

RS EXCHANGE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, July 24, 2023

Regional Updates

Metro Region – Amelia Porterfield

- The Metro Regional Solutions Team recently paid a visit to the City of Cornelius, met with Community Development Director Barbara Fryer to learn about the community's goals, projects and needs, and took a walking tour of the downtown core to see highlights of current and future development opportunities. The city is exploring creative solutions to stimulate redevelopment within challenging confines, including limited availability of developable land because the city is bounded by Forest Grove and Hillsboro on the east and west, and Council Creek and the Tualatin River to the north and south. As the city with the second highest percentage of Latinx residents in the state, Cornelius is working to further integrate the diversity of its community into its planning efforts and has partnered with ODOT to install audible crosswalk signs that provide direction in both Spanish and English. ODOT has been working with Cornelius to explore a Bus Rapid Transit route through the city as well. Looking forward, Cornelius is embarking on an Economic Opportunities Analysis, a community visioning process, and an update to its comprehensive plan. As the city readies itself for these processes, the RST helped brainstorm ways to inspire redevelopment, options to leverage energy efficiency programs that can support public works and lower income households, and identified potential funding and technical assistance resources that the city could explore. We appreciated the chance to learn about Cornelius' ambitious plans and look forward to seeing the results come to fruition!



Mid-Valley Region – Beth Wytoski

- The Mid-Valley Regional Solutions Team is resuming site visits to bring state agency resources to the tables of local government projects. We are ready and excited to hear from local officials, tour facilities, and review challenges while on location. Simultaneously, we are engaged in asset mapping to review what each member of the Regional Solutions Team is able to contribute from agency programs and special funds to personal experience and networks, in order to better leverage the full range of our resources and support progress on local projects. To discuss projects and plans, schedule a tour with the Mid-Valley Coordinator, request a full team visit, or just to learn more about Regional Solutions, please feel encouraged to reach out via email to beth.wytoski@oregon.gov.

Eastern Oregon – Courtney Warner Crowell

- The Governor spent last week visiting [Malheur, Baker, Grant and Harney](#) counties on her One Oregon tour. Below is a recap of the events that she participated in.

Governor Kotek Visits Malheur & Baker Counties on One Oregon Listening Tour Stops 17 and 18 included visits to Ontario, Baker City

John Day, OR — On Wednesday, July 19, Governor Tina Kotek and First Lady Aimee Kotek Wilson visited communities in Malheur and Baker counties on stops 17 and 18 of the One Oregon Listening Tour.

They made the most of their stops, participating in more than six meetings over the course of the day with local elected officials, community members, and business leaders.

The Governor and First Lady started the day with a working breakfast at the Plaza Inn in Ontario with local mayors, city councilors, and Malheur County Judge Dan Joyce.

Next the Governor participated in a roundtable conversation at Treasure Valley Community College with the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board. The board was created by a bill Governor Kotek and then-State Representative Cliff Bentz co-chief sponsored in 2017. The conversation highlighted the programs the Board is spearheading to address the unique challenges faced by communities along the border with Idaho.



They then headed to Baker County for a conversation with local health leaders over lunch at New Directions Northwest in Baker City to discuss behavioral health services in the area. The

meeting also included representatives from St. Alphonsus to discuss their recent decision to eliminate maternity services at the local hospital.

Following lunch, the Governor and the First Lady visited the Powder River Correctional Facility (PRCF). Program-eligible individuals preparing for transition from prison back into their communities are sent to PRCF for alcohol and drug treatment. They met with PRCF staff for a discussion of their current workplace needs, as well as the success of their treatment services.

The Governor and the First Lady then traveled to the Baker Technical Institute to learn more about their workforce development program and visited their heavy highway construction land lab, which is a Future Ready Oregon Project. They both did a test run on the institute's heavy equipment simulator and toured other career preparation classrooms.

Governor Kotek Visits Grant, Harney Counties on One Oregon Tour Stops 19 and 20 include visits to Prairie City, John Day, Hines, and Burns

Burns, OR —Governor Tina Kotek and First Lady Aimee Kotek Wilson visited communities in Grant and Harney counties on stops 19 and 20 of the One Oregon Listening Tour.

“We are 20 counties into our One Oregon Listening Tour, and I continue to be impressed by local leaders and their deep commitment to creating prosperity for all residents,” Governor Kotek said. “It’s been great to learn from our rural and frontier communities about what they’re looking for from Salem and the creative solutions they’ve developed to get us to where we need to be. I look forward to continuing these conversations and bringing these lessons back with me to the Capitol.”

The visit to Grant County began in Prairie City with a ceremonial bill signing for Senate Bill 955, the AgriStress Suicide Hotline Bill, alongside local leaders from Grant and Wallowa counties and key advocates for the bill.



The Governor and First Lady then traveled to John Day, where they had a conversation about tourism development related to the Kam Wah Chung Heritage Site.

They then traveled to Hines in Harney County for a roundtable discussion with the High Desert Partnership, a unique collaborative model established by farmers, ranchers, conservationists, federal partners, and local elected leaders focused on problem-solving around challenges facing rural Oregon. Participants honed in on the value that collaboratives bring to contentious issues by empowering all stakeholders to voice their perspectives.

The last leg of the trip began Friday with breakfast with representatives from the Burns Paiute Tribe at their Tribal Council Office. Tribal Council leaders emphasized the importance of preserving and protecting ancestral land, supporting the health and well-being of tribal members, and the importance of a strong partnership with the State.



Resources & Opportunities

Water Resources Department Feasibility Study Grants – Applications Due October 18th

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) invites applications for studies to evaluate the feasibility of developing water conservation, reuse, and storage projects through the [Feasibility Study Grant](#) funding opportunity. Grants require a 50% cost-share match, which may include in-kind contributions.

A feasibility study is an assessment of the practicality of a proposed project and can be used to determine if and how a conservation, reuse, or storage project should proceed to implementation. The feasibility study focuses on helping to answer the essential question of, “should we proceed with the proposed project idea?” All activities of the study are directed toward helping answer this question. See [this handout](#) for more information on Feasibility Study Grants.

Eligible studies may include analysis or evaluation of hydrological refill capacity, water needs, geology, or hydrology, engineering and water exchange, financial feasibility, fiscal analysis, instream ecological flows, alternative means of supplying water, including costs and benefits, environmental impacts or public benefits, hydrological analyses, or water quality impacts. Please note that all funded studies must be completed **by June 30, 2025**.

Anticipated grant funding available: \$750,000

How to apply: Application materials are available [online](#).

Application deadline: **October 18, 2023 at 5 p.m.**

OWRD encourages all applicants to request a Pre-Application Conference before applying. Staff will review your draft application and provide feedback. You must submit your draft application two weeks before the pre-application conference. To learn more, see the [pre-application conference form](#).

Public Comment Opportunity: Water Project Grants and Loans

OWRD invites written public comment on grant applications received for the 2023 cycle of Water Project Grants and Loans. OWRD received ten complete grant applications requesting a total of \$28,987,945 in funding. A multi-agency Technical Review Team (TRT) will consider public comments submitted in their evaluation of applications. The TRT will evaluate applications and make a funding recommendation to the [Water Resources Commission](#). OWRD will post the TRT funding recommendation for an additional public comment period in late summer. The tentative date for the Commission to make its funding decision is November 16-17, 2023.

- [View the Application Summaries](#)
- View the grant applications on the [Funding Cycle History Page](#)

Written comments on the applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on July 25, 2023.

Please submit comments to: OWRD.Grants@water.oregon.gov or Grant Coordinator, 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A, Salem, Oregon 97301.