



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

Wednesday, August 3rd, 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 – Nate Stice

Regional Solutions continues to change and adapt to provide a high-level of service under Governor Brown's leadership and through the upcoming change in administration. Several staff changes were announced this month. With Leah Horner taking on a Deputy Chief of Staff role in the Governor's office, I took on the role of RS Director in addition to continuing to serve as the coordinator for the North Central Region. Mid-Valley Coordinator Jody Christensen and North Coast Coordinator Jennifer Purcell announced departures in late August. Jody and Jennifer are longtime members of the RS family serving as an advisory committee member and team member respectively before taking on the coordinator roles and will be missed.

To continue the work, the RS team is welcoming Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Greg Svelund and Oregon Department of Transportation's Trevor Sleeman on rotation into the Governor's office as Regional Solutions Coordinators. Greg is a long-serving team member on Regional Solutions Teams across the state and played an important role in Regional Solution's work around COVID 19 and other emergency situations. Trevor brings a wealth of experience working at a high-level in federal affairs at ODOT and helping communities address barriers through previous work as Congressional Staff and in the state legislature.

As the core of Regional Solutions and the many regional approaches that preceded it, the state agency/local partner teams continue to meet at least monthly and to advance community priorities and projects in each of the state's eleven regions. Governor's office representatives will be at each of these tables. We are asking the teams to continue to actively engage in outreach to communities through the fall and are working with regional coordinators to ensure Governor's office facilitation of key efforts such as the Warm Springs Drinking Water Task Force, McKenzie Rebuilds, and other efforts.

Regional Solutions has always used an "all-doors" and "all-hands" approach, and we will lean on this approach during this transition. Any members of the regional teams or Governor's office staff are always willing and available to help communities navigate and address issues. Please never hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of service. I can always be reached at nate.stice@oregon.gov or 971-283-8817.

Thank you to the many partners in the legislature, local government, industry, philanthropy, non-profits, community-based organization that enable this collaborative model. The team looks forward to continuing to work with you all moving forward.

In Partnership,

Nate

Central Oregon Region

- Outreach meeting with City of Sisters/Wastewater Project (Greg Svelund):

The Central RS team held an outreach meeting in Sisters with city leaders to discuss several projects, including a wastewater improvement project that will incorporate constructed wetlands and trails. The wastewater project would send treated effluent to a constructed wetland and is similar to projects in nearby Prineville and Redmond. The city sought RS assistance for various aspects of the projects, including to address land use and planning considerations, water rights, parking, a wildlife crossing and parks and recreation grant funding. The city is looking to hold a One Stop funding meeting in the Fall.

The project is the latest example in Oregon of a municipality seeking to create a public benefit out of treated wastewater, and it will take a handful of state agencies with critical pieces to help move it forward. The city is looking to begin construction in 2023.

- Warm Springs Drinking Water Task Force (Nate Stice, Greg Svelund)

The Governor's Office convened the latest Warm Springs Drinking Water Task Force meeting August 3, bringing together the tribe, consultants and many state and federal agencies involved in the project. Tribal consultants are in the design phase for a new water treatment plant, and this planning is occurring as needed upgrades are made to keep the existing plant functional until it can be replaced. The new plant should be online sometime in the next five to ten years and will be built on or adjacent to the existing footprint. The Governor's Office will continue to hold regular coordination calls to keep the project moving.

Greater Eastern & Northeast Region – Courtney Warner Crowell

- Morrow and Umatilla County Drinking Water Issues:

RS continues to bring together the technical working group of both state and local partners to work on long term planning and collaboration around education, outreach, testing and mitigation efforts for drinking water safety in both Morrow and Umatilla counties. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Morrow County are coordinating on filters for homes that test high for nitrates. We are ensuring that everyone is coordinated so that we get the right filters and the right education out to homeowners, and everyone is using the same information. Additionally, RS brought Morrow and Umatilla counties

together with OHA to talk about capacity needs moving forward to ensure our local partners have what they need to establish long term testing, education, and outreach programs.

North Coast Region – Jennifer Purcell

- No report this week.

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

- No report this week.

Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- No report this week.

North Central Region/South Valley/Mid-Coast Region

- No report this week.