

RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

Wednesday, January 15th, 2020

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

North Coast Region – Jennifer Purcell

- **New Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) North Coast RS Representative:** The North Coast RS Team is thrilled to welcome Melyssa Graeper as our new DEQ representative for Tillamook, Clatsop, and Columbia Counties. Melyssa has been a living and working on the north Oregon coast for the past 15 years and has hit the ground running. She is becoming familiar with DEQ's programs and our RST project portfolio. She is looking forward to meeting with regional stakeholders in her new role. If you have environmental permitting questions, please feel free to reach out to her directly (Graeper.Melyssa@deq.state.or.us).
- **Affordable housing project in St. Helens:** Northwest Oregon Housing Authority (NOHA) and Community Development Partners are pursuing a 238 unit affordable housing project in St. Helens. RS and NOHA convened a meeting with the property owner, development partners, and consultant engineers to address permitting questions, wetland mitigation, and funding opportunities. RS Team members from Department of State Lands (DSL) and Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) addressed questions and concerns about DSL/DEQ/ US Army Corps of Engineers permitting and the group outlined next steps for financing and construction. The proposed project will provide much needed affordable housing options in Columbia County.



Left: Nina Reed, NOHA Board Chair, shows site plans.

Right: (pictured left to right) James Lee and Jessica Woodruff from Community Development Partners, Nina Reed and Todd Johnston of NOHA, Dan Cary and Chris Castelli of DSL, and Tyler Joki and Andrew Niemi of Lower Columbia Engineering Company, pose for a photo at the site.

- **City of Bay City:** The City of Bay City has several critical infrastructure projects at different phases of planning and implementation. RS Team members, including Business Oregon, DEQ, and the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), have been working with the City to coordinate and support the planning, funding and installation of needed infrastructure. The City has engaged RS on a number of priority projects, including:
 - Development of a new water well and/or water right prioritized in the City’s Water Master Plan;
 - Improvements to the wastewater treatment plant identified in the City’s recently adopted Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Facility Plan Update; and
 - Development of a trail that would provide secondary access to the Goose Point neighborhood and connect to the Salmonberry Trail.
- The City is also embarking on an innovative and ambitious project to restore Patterson Creek following a series of culvert failures in a 2017 storm event. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) approved a temporary replacement, requiring a permanent solution be implemented to fish passage standards. DEQ and Business Oregon have been working with the City to evaluate a complex solution that would remove a series of culverts, daylight Patterson Creek, and relocate road, water, and wastewater infrastructure. The City received a Clean Water Strategic Reserve Fund (SFR) planning loan for preliminary engineering design and environmental assessment. This work is currently underway.
- This week, the City Council passed a resolution formally identifying these as priority projects, requesting support from the RS Team to advance these community development and resiliency initiatives.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **North Coast RSAC:** April 2020 - TBD

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **Chemeketa’s Industry Driven Pathways:** This week, Representative Evans, Senator Boles, Representative Alonso Leon, Representative Post, Marion County Commissioner Brentano and Willis, City of Keiser Mayor Clark, RS and others met with President Jessica Howard and Dean of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Johnny Mack to discuss the community college’s comprehensive sector strategy approach to CTE (career and technical education).



Left: Representative Post and Senator Boles learning about the healthcare lab.

Right: Representative Alonso Leon discovering the latest creation from the advanced manufacturing lab.



The meeting included a tour of the advanced manufacturing and healthcare facilities. Another program established by Chemeketa Community College is the diesel mechanics program at their Brooks Facility. The project received Mid-Valley RS Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) funding \$200,000 in the '17-19 biennium and \$150,000 from Marion County. It is expected opening will be in September 2020.

Left: Product from Additive Manufacturing Lab.

- **Life Flight: Response in a Moment's Notice:** Marion County, Business Oregon, the Strategic Economic Development Corp (SEDCOR), and RS recently participated in a company visit with Life Flight Network located at the Aurora State. [Life Flight](#), a not-for profit LLC, is the only emergency medical flight service that covers the entire state of Oregon. They provide critical response to extreme health emergencies. CEO Michael Griffiths shared an overview of the company, future expansion plans, and gave a tour of their corporate offices, operations, training, and staff center.



