciting project and Regional Solutions is working with Economic Development for Central Oregon and Business Oregon to assist them in navigating state incentives and policies/regulations to support their proposal. In addition to filling a long-needed niche in Oregon's agricultural industry, the facility will provide 50 jobs in the short run, with significant potential expansion. They are also working with Adult Corrections Enterprises to access labor from the nearby Deer Ridge Correctional Facility



*Business OR RDO Capi Lewis, Jeremy
and JoHanna Symons, and RS
Coordinator Scott Aycock*

which has the twin benefits of providing cost-effective labor as well as delivering workforce development/training for inmates.

Greater Eastern – Courtney Crowell

Union County Fairgrounds Project: Regional Solutions (both Business Oregon and Governor's Office) met with Union County Commissioner Matt Scarfo recently to talk about the water and wastewater project at the Union County fairgrounds. This project received \$2.5 million in lottery bonds from the Legislature, however, the county would like to get this work done prior to the next fair in August of 2026 so we discussed with Business Oregon the option of taking out interim financing through the Special Public Works Fund so that the work could be completed in the next year, ensuring that the county doesn't need to wait for the bond sale in spring of 2027. The conversation went well and Union County is going to begin the process of applying for a loan to get the work started sooner rather than later. Our Regional Solutions team will continue to stay engaged in this project.

LaGrande Rural Housing Event: I attended an event in LaGrande put on by the GCT Land Management company on rural housing. It was an event to showcase both the work that Habitat for Humanity is doing in Eastern Oregon in coordination with GCT Land Management and the CTE program happening at LaGrande high school to build housing. I talked with the group about the importance of housing production across Eastern Oregon and the work that our Regional Solutions team has been doing to expand the homebuilding programs within high schools across the region. After the event, it was great to connect with Baker High School to see how we might be able to expand their existing homebuilding program into one that is both expanding skills for students and contributing to housing production in the region. More efforts on this front to continue.

NE RSAC Meeting: It was great to have the Governor join the Northeast (aka More Awesome) Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RSAC) this week and hear from them directly about the regional priorities and things they are seeing in the region. In true NE RSAC fashion, it was a great conversation that included lots of aspirational endeavors and discussions on how we can use the assets of the region to help address some of the challenges. The NE region (Baker, Union and Wallowa Counties) includes some of our most beautiful natural landscapes but face difficulties with remote locations, workforce and how to balance tourism and extraction industries into a more sustainable "stewardship" economy. Great discussion and big kudos to the Governor for the engagement.

Harney County Flood Mitigation: Business Oregon and I met with Harney County Judge Bill Hart to discuss the \$3 million lottery bond funding that Harney County received for flood mitigation in the session. We are trying to figure out how to get some projects completed prior to the lottery bonds being sold in the spring of 2027 and how to fund a re-look at the 2018 flood mitigation study that was done to ensure that the projects identified in that study are still the correct projects today. Business Oregon will continue

working with Harney County to see if the levy grant program will work for some of these issues and I'll be reaching out to DAS to learn more about some caveats with lottery bonds and interim financing to get the work done.

North Central – Nate Stice



Regional Solutions Director Amelia Porterfield joined a full day of North Central activity, including a visit with pFriem Family Brewers, an update on city of The Dalles priorities, and a meeting on Rowena Fire Recovery.

Many thanks to pFriem CEO Rudy Kellner for showing us around their expanded operations in Cascade Locks and talking with Regional Solutions

and Business Oregon about industry opportunities and challenges. The Port-owned facilities that pFriem occupies were funded through Business Oregon in partnership with the Port and serve as a great example of state investment in rural economic development.

We also met with Mayor Rich Mays of The Dalles to discuss downtown redevelopment and other exciting projects. Mayor Mays discussed the ongoing challenges for housing and industrial land availability due to growth limitations within the National Scenic Area. He also discussed the city's many downtown redevelopment projects and potential regulatory barriers.

Finally, we met with Wasco County Community Development Director and Rowena Fire Longterm Recovery Group Co-Chair Kelly Howsley-Glover to discuss Rowena Fire Recovery. Kelly highlighted ongoing efforts around meeting urgent needs, long-term housing needs, and other priorities.

Southern – Jessica LaBerge

OBI Manufacturing & Innovation Roadshow: Roseburg Con-Vey tour

Last week, RS joined Oregon Business and Industry (OBI) for a tour of Con-Vey, one of Roseburg's largest employers and manufacturing facilities. Established in 1946, Con-Vey has deep roots in the region, historically relying on local timber. Today, they custom-build equipment for sawmills and lumber operations, engineer specialized wood products, and develop robotics and automation systems. During the tour, I was struck by their end-to-end capabilities: from design and part fabrication to full-scale equipment assembly, testing, disassembly, and nationwide shipping — all done in-house. While much of their current business is concentrated in the Southern U.S., they remain a major local employer.

