



Monday, May 15, 2023

North Central and North Coast Regions

North Central

Dog River Pipeline: The City of The Dalles has engaged the Regional Solutions Team over the last several years on a project to replace 3.5 miles of aging wooden water supply pipeline that serves as the main water supply for the city. The former pipeline leaked nearly a million gallons a day. The project is designed to create more resilient infrastructure for the community as well as supporting environmental values as well. In particular, the pipeline will include new fish passage and screening systems at the pipeline intake. The project includes a \$1 million investment from the Oregon Water Resources Department and financing from Business Oregon.

Update: The team worked with the applicant and the Department of State Lands to facilitate to help get the application to completeness. The project is now in public comment.

North Coast:

Fermentation cluster/wastewater in Astoria:

The Regional Solutions team is engaged in ongoing conversations with the fermentation cluster in Astoria, city, and partners to continue to support the thriving fermentation cluster and navigate concerns about wastewater capacity. Recently, Team member Melanie Olson was able to secure an investment to help create more onsite treatment capacity for Fort Gorge and Bouy Breweries.

This week members of the team had the opportunity to meet with Fort Gorge co-founder Chris Nemlowill and discuss current and future treatment plans. We also discussed Chris' vision for a net zero brewery and his pending application to the Oregon Department of Energy to install solar on the roof of the brewery's production facility.

Greater Eastern and Northeast Regions

Eastern Oregon Border Board: RS attended the latest Eastern Oregon Border Board meeting and was able to thank Chair Tiffany Cruickshank and Stuart Reitz for their commitment to the board and all the work they have made as founding members of the Border Board. RS was also able to welcome three new members to the board that have just been selected by the Governor to serve. The board worked through grant applications and awarded new grants to community organizations across the region.

- **Eastern Oregon University Hires New President:** The EOU Board of Trustees has selected Dr. Kelly Ryan for the position of President of EOU. This comes after a year long search for a new president after Tom Insko resigned. Dr. Ryan currently serves as the Interim Chancellor of Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, Indiana. In this role she has developed relationships and partnerships to increase community engagement with the institution, and orchestrated efforts to fund scholarships, student research and creativity initiatives, and support resources for the IUS School of Nursing. Dr. Ryan has served in several roles at Indiana University Southeast including Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Coordinator for the Department of History, and Professor of History.
- **Governor Kotek visits Northeastern Oregon:** Governor Kotek continued her One Oregon tour last week with a three day trip across Northeastern Oregon that included stops in Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa Counties. It was a great opportunity to show the Governor the beauty of the region and talk about issues that face our state. Included below is a recap of this trip:

Governor Tina Kotek Visits Morrow and Umatilla Counties

One Oregon Tour Stops 10 and 11 included visits to Boardman, Echo, Hermiston and Pendleton

Governor Tina Kotek and First Lady Aimee Kotek Wilson visited communities in Morrow and Umatilla counties on Wednesday, May 3, and Thursday, May 4, including stops in Boardman, Echo, Hermiston, and Pendleton.

On Wednesday, the Governor and the First Lady started their day with breakfast in Hermiston, and then participated in a round table led by Latino/a leaders at Hermiston City Hall. The conversation covered a broad range of issues including affordable housing, summer learning, youth mental health, and how past flooding continues to impact communities in Umatilla County. The group also focused on the critical need to have first-language outreach and education, particularly for public health issues and disaster warnings.



Next they were off to Echo, where city leaders provided a tour of the town, starting first with a look at the past and current flooding from the Umatilla River that has impacted property and transportation infrastructure. They then toured a dangerous railroad crossing that is a significant safety risk for children walking to and from school.

Following lunch with local leaders, the Governor and First Lady visited the Families First Childcare Center at the Neal Early Learning Center at the Port of Morrow, meeting pre-schoolers in their classroom and high school students training to become early childhood educators. The tour was followed by a childcare and early learning roundtable with a range of community stakeholders at the Blue Mountain Community College training center next door. They discussed the critical need for more workforce and facilities to meet the need for childcare, and the strong ties between the school district, Head Start program, and local providers.



The day concluded with a focus on water contamination in the Lower Umatilla Basin. Oregon Rural Action led a tour of the area, including a recent leak at the Port of Morrow and a visit to the home of a family with a well with documented high nitrate levels. Following the tour, there was a listening session with impacted residents at the Boardman Senior Center.

Community members described the daily frustration and long-term health impacts of the nitrate groundwater contamination. They shared concerns over public awareness, the scope of well-testing, and access to filters and adequate amounts of drinking water. They underscored the urgency of the situation and also expressed a willingness to partner with the state to resolve the issue. Since January, the Governor's Office has been meeting with relevant federal and state agencies as well as engaging community leaders to build a plan and team that will accelerate the state's response. More information can be found [here](#).



Residents of the affected region can access testing by visiting the OHA [Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area Testing and Treatment](#) webpage or contacting their county public health department.

On Thursday, the Governor and the First Lady started their day with breakfast at the Wildhorse Resort & Casino with leaders of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. They then traveled into Pendleton for a housing roundtable at the Wildflower Apartments, a new 80-unit complex of affordable units built in response to the devastating 2020 flood that displaced many local residents. In addition to talking about the need for more housing at all levels of affordability and developing the workforce to build that housing, the group discussed the need to build out homelessness services in rural communities, specifically wrap-around and behavioral health services.

"I am committed to being a partner to strengthen services, build collaboration, and work to ensure that the people of Morrow and Umatilla counties have the resources they need to thrive, including access to affordable housing, quality childcare, and clean drinking water," said Governor Kotek.



