



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, March 13th, 2023

Regional Solutions Director – Amelia Porterfield

As we spring forward this week, we want to remind you that it's not too late to apply for our three open Regional Coordinator positions who will work with communities around the state.

- [Central & South-Central Oregon Regions](#): Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath & Lake Counties
- [Mid-Willamette Valley & South-Valley/Mid-Coast Regions](#): Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk & Yamhill Counties
- [Southern Oregon & South Coast Regions](#): Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson & Josephine Counties

Applications are open for a few more days, closing March 15th & 16th respectively. Please share with those who might be interested in joining our team!

Eastern Oregon Region – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Baker City Wastewater Project Concerns-** Regional Solutions has met with Baker City and their consultants and DEQ over the past weeks to discuss ongoing work related to Baker City's new wastewater project. This project has been underway for the past few years to create a new wastewater system to move from discharging into the Powder River to land application. DEQ and Baker City are working together to identify land that will be suitable for the wastewater application. RS will continue to work with both the city and DEQ to help find a path forward.
- **Eastern Oregon Border Board:** There are two openings on the Eastern Oregon Border Board. Tiffany Cruickshank and Stuart Reitz have served on the board since its inception in 2017 and are termed out. Regional Solutions has been working with the Border Board's executive director and the county to conduct outreach for new members. We are getting quite a lot of interest for the board which is great news as this is an important resource for the region and they have recently received an additional \$6 million from the Legislature.

- **Umatilla County Outreach:** Regional Solutions met with Cindy Timmons who is the new Umatilla County Commissioner and had a good meeting to talk about the Regional Solutions projects in the region and issues that are important to Umatilla County. Additionally, we met with both the mayor of Pendleton and the Pendleton City manager to discuss housing projects within the city and how the Regional Solutions team can help moving forward. We are currently working with the city, DLCD and Rep. Bobby Levy to ensure that an affordable housing pilot project that the city is working on can extend beyond the current biennium.

South Central Region – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Turtle Cove Housing Project Needs:** Our RS team (myself, Business Oregon and OHCS) met with the board president for the Turtle Cove Community Partnership housing project in Klamath Falls. Turtle Cove Community Partnership is a transitional housing program that provides a safe place of stability for women transitioning from abuse, places of poverty, addiction, and crime. They have a unique supportive housing model that provides independent living space in the form of studio apartments. They purchased an old motel in 2015 and converted it into 28 housing units. They currently have a major capital need this year for the replacement of the domestic water system. The original motel well and underground water lines continue to serve the facility but these 70 year old galvanized steel water lines are beyond the end of their service life. Due to the low rental rates and business model, they are not able to take out traditional financing and are looking for state assistance. Business Oregon has been working with them to see if they have resources available and OHCS has funding options that will open in the summer, but they shared that they need to address these concerns more immediately. OHCS is going to be working with them to see if additional rental assistance can be provided to help them address future capital needs but our team will continue to see if we can find a funding source to help this project.

Resources

Funding available for transportation projects in small urban and rural areas

Oregon transportation projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions may be eligible for federal funding in 2023, thanks to the new federal [Carbon Reduction Program](#).

\$13 million is available in 2023 under an ODOT-managed competitive grant program for “small urban and rural” projects. Eligible projects must reduce emissions from transportation and be in urban and rural areas of the state with populations fewer than 200,000. Examples of eligible projects include: public transit, bike infrastructure improvements, low-emission vehicles or fuels, and intelligent transportation systems.

ODOT has issued a call for projects, which will be open through May 31, 2023. Counties, cities, tribal governments, and local and state transportation agencies are eligible to apply.

Visit [ODOT's website](#) for more information on how to apply or to find support in developing a concept.