



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020

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

- **Port of Astoria** – The North Coast Regional Solutions Team met with Business Oregon's new Ports Program Policy Coordinator and the Port of Astoria's Executive Director and Director of Operations. Business Oregon recently approved the Port of Astoria's updated Strategic Business Plan. Team members from Business Oregon, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Department of State Lands (DSL) reviewed the port's opportunities and challenges, discussed immediate priorities and infrastructure needs, and identified collaborative possibilities and industrial development opportunities.
- **City of Astoria waterline upgrade** – *Background* – Bowline Investors, LLC, recently acquired a vacant over-water building with the intention of redeveloping a former fish processing plant into a boutique 39-room hotel and restaurant. Redevelopment of the building from a fish processing operation to a lodging and eating/drinking establishment requires the installation of a fire suppression system. The City of Astoria's water infrastructure in this area is undersized for this type of use and cannot meet the water suppression requirements for the hotel. Engineers from Bowline and the City have been engaged in a water infrastructure improvement plan for this area, but the City does not have the capital reserves nor staff capacity to upgrade the waterline at this time. Bowline is unable to obtain a building permit until the waterline is upsized. Lack of funding for the waterline was jeopardizing construction of the hotel and restaurant.

Update – The North Coast Regional Solutions Advisory Committee approved allocation of \$100,000 in Regional Solutions funding remaining from FY15-17 to the City of Astoria for the purposes of upgrading a waterline and associated infrastructure. With this Regional Solutions investment, Bowline will partner with the City of Astoria's engineering department to design and construct the upgraded water line and associated infrastructure to ensure development proceeds.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **April, 2020** – TBD

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **Mid-Valley Workforce and Small Business Resources** – This week during the monthly RS Team meeting, we heard from two of our regional partners– Willamette Workforce Partnership (WWP) and the Chemeketa Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Kim Parker-Llerenas (WWP) shared their work in the regions targeted sectors (manufacturing, healthcare, transportation/warehouse/distribution, and the recently added construction). Celia Nunez (SBDC) provided information about comprehensive business planning and advising services including access to capital programs. The robust conversation focused on more ways to work together, mission alignment, and emerging efforts in the childcare supply. Thank you to Kim and Celia for joining us and thank you for being great partners.
- **Economic & Community Development Initiatives** – RS has been participating in several community economic development initiatives in the Mid-Valley.
 - The City of Monmouth invited RS to participate in a city council/staff session on economic development strategies and best practices. City of Woodburn Economic Development Director Jamie Johnk shared insights on foundational components of an initiative. RS provided a review of how to build a program from the ground up with lessons learned and how to partner and leverage multiple resources. The group discussions and excitement were inspirational. Thank you for to Mayor Koontz and City Manager Chad Olsen for the invitation to participate.
 - Yamhill County Economic Development Advisory Committee met this week to learn about options for developing a strategy from county and city level perspectives. The diverse group of stakeholders has been convened to support SEDCOR’s (Strategic Economic Development Corporation) work for Yamhill County.
 - RS met with the [Chehalem Cultural Center](#) Director, Sean Andries, to discuss the next phase of this regional arts, education, and heritage asset located in Newberg. They are preparing to launch the next phase of development which will include a 250-seat multi-purpose theatre, grand lobby, and movement studio.

Background – “The Center is housed in a historic brick building that began its life in 1935 as Central School—a Depression era Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. The building is currently owned by ... the Chehalem Park and Recreation District. Chehalem Cultural Center is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization.”

The facility currently houses “a fine arts gallery and exhibition hall, three multipurpose arts studio classrooms, a state-of-the-art clay studio, a recording studio with four music practice studios, meeting space, and an elegant 5,200 square foot grand ballroom for public and private events.”

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

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

South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **Roads End/Villages Urban Renewal Area Plan:** The City of Lincoln City hosted a public forum recently on their proposed urban renewal plan for the Roads End/Villages area of the City. The City has developed a plan that includes a list of projects that the urban renewal area could fund over the next 25 years should the area be approved by the City Council. Many of the projects would interface with state agencies, notably ODOT, but also Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), DEQ, Business Oregon, and others. RS will continue to monitor the project as it moves forward so that the RS Team is ready to assist when necessary and appropriate. As a

side note, many of the projects that the RS Team is engaged in throughout Lincoln City are a direct result of another urban renewal area development over 20 years ago.

- **LOC Small Cities Meeting – Central Coast:** RS attended the Central Coast LOC Small Cities meeting last week and had the opportunity to meet with a number of representatives from the mid-coast communities. The City of Lincoln City spoke about a project they are working on with Helping Hands on developing a rehabilitation shelter for homeless in their community. This model could be useful for other communities in the region. Additionally, Newport requested assistance from RS on a project that will help them purchase a fire boat for the bay front area. RS is currently reaching out to state and federal partners to determine what kind of financial assistance might be available to purchase this type of infrastructure.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **April 2020**

Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **Galesville Dam:** Douglas County owns and operates the Galesville dam, just north of Glendale. The dam regulates flows on the South Umpqua. The county also operates a small power generation facility that has been allowing them to break-even on operating costs. Their power sales contract will be expiring in 2022, which will dramatically reduce revenues. Douglas County reached out to Regional Solutions for assistance in exploring partnerships and other strategies to continue operating the dam.
- **Oregon Institute Marine Biology:** OIMB, just south of Coos Bay, on Charleston harbor is U. Oregon's "coastal campus," where marine biology under-grads spend their second two years. It is also a research facility hosting U. Oregon faculty, graduate students and visiting professors and operates an aquarium open to the public. RS visited the campus recently to explore several new proposed campus expansion projects.

Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- **Levee Ready Columbia:** Multijurisdictional effort to ensure that the levee system along the Columbia River, from Sauvie Island to the Sandy River, meets FEMA accreditation standards and continues to reduce the risk of flooding for important regional assets in the area. The levees reduce the risk of flooding for the Portland International Airport, tens of thousands of jobs and residences, thousands of acres of local farmland and hundreds of acres of parks and natural areas.
 - *Update:* Metro RS attended quarterly project team meeting where appointments to the Initial Board for the Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District were discussed. Metro RS is working to identify and recruit potential candidates for the five members that the Governor will appoint to the board including a public non-profit unspecified, an environmental conservation representative, an environmental justice representative, neighborhood representative, and a private sector business within the boundaries of the new district. The goal is for all appointments to be formalized by the end of April 2020 so that Initial District can hold their first meeting shortly thereafter.
- **Greater Portland, Inc. Summit:** Metro RS attended Greater Portland, Inc.'s Annual Economic Summit. Panel discussions explored how education and industry partnerships ignite innovation and help our regional economy thrive.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Friday, March 13, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM**

North Central Region – Nate Stice

- **Hood River Wetlands Bank:** The team and a few external stakeholders started planning on a series of meetings to discuss an approach to wetland banking in the Hood River Basin. Several local stakeholders have asked the team to help add capacity to push forward the local conversations around creating a wetland bank. The team has identified a preferred approach and will work over the next few months to set the table. Stakeholder in the basin and beyond that can add capacity to the project are encouraged to reach out to the team.
- **Farmers Conservation Alliance:** The team met with Hood River-based [Farmers Conservation Alliance](#) to discuss their efforts to co-locate modern irrigation infrastructure with power generation and broadband infrastructure. Farmers Conservation Alliance is working on projects throughout Oregon and the western United States to that benefit both agriculture and the environment. The team is excited about the potential to collaborate on projects that meet our shared priorities around infrastructure and water.

Central Region/South Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs:** RS co-convened and facilitated a 2020/2021 Strategic Planning meeting with tribal CEO and department directors. Addressing issues at the landfill arose as the highest priority for the tribe. EPA and Business Oregon's brownfield program are working to identify resources to develop options for moving forward. All options are likely to cost more and, therefore, a challenge to implement. Other priorities include tribal capacity, water, wastewater, housing, early childhood education center, broadband connectivity, and a ball field project. Next step is for tribal staff leadership to work with tribal council to prioritize among these priorities/projects. RS will co-convene another funders summit (state and federal agencies, as well as philanthropic organizations) once tribal council prioritizes projects/priorities. Target date is late April.
- **Central Oregon Childcare:** RS met with building officials in Central Oregon to explore opportunities for streamlining processes for childcare business owners. The following opportunities were identified as opportunities to improve coordination/processes: include the Office of Childcare in local pre-application and/or pre-construction meetings, develop one pagers that summarize in an integrated manner requirements applicable to each type of facility, and reduce duplication and inconsistencies between state building codes and childcare licensing. RS is following up on these ideas. Building officials were eager to support solutions.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Central: March 12, 2020; 1:00 – 4:00, Sisters City Hall**
- **South Central: March 9, 2019; 1:00 – 3:00 Lakeview, Lake County Commissioners Room**

Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Umatilla Flooding Relief:** This week the Governor put forward a \$12 million state recovery package to help Umatilla County recover from the devastating floods this month. This package includes funding for housing, business recover funding, repairs to the levee system and funding for Milton-Freewater. Additionally, this week the Governor announced a \$1.8 million stopgap loan funding for the Pendleton levee repair. Regional Solutions is also bringing together all the federal, state and local agencies to begin working towards solutions to many of the issues that communities are facing in the aftermath of this event.
- **Hines Pellet Mill:** DEQ held a public hearing on the Hines Pellet Mill air quality permit in Burns this past week. It was a great hearing where we had over 20 community members providing

overwhelmingly positive comments about the project and the impact that this will have on the community. Additionally, many members of the public thanked both the company for all the work they did and DEQ and Regional Solutions for the roles we played in helping get to this point. Now DEQ will respond to all the comments that were received and hopefully a final permit will be issued in the coming weeks.

- **Blues Intergovernmental Council:** RS participated in the monthly Blues Intergovernmental Council that is focused on collaboration around land management plans related to the national forests in the Blue Mountains. The group made good headway in finalizing operating principles and have started to begin dividing into sub-committees to begin tackling issues. The group continues to be committed to moving forward and we have begun to define our common purpose around the sustainability of our communities' economic and social health and enhancing environmental stewardship.
- **Wallowa Lake Dam Project:** The memorandum of agreement (MOA) between all the stakeholders involved in the Wallowa Lake Dam replacement has been finalized and is in legal review with all parties. We hope to have a signed agreement in the next month. This MOA is related to the instream water agreement between all parties once the dam is replaced and once signed, it will enable the \$14 million allocated by the Legislature to be disbursed and then engineering and design can begin.
- **Elk Depredation in Umatilla and Morrow Counties:** RS took a tour with Dick Levy of Cunningham Ranch of some of the land in the Gurdane area (Umatilla county area between Pilot Rock and Heppner) to see the impact that large herds of elk are having on private land. Last week, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and local ranchers participated in a hazing event to get thousands of elk off private land and back into the mountains. This is an issue that is affecting local ranchers and land owners and they are looking for some help. RS will work with the Natural Resource team to see what we can do to help with the state efforts moving forward.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Monday, March 30, 2020, 10 am-12 pm, Eastern Oregon University, Dixie Lund Boardroom, Inlow Hall 201, La Grande, OR**