



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

Wednesday, July 13th, 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

- Clatsop County Child Care Grant Program:
Clatsop County Commissioners recently voted unanimously to create a Child Care Grant program. The proposal was developed and recommended by a local childcare taskforce, convened by the NW Regional Child Care Resource & Referral Network and the NW Early Learning Hub, and including early learning advocates and economic and small business development partners. The grant program will serve as a catalyst to retain and expand childcare across the region. The Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District, the regional Economic Development District, will serve as the fiscal agent and funding will provide for an interim program manager to keep the work moving forward and address the immediate needs of childcare providers. Longer term, the funding will support a business coach and a permanent program manager. To access grant funding, business supports, and shared services, childcare programs will participate in strengthening business training and coaching. In addition to the County's contribution of \$500,000 in ARPA funds, local employers and community partners have also committed to supporting this work. Providence Seaside Hospital and Columbia Memorial Hospital are contributing a total of \$120,000 to the effort of retaining and expanding childcare in Clatsop County. Regional Solutions partnered with Clatsop County and NW Regional Child Care Resource & Referral in the early formation of a childcare taskforce. The persistence of local leadership and critical community partners has been instrumental in achieving this important success.
- U.S. Coast Guard announces investment in Astoria's Tongue Point:
The U.S. Coast Guard announced this week that it has awarded a \$30 million contract to improve infrastructure and expand facilities at Tongue Point in preparation for two new fast response cutters to be stationed in Astoria. Coast Guard personnel will begin arriving in Astoria next year, with the first cutter expected to arrive in early 2024. Fast response cutters are designed to conduct missions that include port, waterways and coastal security, fishery patrols, intercepting and preventing the movement of drugs, search and rescue, and national defense. Congratulations to Astoria and Clatsop County! These new cutters, their crews and support teams will contribute significantly to the community and the regional economy.

- North Coast Regional Solutions Team updates:
The RST met this week to bid farewell to a couple of valuable team members and to welcome new agency representatives to Regional Solutions.
- Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) – Lisa Phipps has served as the North Coast Regional Representative for DLCD since 2018. Lisa recently accepted a new position and will be leaving Regional Solutions to become a Coastal Policy Specialist with DLCD. Lisa has provided invaluable expertise in coastal planning and land use during her time with Regional Solutions. We wish Lisa all the best in this next chapter.
 - Update – The North Coast RST welcomes Brett Estes to the team. Brett has assumed the position of North Coast Regional Representative with DLCD. Most recently, Brett served as City Manager for the City of Astoria, and he brings a wealth of community planning and economic development experience to the team.
- Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) – Jae Pudewell has served as the North Coast Regional Solutions Team representative for ODOT since 2014. Jae recently announced his retirement, and we wish him all the best in his adventures! Jae has brought significant project management competence, flexible and creative problem solving to the team and his skills and expertise will be sorely missed. Jae was instrumental in the success of the Rainier ‘A’ Street Rail Safety Improvements project and the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative an active contributor to many other North Coast RST projects.
 - Update – Mark Bernard will be assuming the role of Regional Solutions Liaison for ODOT. Mark brings significant experience with transportation planning, grants and project management, and most recently served as a Regional Transit Coordinator with ODOT’s Public Transportation Division. The North Coast RST is looking forward to engaging Mark’s skills and experience and his interest in community and economic development.

Mid-Valley Region /Southern & South Coast Regions –Jody Christensen

- Regional Solutions Team (RST) updates in the Mid-Valley, Southern, and South Coast:
 - Recently, Business Oregon conducted a One Stop Financing Meeting for City of Independence to evaluate funding options for \$10M sewer improvement; identified a possible scenario using funds from both Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Business Oregon.
 - Business Oregon has identified funding to help Willamina meet an urgent wastewater collection system improvement need; City is planning to apply for funding.
 - With the representatives from the City of McMinnville, McMinnville Water & Light, the Strategic Economic Development Corp. (SEDCOR), and the McMinnville Economic Development Partnership (MEDP), Business Oregon toured the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (OMIC) in Scappoose; hoping to apply lessons from OMIC’s work to an innovation campus project concept in McMinnville.
 - Members of the RST joined Commissioner Kulla’s monthly Yamhill County Water Task Force for an agricultural drain tiling presentation and broader discussion about county water systems.
 - RST members joined the North Santiam Sewer Authority’s (NSSA) monthly meeting. The highlights included a new video showcasing the progress and hope for the future and overview of the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments’ support.

