



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

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

Regional Solutions (RS) Director – Leah Horner

North Coast Region – Jennifer Purcell

- **North Coast Equity in Recovery Council** – The North Coast Regional Equity in Recovery Council (RERC) met this week, providing regional feedback to the Racial Justice Council's Economic Opportunity and Environmental Equity subcommittees. The RERC is a regional conduit for the Governor's Equity in Recovery Framework, providing a critical feedback mechanism. RERC members reviewed budget and policy recommendations, reflecting on regional priorities, opportunities and barriers. Regional highlights included:
 - **Economic Opportunity** – Council members reviewed economic policy recommendations and identified access to capital and collateral support, succession planning, business mentorship and financial literacy education programs as regional priorities. Expunging certain criminal backgrounds and incentivizing employment opportunities were identified as opportunities to interrupt cycles of poverty and recidivism. Agency accountability and ensuring workplace safety were also highlighted. Broadband access continues to be identified as a significant barrier to economic opportunity and equity in recovery, as well as limited infrastructure and community capacity.
 - **Environmental Equity** – Council members reviewed environmental equity policy recommendations and identified improved access to recycling, expanded outreach and education, particularly in multiple languages, and consistency of recycling systems as both economic and environmental priorities. The North Coast region boasts an active food systems network and supporting and expanding food systems development in the region is important. Additional priorities included protecting source water, incentivizing alternate transportation options, expanding beach access, and improving water and wastewater infrastructure.

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **Mid-Valley Community Alliance**, a bi-weekly POC meeting, met this week to discuss COVID response and wildfire recovery. Several member are concerned about schools reopening to in-

person instruction and how multi-generational families will be supported. There are also rising concerns about young people not wearing masks in public.

- **Marion County Public Health/POC Leaders** meet weekly. The discussion, this week, covered topics including next steps for the county's Latinx COVID-19 Community Readiness Report, which will identify strategies to reduce transmission, increase prevention, and invention tools. Jan Calvin, Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance, shared a homeless prevention grant opportunity.
- **Santiam Canyon Wildfire Economic Recovery Team (SC WERT) – *Background*** – As part of the Governor's Disaster Cabinet and Wildfire Economic Recovery Council (WERC), the 4 wildfire-impacted regions will be standing up expanded Regional Solutions Advisory Committee to establish Wildfire Economic Recovery Teams (ERTs). The ERTs will identify issues and provide feedback to the WERC. Representatives Teresa Alonso Leon and Ron Noble convene the SC WERT, which includes Marion and Linn Counties. The team members are local elected officials, city and planning staff, non-profit leadership, economic and workforce development professionals, community based organizations, and the Mid-Valley Regional Solutions Team.
 - Update – This week, the team discussed State Building Codes with Alana Cox and Michael Morter with Department of Consumer & Business Services (DCBS). During the roundtable discussion, several items were identified including the need for mental health services for residents and previously homeless; cities are concerned about significant revenue losses; septic issues related to lot sizes; and the opportunity to engage the Latinx community in discussions about business development and recreation activities as many worked and participated in the recreation in the canyon.
 - **IMPORTANT: The FEMA INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DEADLINE is NOVEMBER 16, 2020** – apply here: <https://www.disasterassistance.gov> or call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).
 - **NEXT Meeting: November 12, 2020 from 8-9:30 AM**
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94847479945?pwd=Q1lCU2oyaEZKcFVybFdaLzZwZmdOZz09>
Meeting ID: 948 4747 9945 Passcode: 718808
One tap mobile +16699006833,,94847479945#,,,,,0#,,718808#

[South Valley/Mid Coast Region](#) – Sarah Means

- **SVMC Wildfire Economic Recovery Team** – Note that this team will be focused on the Echo Mountain and Holiday Farm fires in Lincoln and Lane/Lincoln counties respectively. The team heard from the representatives from DCBS Building Codes Division on residential building codes and insurance. The Team had a number of questions specifically related to insurance.