Con-Vey shared that workforce recruitment remains a significant challenge. To address this, they launched "Con-Vey University", an internal training program designed to upskill new hires and support employee advancement.

Resources and Opportunities

Application Open for New Housing Infrastructure Financing Program

As Oregon continues to face a statewide housing shortage, Governor Tina Kotek has made housing production a top priority. In support of that vision, Business Oregon is launching the Housing Infrastructure Financing Program (HIFP) to help communities overcome one of the most persistent barriers to housing development: the cost of infrastructure.

HIFP will provide grants, loans, and forgivable loans to help local governments and their partners finance essential infrastructure, such as roads, water systems, sewer lines, and stormwater improvements, that unlock housing opportunities across the state.

"This program is about clearing the path for housing that's ready to be built," Governor Kotek said. "By focusing on infrastructure tied directly to shovel-ready developments, we're making sure that funding goes where it can have an immediate and lasting impact — improving roads, water systems, and site readiness to get more Oregonians into homes, faster."

The Housing Infrastructure Financing Program was established during the 2025 legislative session through House Bill 3031, with an initial \$10 million investment funded through a lottery bond sale expected in May 2026. All awards are contingent on the successful sale of these bonds. The first HIFP application cycle begins October 17, 2025, and closes on December 17, 2025.

"As Oregon works to meet the urgent need for more housing, we must also address the infrastructure challenges that stand in the way of development," said Business Oregon Director Sophorn Cheang. "The Housing Infrastructure Financing Program is a strategic investment that empowers communities to unlock housing opportunities, accelerate production, and build a more equitable future for all Oregonians."

Eligible Applicants:

- Cities, counties, county service district organized (ORS chapter 451)
- Special districts (ORS 198.101)
- Intergovernmental entities (ORS chapter 190)
- Tribal councils of federally recognized Tribes in Oregon
- Housing authority or a housing developer (in partnership with an eligible applicant)

Funding may be used for the development or improvement of:

- Transportation infrastructure
- Water, wastewater or stormwater infrastructure
- Site development and system capacity improvements that are tied to a specific housing project

Construction-related activities and direct project management costs are eligible. Applicants can access the following materials on the [HIFP Program webpage](#): [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) | [Application Form](#) | [Sample Contract](#)

Before applying, applicants should review the program's [Oregon Administrative Rules \(OARs\)](#) and the full [Request for Application \(RFA\)](#), for complete program guidelines.

For questions or technical assistance, please contact your [Regional Development Officer](#) or email housing.infrastructure@biz.oregon.gov.

Webinar for DLCD Wetland Technical Assistance Grant Program 10/22/25

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is hosting an informational webinar on the upcoming 2025–2027 Wetland Technical Assistance Grant Program.

The Wetland Technical Assistance Grant Program is a product of Senate Bill 5528, which allocated \$500,000 to support wetland-related planning work by cities. This program will support jurisdictions and housing development partners with a variety of wetland planning efforts, specifically:

- Local Wetlands Inventories, either within the entirety of a city's urban growth boundary (UGB) or areas within a UGB where housing development is planned, including recent UGB expansion areas;
- Development of local wetlands protection programs in compliance with Statewide Planning Goal 5;
- Site-specific determinations of upland or wetland delineations that will advance construction of planned housing development; and
- Wetland mitigation planning supporting site-specific housing development.

DLCD will provide two options for assistance with urban wetland planning projects: (1) direct grants to local governments, and (2) department-managed contracts with wetland consultants. The department will prioritize allocation of funding to wetland planning projects that support and expedite housing development.

The webinar is scheduled for October 22, 9-10 a.m. [Register Here](#)

The Grant Application Window is October 27 to November 24, 2025

Goal 5 Cultural Areas Rulemaking Webinar October 29

The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is proposing a new and amended rule to improve implementation of Statewide Planning Goal 5 for cultural areas by promoting greater understanding of cultural resource areas, supporting protection of significant sites, and serving to preserve the state's cultural heritage. The draft rules are online here: [20250828 660-023 NoticeFilingTrackedChanges.pdf](#)

For local government practitioners, DLCD, LOC, and AOC have been hosting free informational webinars and open house work sessions this fall. The final webinar is taking place this week. You may also contact DLCD for a presentation or discussion at a time convenient to you by emailing dlcd.goal5ca@dlcd.oregon.gov.

Webinar: October 29, 1:00-3:00 — [Register Here](#)

For more information, see the following flyer specifically for local government implementation: [250904-Cultural Areas Rule Flyer.pdf](#)

The public comment period runs through October 31. Written comments may be submitted by:

- **Mail:** Chair of the Land Conservation and Development Commission c/o Casaria Taylor, 635 Capitol St., Ste. 150, Salem, Oregon 97301
- **Email:** dlcd.goal5ca@dlcd.oregon.gov
- **Microsoft Form:** [DLCD Rulemaking Comment Form](#)