The company has bases around Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Life Flight, a partnership with Providence Health & Services, Legacy Health, Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), and Saint Alphonsus Medical Center, has 50 aircraft and over 120 staff in Oregon with 700 in total.

Thank you to Life Flight leadership team for their generous time. In addition, kudos to SEDCOR's Erik Andersson and Nick Harville, Business Oregon's Dennie Houle, and Marion County Economic Development Coordinator Jason Schneider for their expertise.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Mid-Valley RSAC:** Friday, March 20th, 2020, 9 AM – 12 PM; Location – TBA

South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **Mid-Coast Water Partnership:** The Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership is a regional planning group representing diverse water interests in the Mid-Coast Region. The Partnership is working collaboratively to understand and meet the water needs of the communities, the environment, and the economy in coastal watersheds from Cascade Head to Cape Perpetua. RS attended a Mid-Coast Water Partnership meeting last week. Hosted by the City of Toledo, participants were able to hear from Mayor Cross and Representative Gomberg on updates from the City and region as well as from all of the working groups that are developing the problem/issue statements that will provide the foundation for the future work of the partnership. Particular focus was given to the self-supplied water group. We also heard updates from the District Watermaster, OSU Extension, and ODA on topics and resources that might be of assistance moving forward.

- **Albany/Linn County Childcare:** RS recently met with the Director at the Mid-Willamette Valley YMCA regarding a childcare project that organization is attempting to launch. Recently the YMCA purchased a facility nearby their main campus with the goal of turning it into a childcare center. The YMCA already provides some childcare services and sees the large need in the community for more spaces. In response to that, YMCA is working toward offering additional spaces with the focus on early learning. As with many of these developments, they are looking for resources to help fill the gap in funding. RS has connected the group with others in the community, including philanthropic organizations that may be able to partner or provide needed funding for this important work.

Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **S Coast Offshore Wind Energy:** The S Coast working group has been renamed the Ocean Coast Energy Alliance Network (OCEAN) and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pacific Ocean Energy Trust (POET). The group is developing a technology neutral south coast OSW demonstration project strategic plan and coastal grid/transmission study early 2020. The group is also working with BOEM (the federal offshore wind planning group) to include Oregon coastal waters in their study of subsea cable potential. Multiple multi-national renewable energy development companies and National Renewable Energy Lab are involved in the effort. Coos County's Rural Renewable Energy Development Zone application (REDD) was completed in December; Curry County will submit an application Quarter 1 (Q1) 2020.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **South Coast-Umpqua RSAC:** Thursday, January 16th, 2020, 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM; Location – Coquille County Offices, Room 121, 250 N. Baxter St., Coquille, OR

Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- **Las Adelitas: Background** – Hacienda is working to redevelop the site of the former Sugar Shack strip club in the Cully neighborhood into a mixed-use project that would consist of 141 housing units ranging from studios to three-bedrooms of which 15 units would be permanent supportive housing. Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare would be the service provider. There would also be 7,000 sq. feet of community space including a permanent home for Hacienda's childcare program ("Ninos"), an event hall, offices, warming kitchen, community meeting room/flex space and a plaza for outdoor seating/gathering.
 - **Update** – Hacienda's real estate development director, Rose Ojeda, updated the entire Metro RS team on the project. In June 2019, the state of Oregon awarded \$2 million in lottery backed funds to the project. In September 2019, the City of Portland awarded the project \$16.2 million through the affordable housing bond opportunity solicitation. Hacienda plans to submit an application for Metro's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program in the amount of \$500,000 in February 2020. They also plan to submit an application to OHCS for four percent bond funding this spring. Metro RS will continue to track the project and provide assistance where possible.
- **Small Homes Northwest (SHNW) Demonstration Project:** Hacienda presented to the entire Metro RS team information on the Small Homes Northwest Demonstration Project. It is an innovative accessory dwelling unit (ADU) pilot project that they are working on with partners including Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives (PCRI), Rose Community Development Corporation (CDC), Verde, Craft 3 and Salazar Architect, Inc. The pilot would include ten homeowners residing