The Regional Solutions Team (RST) continues to meet with partners to discuss opportunities for long-term recovery needs and issues. This past week, members of the RST participated in a work session with Lane County Board of Commissioners and staff to discuss needs and opportunities moving forward with the Blue River community wastewater project. This was a project we were focused on prior to the Holiday Farm Fire and continues to be a significant topic of conversation moving forward. State agencies on the RST will be key participants in the work to try to bring a community wastewater system to Blue River.

Additional topics of concern/interest that have been elevated this past week related to the fires include:

- Broadband in rural communities and how that is facilitated through the rebuilding phase.
- Construction Excise Tax implications on rebuilding in wildfire impacted areas.

- Both Lane and Lincoln counties are still asking about a FEMA Housing Mission and if they qualify.
- On-the-ground case management continues to be a challenge as information sharing between Red Cross and counties is not occurring. Information sharing agreements are needed as soon as possible.
- **SVMC Wildfire ERT meets Thursdays at 3pm via zoom.**
<https://zoom.us/j/99061672153>
 Meeting ID: 990 6167 2153
 One tap mobile +19292056099,,99061672153# US

Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **Southern Oregon Regional Wildfire Economic Recovery Team:**
 - The **SO WERT** met this week. They heard presentations on interim housing efforts for Alameda Fire survivors, including FEMA direct housing mission; Phoenix Talent School District; City of Talent and two privately led efforts.
 - **Phoenix-Talent School district** has seen approximately 300 students dis-enrolled, most moving out of the area/state. The district is developing plans to provide bus service for displaced students who are still within the region.
- **Illinois Valley Airport Industrial Park** – A Regional Infrastructure Finance grant was made to Josephine County to complete the fire suppression system, which will make the county-owned industrial park ready for development. The project had been stalled for some time over a water rights issue. Josephine County has received a court order to take possession of the needed water right, has a revised budget and schedule, and is prepared to move forward with the project

Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- **Metro Wildfire Economic Recovery Team (WERT) – *Background*** – As part of the Governor’s Disaster Cabinet and statewide [Wildfire Economic Recovery Council](#) (WERC), Regional Solutions established Wildfire Economic Recovery Teams (WERTs) in fire-affected parts of the state. The WERTs are comprised of local elected officials, city managers, county emergency managers, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations and business, philanthropic and workforce development representatives. The WERTs will identify issues, gaps and needs in fire-affected regions and elevate them to the Governor and the statewide Wildfire Economic Recovery Council. The feedback will help inform legislative priorities and state actions that may be taken to help with wildfire response and recovery efforts. The Metro WERT is co-convened by Representatives Mark Meek and Anna Williams.
 - ***Update*** – During this week’s meeting, Brian Boling of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provided an update on household hazardous waste removal. Frank Reading of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) provided an update on ash and debris removal. Audrey O’Brien of DEQ provided an overview of waste transfer station options for those doing cleanup themselves. Clackamas County has decided not to pursue the siting of a temporary waste transfer station nearby fire-affected areas at this time due to cost and time constraints as well as challenges with where to site such a facility. Instead, Clackamas County will encourage those who wish to clean up their own properties to DEQ’s webpage for information on how to safely dispose of household hazardous waste and ash and debris removal and to the Hillsboro and Cotton Butte landfills. The group also heard from Alana Cox and Michael Morter at the Department of

Consumer and Business Services (DCBS). They presented on potential revisions to the state residential building code and went over key insurance issues for homeowners who may have damaged or lost property. They solicited feedback from the group on the residential building code. The group recommends maintaining the existing residential building code but to consider other structures that property owners may have lost in addition to their homes such as barns, sheds, etc.

