



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

May 29, 2019

Below are some highlights from the Governor's [Regional Solutions Coordinators](#), on behalf of the eleven interagency teams across Oregon.

Regional Solutions (RS) Director – James LaBar

- **Remembering Senator Jackie Winters:** Senator Jackie Winters convened the Mid-Valley RS Advisory Committee since 2014. Her wisdom, passion, and guiding light created a path for the region, state, and local communities. She was a noble force for the Mid-Valley RS program by strengthening its consensus building abilities and honing its investment-making processes, especially with the Regional Infrastructure Fund. RS is honored to have worked with and for her as well as being comforted knowing that her generous legacy will be felt by generations of Oregonians.

North Coast Region – Jennifer Purcell

- **Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative: *Background*** – Governor Kate Brown designated the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative as an Oregon Solutions project on April 26, 2019, appointing Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer and Seaside Mayor Jay Barber as project co-conveners. Several cities and unincorporated areas in northwest Clatsop County have been experiencing an increase in elk living in the urbanized areas. The Clatsop Plains communities are interested in identifying elk management solutions to address increasing public safety risks and occurrences of property damage from encounters with elk. While elk have populated this region for centuries, the interaction between elk and urban development has been on the rise. This Oregon Solutions project will identify and evaluate a broad array of options, evaluating elk behavior and human behavior contributors, conduct research to inform fact-based decision making, and identify funding for implementation of solutions.
 - ***Update*** – The Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative project kicked off this week at Camp Rilea. Oregon Solutions staff and the project's co-conveners led a discussion among a diverse group of participants to discuss expectations and define the project's desired outcomes. The project team includes representatives from Clatsop County, cities of Warrenton and Gearhart, RS, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), Oregon State Parks (OSP), Oregon Military Department (OMD), Oregon Hunters Association (OHA), National Park Service (NPS), private residents, landowners, and local business owners. A steering committee will include the co-conveners, Gearhart Mayor Matt Brown, Clatsop County, and RS Coordinator and the next meeting is scheduled for mid-July.

South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **Textile Industry Workforce Needs:** RS has had a series of meetings with locally based companies and workforce investment board representatives related to the need for more sewers in the region. The region has a number of companies that could benefit from more direct recruitment and training opportunities in the profession. In conversations with the Willamette Workforce Partnership (covering Linn, Marion, Yamhill and Polk Counties) and with Lane Workforce Partnership, it's become clear that the broader area encompassing both the Mid- and Southern Willamette Valley shares this challenge. RS Coordinators from the two regions will be convening a small group to further define the challenge and work on solutions suitable to the local companies experiencing the labor and skills gap.
- **Speed Up America:** Communities across the US lack broadband access necessary to prosper in today's technology driven world. The Speed Up America project is a collaboration between Technology Association of Oregon (TAO), Lane County, and US Ignite with the goal of increasing awareness of the inequities in speed and quality of internet provided to everyone across the US. To achieve the goal, Speed Up America is acquiring data related to internet speed and provider, publishing an online map of the crowdsourced data it gathers, and using this data to encourage conversations about digital inclusion in all communities. The platform for this work was developed through TAO's Hack for a Cause event last month and championed by Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch. Ongoing support for this work is evolving. While anyone can participate in the speed test, current focus is on Oregon with the goal to take it to a national audience next. Real time data (and the speed test) can be found [here](#). RS is monitoring this project and remains supportive of work to provide adequate broadband service to all communities.

Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **Riley Ranch Land Swap – Possible New Project:** Coos County owns an industrial site fronting Highway 101 a few miles north of Coos Bay. The site is well-served with power and is located outside of the tsunami inundation zone. It is adjacent to Siuslaw National Forest and separated from the Coos Bay Rail Line by one US Forest Service (USFS) parcel. The County has proposed a land exchange with the USFS. Thus far, the effort has not met with much success. The RS Team will tour the site and discuss with the project with the South Coast-Umpqua Advisory Committee on June 3.
- **Transportation & Logistics Sector Organization:** Leaders of the Rogue Valley trucking industry invited fellow companies—and public sector guests—to an organizational meeting of a proposed “sector strategy” last week in Medford. The meeting was expertly facilitated by Next Generation Sector Partnerships, and well-attended by both private and public sector. A clear number one priority for the industry members in attendance was workforce development.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- South Coast-Umpqua: June 3, 2019
- Southern Oregon: June 14, 2019

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **Le Creole Olive Orchards Meeting:** RS met with Le Creole Orchards' Bogdan Caceu to learn about the emerging olive industry in Oregon. He owns a 45+ acre orchard outside Dallas where he grows olives for small lots of extra virgin olive oil. Bogdan shared future expansion plans that would require significant water storage onsite. He has successfully stored small units of water

thus far. He is interested in learning about any state programs that could help him. A site tour is planned for early summer. Thank you to Polk County Commission Craig Polk for the introduction.

- **Mid-Valley Housing Development: *Background*** – The Newberg Crestview Crossing housing development will include about 300 workforce housing units with 51 new apartments, while reserving 12-15 units for affordable housing. The location is connected to the ‘15-17 Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) Crestview Road project, which goes thru the property. The developer has been working on this project for several years, so the scope of the development has changed over time. The third JPA (Joint Permit Application) was submitted and a recent onsite with DSL, DEQ, and the CORPS was held. The developer is challenged with the requirements to treat the water from the contiguous 82 acre housing development (built in in 1970s) that flows on to the site. The City reached out to RS to help facilitate a discussion with DEQ.
 - *Update* – This week, RS convened a meeting with the City, developer, DSL, CORPS, and DEQ. The meeting focused on the storm water management plan and criteria. The developer is submitting a revised plan. RS is convening another meeting in two weeks with the developer’s team, City, and DEQ to review the plan.

Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- **Clackamas County Land Bank Authority:** The Governor recently approved a Strategic Reserve Fund (SRF) request for a Clackamas County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA) in the amount of a \$300,000 forgivable loan. When Clackamas County meets the contractual terms for the award with the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD), the CCLBA will identify, acquire, remediate, redevelop and dispose of environmentally contaminated sites, resulting in new housing, employment and community uses and increased funding for schools and other public services in Clackamas County. It would be the first land bank authority in Oregon and when successful, replicable in other parts of the state. Metro RS participated on the Business Plan Advisory Committee for the prospective CCLBA to inform how to prioritize brownfield sites for acquisition. Metro RS also connected Clackamas County to OBDD to put together a proposal for SRF. Thank you, OBDD for working with Clackamas County on their SRF proposal.
- **Hillsboro Technology Park:** The entire Metro RS team met with the City of Hillsboro’s economic development team and received a tour of their Technology Park, which recently received a regionally significant industrial site (RSIS) designation. There are a number of action items that Metro RS will help coordinate among various state agencies including, but not limited to ODOT, the DSL, DEQ, OSPR, and the SHPO to ensure that they are done efficiently to get this targeted area ready for development.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- Metro RS Advisory Committee Meeting: **June 14, 2019 – 9 AM – 11 AM**
Portland State University, Meyer Memorial Trust Board Room, 710 Urban Center, 506 SW Mill Street, Portland, OR 97201

North Central Region – Nate Stice

- **Hood River Waste Water Coordination:** RS and the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) convened a meeting with wastewater processors, septic haulers, and other interested stakeholder to discuss several long-term issues, in particular redundant capacity for septic haulers, capacity at regional plants, and concerns around bio-solid disposal. The meeting came after the RS Team completed a round of stakeholder conversations to understand the capacity and concerns of players in the regional system. The group agreed that while there are no immediate concerns creating a forum for communication on shared concerns will prove valuable. The group prioritized capacity for septic haulers and asked the team to gather further

data for a future conversation. The team is also investigating sources of technical assistance funding to support forward-thinking (rather than compliance-oriented) work on wastewater and welcomes any thoughts from readers of this weekly. Many thanks to DEQ's Greg Svelund and MCEDD's Jacque Shei for helping to move this project forward.

Central – Annette Liebe

- **Outdoor City, USA: *Background*** – This is an effort to bring a world class outdoor recreation trade show to Central Oregon and Mt. Bachelor in September 2019. The initial focus would be biking. The show is intended to fill a gap created by the cancelation of the annual biking trade show in Las Vegas-Reno.
 - *Update* – RS received information from ODOT on the permitting needs for use of state right of way for various purposes, as well as a map on which parts of the highway are under state vs. county ownership. The sponsorship requests are pending.
- **Smith Rock State Park – New Project:** RS is working with OSP on a potential Oregon Solutions project to resolve transportation and parking issues at Smith Rock State Park. The master planning project for the park that is currently in process identified the park as “at capacity” when their parking lot is full. Visitation that is over capacity impairs the visitor experience and the park's natural resources. The number of visitors, especially on holiday weekends, exceeds the parks capacity because people are parking along county roads and in private land nearby (for a fee). Also, RS and OSP is working to determine whether ODOT's variable message signs could be deployed, letting drivers know the park is full before they turn off of Highway 97.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- Central: July 12th 9:00 am – noon; Redmond

South Central Regions – Annette Liebe

- **Project PNP Debrief:** This is the recycling facility that the South Central RS Team was working with Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA) to site in Klamath Falls. The company ultimately decided not to pursue an expansion in the United States. Key RS Team agencies met with KCEDA to debrief on what went well and where we can learn from the needs and issues associated with this recruitment. Wastewater permitting is a key challenge in the Klamath basin. The DEQ and the RS Team are evaluating potential “banking” approaches and projects to be better prepared for future recruitments with wastewater discharge.
- **Oregon Highway 140 culvert – New Project: *Background*** – Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has been working with agricultural land owners, Trout Unlimited, the Klamath Tribes, and others to reduce phosphorous run off into the lake. Reducing run off is critical to improving water quality in Upper Klamath Lake, and thereby, supporting sucker recovery.
 - *Update* – RS worked with ODOT to convene a meeting to discuss funding for a culvert on Highway 140 close to Upper Klamath Lake. This culvert has been identified through ODA's collaborative effort as needed to support on farm water management. ODOT is currently scheduled to make improvements to Highway 140 in 2021; the goal is to complete the culvert work at the same time. We learned that ODOT recently applied for a federal grant to complete the highway project and included a request for funding to install a culvert. As a result of this meeting, Senator Merkley's office weighed in to support the request. The funding decision should be announced later this week.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- South Central: July 18th 10:00 am – noon; Lakeview

Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **City of Huntington Fire:** Over the weekend, the main street of Huntington (population 440 in Baker County) burned down. Arson was determined to be the cause of the fire. Two empty storefronts on the historic registry (built in 1890) and the lone tavern in town both burned to the ground. This is a huge loss to the community and they have already reached out to see if there is something the state can do to help the community. RS will be working with Representative Findley to see what can be done to help the community rebuild. Please [click here](#) to read an article featured in the Baker City Herald on local responses to the devastating fire.