- RS met with the Office of Strategic Resources from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to share information about regional solutions and learn more about the agency's offshore energy initiatives.
 - RS participated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Planning team meeting regarding 2020 wildfires technical assistance recovery projects with updates provided by representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Business Oregon, National Park Services - Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (NPS-RTCA), Housing Urban Development (HUD), Oregon American Planning Association (OAPA), Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), and Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS)'s Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR).
 - Welcome to two new team members – Becky Williams has joined the Department of Environmental Quality as the regional representative covering Southern and South Coast. On 7.15.2022, Mark Bernard will be stepping in to cover North, Mid-Valley, and South Valley as Jae Pudewell heads off to retirement. We would like to thank Jae for his guidance and years of service in the regions.
- Innovation Hub recipients:
Our regions were announced by Business Oregon - the Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR), South Coast Development Council, Inc. (SCDC, Inc.), and Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Corp., Inc. (SOREDI) received Innovation Hub planning grants, which will help to bring a wide variety of partners together to stand up robust regional innovation ecosystems.

Metro Region – **Raihana Ansary**

- No report this week.

North Central Region/South Valley/Mid-Coast Region– **Nate Stice**

- Mid-Columbia Attainable Housing Coordination Meeting:
The lack of affordable and attainable housing remains the top priority for the region, and to help communities in meeting their goals, the RS team along with the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District is starting a series of quarterly meetings to pull together community leaders across a seven-county bi-state region working on these issues. The initial meeting of this group was attended by thirty stakeholders and focused on communities sharing their efforts. Each meeting will include a developer highlight, and this week, the group heard from Alan Easling, who continues to build missing middle housing in The Dalles.

South Valley/Mid-Coast

- **Lebanon Outreach Meeting:**

The RS team invited the City of Lebanon to our weekly meeting to discuss a variety of projects the city is working on. The meeting focused on the redevelopment of historic mill sites. The team is exploring the possibility of Transportation Growth Management Funding to help advance access and multimodal transportation around the sites. The city also discussed their efforts to renovate the local library. Finally, the City of Lebanon highlighted for the RS team the importance of cybersecurity for small communities and the challenges that they face in finding resources to work on this issue. The RS team is currently engaged in many of these projects and is working on follow up with other items.

Greater Eastern & Northeast Region – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Morrow and Umatilla Counties Safe Drinking Water Project:**

RS convened a technical working group of individuals within Morrow and Umatilla Counties that are working on the drinking water concerns and the state agencies that are involved. It was a good first meeting and we will be meeting weekly for the next few weeks to get things moving in developing longer term processes and coordination in both counties related to education, outreach, testing and mitigation efforts. Additionally, the technical working group provides a forum for all the state agencies and local leaders to hear the same updates and get everyone on the same page. Morrow county has tested 250 wells and 114 came back with high nitrate levels. They have also purchased some filtration systems and 14 have been installed by homeowners. They also continue to provide water and deliver water to homes. Umatilla County has launched their comprehensive testing program and 40-60 test kits have been taken and results are starting to come in. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is starting to ramp up their program to help address this issue and there is a lot of opportunity for the agency and the local programs to collaborate. RS will continue to provide the facilitation for this forum.

- **Eastern Oregon Border Board:**

The Eastern Oregon Border Board met this week and are in the final stages of coordinating with the state on getting the additional \$6 million that was provided to them during the legislative session. Additionally, the discussed and brainstormed proposed legislative concepts for the next long session and made some small changes to one of their grant programs.