in N/NE, Lents and Cully who earn less than 100 percent area median income (AMI) and who agree to have an ADU developed on their property as an affordable rental for a 60 percent AMI household. This innovative model could provide new affordable rental homes and stabilize homeowners in displacement-impacted communities. The SHNW demonstration project needs to secure \$65,000 - \$70,000 per unit affordability subsidy to complete the “proof of concept” by building the demonstration units and creating assurance for public funders that this is a viable, equitable and efficient use of affordable housing funding. They are seeking a one-time allocation of \$1,000,000 from the Oregon Legislature. Representative Alyssa Keny-Guyer is willing to sponsor the legislation. Hacienda will let Metro RS know if they are assigned a bill number for the short February 2020 session. Meantime, Metro RS will think of other potential funding sources, if any, that this project may be eligible for.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Metro RSAC:** TBD – Late February or March 2020

Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs:** The Tribe has submitted an intake for Business Oregon Technical Assistance (TA) grant funds that will support an infrastructure project manager. Business Oregon will be soliciting parties to serve in this capacity through an upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP). RS is preparing for the next strategic planning meeting with Tribal department directors on Jan. 24th in Redmond.
- **Childcare:**
 - Central Oregon Childcare Accelerator Leadership Team – RS participated in the strategic planning retreat for this effort. The Team established a goal of adding 1000 new childcare slots over the next three years in Central Oregon. Additional action items include:
 - A meeting with regional bankers to better understand the barriers to lending for new centers, creating an inventory of available sites (including state surplus sites);
 - Convening regional philanthropic funders to assess establishing a regional grant fund; and
 - Exploring an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) amongst cities and counties for building code services. The regional referral network said it would be a “dream” to have one consistent building inspector for childcare facilities throughout Central Oregon.
 - RS Childcare resources report – The report is now available on the [RS website](#). Many thanks to Rebekah Degner for her hard work on this.
- **Deschutes Basin Collaborative Workgroup:** This effort is being co-convened by the Warm Springs tribes, local governments, the Deschutes River Conservancy, and irrigation districts to develop consensus on policies and projects for the basin. RS is an ex officio member of the leadership team; the team met to discuss the charter including, membership and decision making. The conveners all support a position at Oregon Water Resource Department (OWRD) to assist with these efforts (complex basin position).

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Central RSAC:** March 12th, 2020; 9 AM – 12 PM; Location – TBD

South Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **South Central RS Team meeting:**
 - Lake County Rail – the Federal Rail Authority has determined that the Red Rock Biofuels investment in the rail spur can't be counted as part of the match for the project due to it not being included in the initial application. Project is still funded but match is being scaled back accordingly.
 - Chiloquin blight – DEQ is following up with the city on this issue raised during the RS outreach meeting in December. There may be solid waste orphan funds that can help address the city's concerns.
 - RS Team discussed the draft scope of work for the US Department of Defense grant focused on ensuring renewable energy development does not impair military operations areas. One work item may be to include habitat mapping; this would be very beneficial for assessing impacts and identifying mitigation opportunities.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **South Central RSAC:** March 9th, 2020; 1 PM – 3 PM; Location – Lakeview, More details to follow

Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Senate Bill (SB) 2 update:** DLCD has awarded both Harney and Wallowa Counties a Technical Assistance grant to begin to implement SB 2. SB 2 authorizes ten Eastern Oregon counties to zone up to a total of 50 acres for commercial, industrial, and other employment uses outside of urban growth boundaries (UGB). Both Harney and Wallowa Counties have decided to go first in beginning to implement this legislation. This grant funding will allow each county to do a county-wide economic opportunity analysis (EOA) to identify the land to be rezoned. RS will work with the counties as they begin these projects.