



# RS EXCHANGE

## REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

### Weekly Report

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

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

#### North Coast Region – Jennifer Purcell

- **Salmonberry Trail: *Background*** – Envisioned along the former rail alignment from Banks to Tillamook, the Salmonberry Trail will provide a complete coastal trail system, connecting diverse users from the Portland Metro area to the north Oregon coast. A governance structure has been established with the Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agency (STIA). Coastal and Valley segment master plans are complete and Canyon and River segment planning will begin in 2020. RS maintains ongoing involvement through STIA Board membership and facilitating partnerships for Coastal Segment catalyst project planning and implementation.
  - *Update* – RS participated in a workgroup convened to think strategically about the short-term and long-term staffing needs for the STIA and the Salmonberry Trail Foundation (STF). Participants included Representative Tiffany Mitchell, Tillamook County, Washington County, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), and the STF. A draft staffing and funding plan was developed for the current biennium prioritizing:
    - Implementation of STIA's recently adopted strategic plan;
    - Completion of the Canyon and River segments planning;
    - Facilitating catalyst projects;
    - And, supporting the STF as it seeks capacity funding as a newly established 501c3.
  - The 2019-2021 plan emphasizes the completion of trail planning and supporting the infancy of the STF, laying the foundation to initiate full implementation in the 2021-2023 biennium. Staffing needs identified include administrative support, project management, and fundraising/advocacy. The workgroup will be seeking in-kind contribution of administrative support; and with approximately \$85,000 committed, the workgroup will pursue gap funding of \$170,000 for a 0.5 FTE Project Manager at OPRD and a 0.5 FTE STF Director through June 2021. The draft staffing and funding plan will be presented to the STIA Board in December.

#### Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **State Agency Seeking Input on House Bill (HB) 2001 and HB 2003 (2019):** RS participated in the first of six listening sessions facilitated by the Department of Land and Conservation Development (DLCD). The agency is seeking community input on the HB 2001 and 2003, which

will inform on the rulemaking process. Interested parties may also provide public comments via emailed to DLCD at [housing.dlcd@state.or.us](mailto:housing.dlcd@state.or.us).

- *Community Conversations*
  - 📅 November 6, 2019 - **McMinnville**
  - December 10, 2019 – **Medford**
  - January 2020 – **La Grande** (date TBD)
  - January 2020 – **Portland area** (date TBD)
  - February 2020 – **Redmond** (date TBD)
- If you would like to receive **email updates on rulemaking on HB 2001**, [click here](#).
- If you would like to receive **email updates on rulemaking on HB 2003**, [click here](#).
- If you would like to receive email updates on general DLCD housing work, [click here](#).
- Local planners should contact their DLCD Regional Representative for more information.

### Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Mid-Valley RSAC:** Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM; Location: Mac Market, 1140 NE Alpine Ave., McMinnville, OR 97128

## South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **Sustainable Cities Institute (UO):** RS met with representatives from the Sustainable Cities Institute (SCI) at the UO. This is a great program that has had tremendous impact on communities throughout Oregon. More information on the program [here](#). RS is interested in exploring ways SCI and RS can better partner on work being done in our communities. SCI has previously done work in Springfield, Albany, and Dunes City in the SVMC region and we are actively exploring ways to engage with one another as projects come up. SCI representatives will attend the next SVMC Team meeting and connections to the RS Coordinator in the Mid-Valley have been made.

### Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RSAC) Meeting

- **SVMC RSAC:** Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM; Location: Ford Alumni Center, University of Oregon

## Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **Mass Timber Research:** RS and Business Oregon staff are conducting interviews to help determine the best point of leverage for additional state investment to support growth in the mass timber industry. *Two highlights:*
  - Tallwood Design Institute (TDI, a collaboration of OSU & UO) is trying to build an industry research consortium with key private sector partners.
  - TDI's certificate in mass timber manufacturing will hold its first "capstone" class this month, in which participants will complete a project through all phases of design, manufacture, and construction.
  - The first of 24 A-Frames near Snoqualmie pass built with Mass Plywood Panels from Freres are featured in the current issue of [Dwell magazine](#).
- **Off-Shore Wind:** Pacific Ocean Energy Trust (POET) launched a Southern Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Working Group this week with a large list of private and public sector partners. The cost of offshore wind has declined by 75 percent since 2014 and 25 Gigawatts are deployed currently. The next generation of floating projects will likely further drive down costs because they can be

built on-shore and achieve significantly better performance due to ability to site where the wind is ideal.

### Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Southern RSAC:** Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019; 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM; Location – RV Council of Government Offices; 155 N 1st St, Central Point, OR
- **South Coast Umpqua:** Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019; Time/Location – TBD

### Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- **East Portland Community Investment Trust:** Metro RS met with John Haines, Executive Director of the [Community Investment Trust](#) (CIT) at Mercy Corps. The CIT offers a long-term path to collective, communal ownership of real estate for investors from \$10 - \$100 per month and is a wealth generation and stabilization tool for low-income communities. Mercy Corps first CIT is the East Portland CIT located at Plaza 122, a 29,000 square foot commercial retail mall in outer southeast Portland with approximately 26 – 30 businesses and non-profit tenants. John and his team are working to replicate the CIT for other communities across the US. Metro RS connected John to RS counterparts throughout the state to see about the possibility of replicating the model in other parts of the state including rural Oregon. Metro RS will have John present the CIT to the Metro RSAC since they are interested in inclusive economic development and anti-displacement strategies.
- **Green Jobs & Workforce Development Assessment:** Metro RS met with Oregon Solutions (OS) project staff, Manuel Padilla and Sarah Giles, about an assessment that they are working on related to green jobs and workforce development. The assessment was requested by Forest Park Conservancy, Portland General Electric (PGE), the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), Blueprint Foundation, Tualatin Riverkeepers, and the Green Workforce Academy. The organizations requested the assessment because they anticipate job growth in fields related to restoration, natural resources and other green jobs sectors and they would like to better understand and address barriers to employment in these fields especially for communities of color. Thank you, Sophorn Cheang (Governor's Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) and Brian Guiney of Business Oregon for participating in this conversation and providing recommendations of stakeholders to interview as part of OS' assessment.

### North Central Region – Nate Stice

- **Grass Valley Waste Water:** Based on recent job and population growth, the City of Grass Valley (pop. 160) is exploring a transition from individual septic system to a community sewer system. In September, the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) organized a meeting with members of the team and the City to discuss the process, technical assistance (TA) funding, and broader funding packages. MCEDD, with input from the team, crafted a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) that went out earlier this month.
- **The North Central Team is looking for help with a few items:**
  1. *Recommendations on engineers who have worked on similar projects;*
  2. *Innovative approaches;*
  3. *Stories from similar small/frontier communities that have switched to community sewer and would be willing to share tips and info;*
  4. *And, communities exploring community sewer interested in meeting (via teleconference) on a regular basis to discuss progress, tips, etc.*

## Central Region & South Central Regions – Annette Liebe

- **Western Governors' Association Reimagining the Rural West Workshop:** Several great interactive sessions. Quick highlights/summary:
  - Connecting youth to careers – Chip Massie did Klamath Community College (KCC) and Oregon proud by presenting on the innovative work KCC is doing to connect youth with careers. KCC has six synchronistic learning sites in Klamath and Lake Counties that allow students to participate in classes in real time. The Lakeview site was a RS project funded in 2014/15. KCC also highlighted their work training skilled labor and public safety professionals. They are also in the process of securing the matching funds for their Apprenticeship Training Center (Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) funding in 2019 and RS funded in 2017/19).
  - Remote work – University of Utah Extension program is training residents in rural communities to be remote workers. This training is coupled with state incentives that support companies in urban areas hiring remote workers in rural counties with higher unemployment for jobs that can be done remotely. The Colorado Business Roundtable supported a similar program there.
  - US Department of Agriculture (USDA) interagency workgroups – USDA led a federal interagency group to re-align agency resources and policies to better respond to the needs of rural communities. The recommendations center around five areas: E-Connectivity, Quality of Life, Rural Workforce, Technology, and Economic Development. The report can be found [here](#).
  - Housing – In McKenzie County, South Dakota, the county is subsidizing the difference between the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) eligible sales price and what it actually costs to build a house (the difference is approximately \$45,000). The program is structured as a forgivable loan if the homeowner lives in the house at least five years.

### Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Central RSAC:** Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:00 AM – Noon; Location – TBD

## Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Wallowa Lake Dam Rehabilitation Project:** RS convened the first meeting between the key stakeholders in the Wallowa Lake Dam Rehabilitation project to begin work towards a MOA regarding in stream water agreements. Oregon Department of Fish Wildlife (ODFW) is facilitating the discussion between the stakeholders and we had a good first meeting. This is the first step towards getting the \$14 million allocated by the Governor and Legislature during this legislative session moving towards the project. Huge thanks to ODFW for facilitating the discussion! RS will continue to convene the parties together as we move this project forward.
- **Umatilla Basin Basalt Bank Stabilization Project:** RS re-convened the Umatilla Basin Basalt Bank Stabilization workgroup that the Governor established in the fall of 2018 to discuss the implementation of the \$1 million that was allocated by the Legislature in 2019 to Umatilla County for a pilot project. This funding will help offset the cost of keeping groundwater in the ground (basalt aquifer), and instead pumping surface water for irrigation in order to monitor the basalt aquifer to see if it will help improve water quality. The group discussed how to move forward with establishing an ongoing committee to oversee the funding and implementation of this project, as well as the mechanics of getting the project up and running.
- **Ontario Affordable Housing and Child Care project:** RS met with the Ontario Mayor and St. Alphonsus Hospital in Ontario to discuss an innovative affordable housing project and child care

center that would address both housing and child care needs within the community. This is a great partnership and RS is helping answer questions and make connections within Oregon Housing and Communities Services (OHCS).

- **New DLCD Representative for Eastern Oregon:** DLCD announced this week that Tamra Mabbot has been selected as the new DLCD regional representative for Eastern Oregon. Tamra is in the midst of a distinguished career as a planner in Eastern Oregon, currently working for the City of Umatilla as Community Development Director.
  - Her prior work includes successful stints with Umatilla County and Morrow County as Planning Director, 22 years combined. We are excited to have her join our team in December!