Governor Tina Kotek Visits Union, Wallowa Counties

One Oregon Tour Stops 12 and 13 included visits to La Grande, Elgin, Enterprise, Joseph and Wallowa Lake State Park

Joseph, OR — Governor Tina Kotek and First Lady Aimee Kotek Wilson visited communities in Union and Wallowa counties as part of the One Oregon Listening Tour on Thursday, May 4 and Friday, May 5. They met with a wide range of leaders, community members, and providers in La Grande, Elgin, Enterprise, and Joseph.

“Across Union and Wallowa counties, there is a lot of phenomenal work and collaboration being done to drive community-led solutions in housing, homelessness, early education, behavioral health, and workforce development,” said Governor Kotek. “My job is to make sure the state is a strong partner in that work, bringing resources and capacity and removing barriers.”

On Thursday, the Governor and First Lady visited Eastern Oregon University for a conversation on early literacy, as well as a discussion on how the university is partnering with regional school districts and community organizations to create a pipeline of new educators. The group focused on educator preparation and how the state can reduce impediments to workforce recruitment and retention in rural communities.



Later that day, they participated in a roundtable with affordable housing developers and local stakeholders in La Grande. The conversation took place at Veterans Village Cottage Homes, an affordable housing project with 10 cottages that have rehoused homeless veterans in the community. Participants identified the importance of creating a pipeline of construction education programs to build out the workforce in the region and provide opportunities to rural students.



Next up was a tour of Woodgrain Millwork, a company that recycles excess fiber and makes composite panels for lumber, moldings, doors, and windows. Business Oregon recently awarded Woodgrain Millwork nearly \$2 million to add new equipment that will improve their

long-term sustainability and reduce greenhouse gasses and contaminated wastewater. The day continued with a shopping tour of local small businesses in downtown La Grande and then wrapped up with a dinner with local elected leaders.

Friday kicked off with a breakfast in Elgin with city leaders, where they discussed everything from infrastructure to behavioral health. The Governor and First Lady then traveled to Enterprise to visit the Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness. The center is a behavioral health clinic providing substance use disorder recovery counseling, crisis intervention, school counseling, and other services. The center built its existing facility with state funding. After a tour of the facility, there was a discussion about the provision of behavioral healthcare in a rural community. Providers spoke about their whole person approach to care and the value of public-private partnerships to advance community-driven housing solutions. The group also discussed how to reduce administrative burdens and the workforce challenges frontier counties like Wallowa face.



After a working lunch with local leaders, the afternoon included a conversation about workforce housing at Wallowa Resources with local leaders, planners, and developers. Housing is a major issue in Wallowa County given the significant presence of vacation homes which has created affordability and supply challenges for residents.

“The conversations in Union and Wallowa counties show how critical it is for frontier and rural counties to keep people rooted in their communities. That can only happen if we build more housing,” said Governor Kotek. “We need to get creative, model new ideas, and explore additional public-private partnerships to tackle the statewide housing crisis.”

The Governor and First Lady then drove to Joseph to shop at some small businesses and went to the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center before driving to Wallowa Lake State Park. This June will be the centennial anniversary of the former logging town of Maxville. For more information on this historic Oregon town, [click here.](#)



Governor Meets with Eastern Oregon Counties Association

The week following her visits in Eastern Oregon, several County Commissioners joined Governor Kotek for a working lunch in Salem to discuss funding and policy priorities, and identify ways that the state and counties can partner to serve Oregonians in communities across the state.



Resources

Community Meetings with the Oregon Broadband Office

Join the Oregon Broadband Office at an upcoming community meeting to share your experiences with internet access and the devices you use. Sharing your story will help improve broadband internet service in your community. Refreshments and children's activities will be provided. Spanish interpretation will be available.

Meetings will be held in the following locations:

- Tillamook | May 22
- North Bend | May 23
- Roseburg | May 24
- Klamath Falls | May 25
- Ruch | May 26
- Gresham | May 30
- McMinnville | May 31
- The Dalles | June 5
- Baker City | June 6
- Ontario | June 7
- Burns | June 8
- Redmond | June 9

Learn more and register for a meeting in your community: bit.ly/InternetAccessMtg

Oregon Solutions Director Posting

Exciting things are happening here at the National Policy Consensus Center (NPCC) at Portland State. We have a solid, energized team and lots of high visibility collaboration projects all over the state, including education and research programs with an international reach. We are eager to share an opportunity to join our leadership team here at the center. **We are looking for an Oregon Solutions program director. Would you kindly consider the [job posting at this link](#) or pass it along to anyone in your network who might be interested?**

The **Oregon Solutions program director** plays a central role in state governance by helping Oregonians pull together the resources and political will to make real improvements in communities. Truly, this work is never dull—and it matters! Just consider a few things Oregon Solutions has been involved in lately—

- Creating a community forest in a small rural town
- Making it safer for coastal residents and local elk herds to share the land
- Rebuilding communities after devastating wildfires
- Forming a regional arts council
- Improving travel over Mount Hood
- Addressing the need for living wages for nonprofit workers
- Forging a world-class hiking route on the Oregon coast
- Creating post-prison education programs that reduce recidivism
- Shaping transportation strategy to reduce greenhouse gas

- Advancing education in science, technology, engineering, and math
- Improving water quality in Klamath Lake
- Strategizing for the future of the Oregon wine industry
- Fostering collaborative management of forests in the Blues Mountains

This position offers excellent Portland State benefits, including pension, health, dental, vision, and reduced tuition. And NPCC offers hybrid work options, professional development opportunities, and a team of colleagues who collaborate freely and genuinely enjoy and care for each other.

If you have any questions about the position, please contact the search coordinator, Cat McGinnis, at mcginnc@pdx.edu.

Please consider applying or sharing this opportunity with others. Thank you for partnering with us in our search!