



# RS EXCHANGE

## REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

### Weekly Report

Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

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

#### Regional Solutions (RS) Director – **Leah Horner**

#### North Coast Region – **Jennifer Purcell**

- No report this week.

#### Mid-Valley Region – **Jody Christensen**

- Santiam Canyon Housing - Mill City Interim Wastewater System:  
This week, RS convened a meeting to establish next steps in Mill City's development of an interim wastewater solutions, which is needed to enhance capacity for several housing developments including 54-unit project that prioritizes wildfire survivors. The city, its consultants, Marion County, Business Oregon, and Department of Environmental Quality worked to identify possible solutions, funding strategies, and determine process/milestones. The group is going to continue meet every two weeks to work on the plan.

#### South Valley/Mid Coast Region – **Sarah Means**

- McKenzie Rebuilds – Oregon Solutions:  
*Background:* Following the Holiday Farm Fire in 2020, Lane County requested the Governor designate an Oregon Solutions project to assist with the recovery of the McKenzie River area. In the summer of 2021, the project was formally designated, and the project team held their kick-off meeting in September.
  - *Update:* The McKenzie Rebuilds Project Team met last week to finalize topics and subcommittee structure. The group collectively agreed to focus on infrastructure (wastewater), housing, and economic development. Land Use/zoning connects all topics and, as such, will be prevalent in all the subcommittee conversations. RS

team members will be participating in each of these groups based on subject matter expertise. Groups are forming now and will begin meeting in the coming month.

## Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- No report this week.

## Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- No report this week.

## North Central Region – Nate Stice

- No report this week.

## Central & South Central Region – Annette Liebe

### **Central**

- Central Oregon Irrigation District piping:  
RS participated in a Deschutes Basin Collaborative Workgroup tour of the district's piping projects. They are working on both district and on farm piping projects. The on-farm projects are being supported, in part, by Deschutes County ARPA funding. These projects will ultimately increase water in the Deschutes River for the spotted frog, share conserved water with North Unit Irrigation District in Jefferson County, increase pressure for on farm use and, reduce the number of farms that are on a "rotation" to use water.

### **South Central**

- Klamath Domestic wells:  
Just this week, Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) received an additional 10 dry well complaints. Department of Human Services (DHS) is conducting an analysis of the ongoing "mission" to provide tanks and water deliveries to homes whose wells have gone dry. The original end date of the mission was March 31, 2022; due to continued drought the county is seeking an extension. Klamath County has issued both a drought declaration and an emergency declaration for 2022. As a result of a lower aquifer levels, OWRD has decided not to issue emergency well permits to agriculture under a drought declaration this summer. There are a lot of concerns about the impact of this decision to agriculture.

- Apprenticeships:  
RS convened a follow up meeting with Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI), Klamath Community College (KCC), and East Cascades works to assess opportunities to increase apprenticeship opportunities for plumbers and electricians. The goal is to increase the pipeline of workers in these fields despite not having a large supply of journeymen trainers in rural communities. BOLI provided great information about the process for increasing the ratio for plumbers and electricians. BOLI also offered to seek feedback on the ratios for these apprenticeship programs in other states. KCC will work with another apprenticeship administrator to seek an increase in the ratios.
- South Central Regional Solutions Team Outreach meeting with City of Chiloquin:
  1. Water- The city has concerns about the primary well in Chiloquin. The well is more than 40 years old and there are concerns about whether the well will be able to meet residents needs during continuing drought. Biggest struggle is to get a company out to look at the pump and to do maintenance. They are working on a new well that is expected to be online in 18 months.
  2. Broadband- The city has put together a broadband advisory council. The council is doing research and developing recommendations. Goal is to be ready for grants at the end of this year. \$60-100k needed for feasibility and engineering studies.
  3. Parks – City has completed a strategic plan. Next step is a Parks Master Plan; the city plans to apply for Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) planning grant to create a Master Plan. These grants require a 20% match, city is looking at how to provide match. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) could potentially be a partner on this through the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund.
  4. Grants Assistance – city is seeking help with applying for administering grants. The South-Central Oregon Economic Development District (SCOEDD) is looking at how they might be able to provide these services. SCOEDD will receive some state funding to help rural communities apply for and administer grants.

## Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Test Range:  
Recently, the Pendleton UAS Range was able to support a fully autonomous flight of cutting-edge medical sample transport. This flight was an effort between Spright, an Arizona company; WingCopter, a German drone manufacturer; Interpath Lab; and Yellowhawk Tribal Health Clinic. Spright is a national leader in the medical transport industry and have signed a multi-year lease at the Pendleton airport to do UAS testing. This could be a huge market for the UAS industry and a great opportunity to support this testing here in Oregon. Additionally, we expect many jobs to come from this opportunity.
- Wallowa Lake Dam Project:  
RS brought together stakeholders in Wallowa County this week for an update on the Wallowa Lake Dam and to begin strategizing how all the partners can work together on acquiring additional federal and state funds to address the fish passage needs within the Wallowa basin and needed infrastructure upgrades. It was a great opportunity to share the progress that the stakeholders of the instream water Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) have made and begin to broaden our stakeholder work group to make progress.

This group has made clear that they want to meet on a regular basis to keep the momentum going and to not miss any funding opportunities. RS will continue to facilitate these conversations.

- Umatilla Flood Recovery:

Umatilla County and the City of Pendleton have worked together to provide resources to help fund additional capacity at the Umatilla Soil and Water Conservation District to act as a flood recovery coordinator. This will dramatically help with the facilitation of all the different groups in Umatilla County that are working on long term flood mitigation and flood recovery from the February 2020 flooding. RS has been convening many of these tables, but we are excited let the soil and water conservation district take the lead on facilitation and forward progress. RS will continue to stay engaged and help in any way that we can.