

RS EXCHANGE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Regional Solutions Team News

Last week, the Regional Solutions Team gathered in Corvallis for our monthly meeting, and while in the area were able to connect with the local community and tour some nearby facilities. We had a good discussion with Benton County officials and heard about how they're looking forward to address future waste management challenges at Coffee Butte Landfill and their efforts to engage the local community in that planning. We also toured the Emerson Mass Timber research lab on the OSU campus. The innovative lab creates and tests new products for acoustic, fire, seismic, and thermal performance among other qualities. Working alongside the Mass Timber Coalition, they're also looking to policy and exploring model codes that might expand the use of these new products in more types of buildings.

Much of the team stayed in Corvallis to attend the Oregon Infrastructure Summit and learn new ways to access state and federal dollars that can be leveraged to advance community infrastructure projects, especially drinking water and clean water programs and energy upgrades. We were also able to connect with organizations and local governments from around the state who are wrestling with these challenges and learn from some incredible successes that jurisdictions highlighted during the conference.

Thanks to Benton County, OSU, and the Corvallis community for hosting us so graciously! The beautiful autumn scenery and back-to-school atmosphere were a perfect setting for this experience in learning and partnership.



Regional Updates

Eastern Oregon – Courtney Crowell

- **Pendleton Affordable Housing Pilot Project:** Regional Solutions (both the Governor's office and DLCD) met with the City of Pendleton this week to talk about the progress on their pilot project they were awarded in 2021 to add 50 acres of residential land (partly for affordable housing) into their UGB. There was a legislative bill that was passed during the 2023 session that extended the time period for the city to complete their application and get the project complete. DLCD and our Regional Solutions team continue to work with the city to get the application put together and ready to go through the approval process.
- **OTEC Economic Summit:** The Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative held their annual economic summit last week at Anthony Lakes in Eastern Oregon to bring together leaders from across their service territory (Union, Baker, Grant and Harney counties) to talk about economic development opportunities. It was a great opportunity to hear from national speakers about the economic outlook and how to position communities for rural economic development opportunities. It was also a great opportunity to showcase the great collaboration and work that is happening across the region.
- **Baker City Wastewater Project:** Regional Solutions continues to work with Baker City, their consultants and DEQ on solutions to their wastewater project problems. This week the city had their contractor and liner installer onsite to diagnose the issues with the liner of their brand-new wastewater lagoon pond. The city had identified that there was a deficiency in the liner of the new storage lagoon last month and has worked to drain the pond over the last month so the contractor and liner installer can identify the problems and propose a solution. Now that we know what the issues are, the contractor and liner installer will work with the city to fix the problems. Meanwhile, the consultants continue to look for land that will be acceptable for land application next irrigation season so that we can use the new wastewater permit that DEQ has issued. We continue to have monthly check-in meetings to keep the momentum on this project.

Mid-Valley – Beth Wytoski

- The Mid-Valley Economic Development District (EDD) is finalizing its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and affirming priorities for Yamhill, Polk, and Marion Counties. I have also been reviewing the plan, especially the priorities, to see how the work of Regional Solutions can support the goals pursued by the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments and other stakeholders. The purpose of the CEDS is to coordinate the efforts of many to promote economic development and resilience throughout the region. Several voices and perspectives have been involved in this process including advisors from the cities of Gates, Newberg, Woodburn, Independence, McMinnville as well as many partners in economic development including Willamette Workforce Partnership, Business Oregon, SEDCOR, McMinnville Economic Development Partnership, Advanced Economic Solutions, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The findings include a noted competitive advantage in our agricultural economy, food & beverage, metals & machinery, forest products, materials manufacturing, and traded sector services. Some areas of opportunity include the pursuit of high wage jobs and regional cooperation. The goals of the EDD align well with the work of Regional Solutions and include 1 – Support business development; 2 – Enhance workforce; 3 – Improve community infrastructure; and 4 –

Strengthen regional collaboration. The timeline for the related objectives will span from 2023 to 2028, a 5-year path to improve economic conditions in the Mid-Valley.

- The Regional Solutions Team visited McMinnville to review their ambitious list of projects and support them by identifying options for funding while providing support to navigate regulatory hurdles and potential pitfalls. The vision for Third Street, the Innovation Center Campus, and housing production plans are sure to elevate the region. We look forward to our next site visit to learn more about goals of our local governments and how we can utilize state and federal resources to help.

North Central – Nate Stice

- **Wasco County Brownfields Coalition:** The North Central Team has helped to launch and has served on the core team of the Wasco County Brownfields Coalitions, which was formed to administer a \$600,000 EPA Brownfields revitalization grant. The team joined the Coalition for A Community Revitalization Townhall meeting celebrating successful local projects that were funded through the Brownfields grant over the two year since the grant waws awarded. The program worked on 19 sites in Wasco County, and contributed to projects that will create housing and jobs. The Mid-Columbia Economic Development District has been awarded an additional \$1 million out of the EPA funding to expand the program in its five-county bi-state region, and The Dalles is looking at securing additional funding. If communities are interested in an interesting pot of money to move some projects forward, I would recommend talking to DEQ and Business Oregon team members to learn more about these EPA funds.