- **IMPORTANT: The FEMA INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DEADLINE is NOVEMBER 16, 2020** – apply here: <https://www.disasterassistance.gov> or call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).
- The Metro WERT meets on Wednesdays from 1 – 2:30 PM via zoom. The next meeting is **Wednesday, November 18 from 1 – 2:30 PM**. The Metro WERT will not meet next Wednesday, November 11, since it is Veteran’s Day.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/93798772230>

Meeting ID: 937 9877 2230

Passcode: 712578

One tap mobile +12532158782,,93798772230#,,,,,0#,,712578# US (Tacoma)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ac5byzITG8>

- **Willamette Falls Legacy Project** – Metro RS participated in quarterly public partners (state of Oregon, city of Oregon City, Clackamas County and Metro) meeting. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (CTGR) also participated. Since CTGR acquired the Blue Heron Mill Site in summer 2019, they requested alternative approaches to site access for phase one. There are now three phase one approaches under consideration:
 - **Approach 1:** Access the viewing overlook through Main Street.
 - **Approach 2:** Also goes down Main Street, with a full build out of the Phase 1 overlook.
 - **Approach 3:** Goes down the riverfront, with full Phase 1 overlook. Entry way focused along the riverfront, making permanent improvements along Water Street and the north Riverfront Bridge area, making changes to the master plan to accommodate those permanent improvements, and focusing on temporary improvements to access the Phase 1 viewpoint area.

The budget was roughly \$25M for phase one under the original proposal (approach 1 above), of which \$19.9M remains from various sources including the \$12.5M for construction costs from the State of Oregon.

Phase 1 Construction Cost Estimates:

- **Approach 1:** Estimate \$23M, \$4M shortfall
- **Approach 2:** Estimate \$33M, \$14M shortfall
- **Approach 3:** Estimate \$50M, \$31M shortfall

At some point, the partners will need to determine the preferred approach for phase one of the project. All approaches will require additional funds as referenced above.

North Central Region – Nate Stice

- **North Central Regional Equity in Recovery Council (RERC)** – The North Central Regional Equity in Recovery Council held its second and third meetings. The RERC is a regional conduit for the Governor’s Equity in Recovery Framework, including Pandemic Operations and Response and the Council on Racial Justice. It is tasked with helping to center regional recovery conversation on equity. During these meetings, council members reviewed Racial Justice Council Subcommittee recommendations in four areas: education, housing and homelessness,

environmental equity, and economic opportunity. The conversations helped to think about how the recommendations would play out in the region, and helped members think about what this work will look like regionally.

- **Grass Valley Waste Water** – The team is working with the City of Grass Valley to increase services based on recent commercial growth. In particular, the siting of a hemp processing facility has steeply increased employment, the need for housing, and related service. The City is still currently on individual septic system, but is contemplating a sewer system. This last week, the city reached out to the team to restart work toward that end and chose a consultant to help provide technical assistance.

Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Eastern Oregon Regional Equity in Recovery Council** – The Eastern Oregon Regional Equity in Recovery Council (EO RERC) has met and reviewed the RJC subcommittee recommendations for Education, Economic Opportunity, Environmental Equity and Healthy Equity over the past two weeks. The EO RERC had some great feedback and RS is in the process of compiling all that information and providing it back to the Governor.
- **Eastern Oregon Border Board** – The Border Board received verification from Business Oregon that the third party agreement with the Oregon Community Fund has been approved and the program funding from the Border Board has now been transferred from Business Oregon to Oregon Community Fund. This comes after special session legislation was passed this past summer that granted the Border Board the ability to contract with a third party administrator for their programs.
- **CTUIR Coyote Business Park Marketing** – The Coyote Business Park has launched a new website and logo as part of its rebranding efforts to promote the development opportunities of the business park. Coyote Business Park is owned and operated by the CTUIR and is designated as an IRS certified Opportunity Zone. With more than 170 acres of commercial and industrial use potential, Coyote Business Park has certified shovel-ready sites, unique tax incentives, and flexible lease terms. For information about shovel ready sites and development opportunities at Coyote Business Park, please visit <https://www.coyotebusinesspark.com/>.
- **Blues Intergovernmental Council** – The Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) met this past week as a full council to hear updates from each of the subcommittees that are working on developing zones of agreement and desired outcomes for the US Forest Service's (USFS) management plan for the Blue Mountains. The BIC has been meeting for about a year and is due to present its final recommendations to both the full BIC council and the USFS in December.