North Coast – Nate Stice

- **Pier 2 West Rehabilitation Project:** Rehabilitation of the Port of Astoria’s Pier 2 is a long-standing Regional Solutions project. Pier 2 West is an elevated timber dock located along the Astoria Central Waterfront and home to seafood processors Bornstein Seafoods and Da Yang Seafood. In 2014, the east side of Pier 2 near Bornstein’s Seafoods benefitted ODOT’s Connect IV Program as approximately 36,000 square feet of dock were replaced. Pier 2 West has not undergone significant maintenance in the last several decades and both the deck and substructures are failing. Business Oregon has awarded a \$1.2 million in Emerging Opportunity Fund to help with preconstruction costs for west side of the pier. Preconstruction — engineering, permitting, project management, mitigation and more — is estimated to cost around \$3 million. The entire project has a price tag over \$25 million.
Update: The Port and their chosen general contractor, Bergerson Construction, presented initial designs and plans to the Kaizen Early Coordination and Per-Application Meeting. These early coordination meetings are meant to help applicants understand the regulatory framework for projects in advance of submitting applications. The team joined the meeting and will continue to work with the port and contractors through the process.

South Valley/Mid-Coast – Courtney Flathers

- **City of Toledo:** The South Valley/Mid-Coast Regional Solutions team visited the City of Toledo on September 19th to learn about the city’s current needs and priorities and discuss ways to support them. Our discussion focused on several housing needs and opportunities on the horizon, including a 33-unit affordable housing complex in development that needs additional

funding and the concept of converting state-owned properties in Toledo into housing. We also toured a building the city purchased in 2017 with the vision of converting it into a new public safety building. The city's current police station is in the tsunami inundation zone. Team members are scheduling follow up meetings with the city to discuss funding opportunities through Business Oregon, USDA-Rural Development, and Congressionally Directed Spending/Community Project Funding. After the visit with the city, the team toured the Dahl Disposal Transfer Station and the [Juno](#) facility at the GP Plant. Dahl sends their waste to Juno where it is processed by Juno's innovative waste recovery technology that recovers materials including paper fiber, plastics, and metals that would otherwise go to the landfill.



Southern Region – Jessica LaBerge

- **Wildfire:** Hwy 199 continues to be impacted by the Smith River Complex of fires, recent rains have contributed to debris fall and road closures. Josephine County Sheriff lifted evacuation levels on Friday 9/29/23 for residents in O'Brien and Takilma. Visit [Smith River Complex Information | InciWeb \(nwcg.gov\)](#) for more information.

South Coast Region – Jessica LaBerge

- **Wildfire:** The Anvil Fire just north and east of Port Orford has been slowed by recent moisture, and fire crews have been able to hold the southern progression along the Elk River. Evacuations to the area have lifted some, with key areas for access still being limited. Visit [Anvil Fire Information | InciWeb \(nwcg.gov\)](#) for more information.
- **Gorse Action Group:** The South Coast group met in Port Orford on September 18th for an informative and collaborative meeting. This group is actively working to reduce the spread of gorse, capture best practices to share with others, educate and help promote projects related to the removal of gorse. Collaboration between local groups and state agencies were on hand to discuss projects, ask questions and make connections to resolve issues. [Gorse Action Group - Collaborative action for gorse management](#)

Resources and Opportunities

- **Governor's Office Recruiting for Director of Equity & Racial Justice**

The Director of Equity and Racial Justice serves as the organizational leader in the Governor's Office who drives the development, implementation and integration of best practices and emerging best practices, the provision of resources and recruitment strategies to increase access and promoting equity and racial justice and meaningful community engagement to State Government. The team educates and aids state agencies to build capacity in achieving equitable outcomes and services. This includes oversight of the Racial Justice Council and works in partnership with the Economic and Workforce Advisor to provide direction to the Economic and Business Equity efforts. The recruitment closes Sunday, October 15th.

To read more and to apply:

- Internal Applicants (Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches):
[https://wd5.myworkday.com/oregon/d/inst/15\\$392530/9925\\$164556.html](https://wd5.myworkday.com/oregon/d/inst/15$392530/9925$164556.html)
- External Applicants:
https://oregon.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/SOR_External_Career_Site/job/Oregon-State-Capitol/Director-of-Equity-and-Racial-Justice_REQ-138342

- **Wildfire Recovery Summit October 30-31:** Lane County is partnering with the University of Oregon to hold a 2023 Oregon Summit on Wildfire Recovery in Eugene. The objective of this event is to provide a forum for communities in Marion, Lane, Linn, Klamath, Lincoln, Jackson, Clackamas, and Douglas counties that were devastated by wildfires in 2020 to come together to assess progress toward recovery, learn from one another, and identify best practices and future needs as recovery is ongoing. The event website and link to the no-cost registration can be found [here](#).