



Oregon

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July 9, 2015

TO: Land Conservation and Development Commission
FROM: Grant Young, Eastern Oregon Regional Representative
SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 7, July 23-24, 2015, LCDC Meeting**

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS TEAM UPDATE

I. EASTERN REGIONAL SOLUTIONS TEAM

A summary description of Regional Solutions Centers (RSCs) and Regional Solutions Teams (RSTs) is provided in Attachment A. The Eastern Team represents two regions; the Northeast Region, consisting of Baker, Union and Wallowa counties, and the Greater Eastern Region consisting of Umatilla, Morrow, Grant, Malheur, Harney, Gilliam and Wheeler counties. The regional solutions center is located on the campus of Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. The advisory committee and agency team members for the region are provided in Attachment B. Grant Young, Regional Representative, is the Department of Land Conservation and Development's (DLCD) team member.

For additional information about this report, please contact Grant Young, Regional Representative at 541-325-6924 or at grant.young@state.or.us.

II. REGIONAL SOLUTIONS TEAM PROJECTS

Each Regional Solutions Team completes two projects per agency representative each year.

A. Project Capacity

Many of the 45 small communities in the Northeast Region have little access to Geographic Information System and no professional planner; the city recorder or similar local official pulls the duty as planner. To help address this issue, the RST launched "Project Capacity," which addresses one of the RST top priorities: capacity building for local governments. The small cities receive a \$1,000 Planning Assistance grant from DLCD every biennium if they accept it (most do). Utilizing a student intern and the grant funding, we were able to accomplish conversion of

all hard-copy plan documents to digital format, including maps implementing regulations for two communities. Lack of interest by prospective interns has led to no more completed city projects.

DLCD provided a Technical Assistance grant for the cities of Hines, Burns and John Day to digitize all planning program documents and maps, as originally planned for project capacity. The three cities agreed to pool their Planning Assistance grants and the Technical Assistance funding to hire a contractor to do the project. The work was completed in May 2015.

In addition, DLCD has spent considerable time and effort on floodplain planning efforts, including an ongoing remapping project in the three communities. The state floodplain manager has spent a great deal of time in Hines and Burns, and is working with John Day due to another remapping project. Hines and Burns both had outdated floodplain ordinances, and adopting a new model code was part of this project. The entire RST has spent a lot of time in Harney County, so, although the floodplain mapping and code work was a DLCD project, it supported ongoing RST efforts in the county.

The regional representative hopes to replicate this project with three more small cities in the coming grant cycle, and to continue looking for a student intern.

B. Fry Foods

Melisa Drugge, Business Oregon, will talk about a project near Ontario. Fry Foods became a recruitment project for Business Oregon when the Ohio-based company became interested in purchasing the former Select Onion site in Malheur County. The complex project involved multiple state agencies, local governments, and community leaders, and after 18 months the company is now located at the Ontario site and is beginning production of onion rings. RST members will provide additional detail at the oral briefing.

C. Juntura Cut-off Road

Intermediate funding was provided by Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) for design and engineering the Juntura Cut-off Road Project; this will become an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) construction project. The 7.5-mile long Juntura Cut-off Road is located along the border of Harney and Malheur County and is in severe need of repair. EP Mineral, a company with a manufacturing plant in Vale, receives diatomaceous earth from a mine located at the end of Juntura Cut-off Road. The trucking company that was hauling the product for EP Mineral has stopped hauling due to the high cost of truck repair from damage caused from the road. EP Mineral is now hauling its own product.

EP Mineral is a critical employer in Malheur County, especially in this part of the county, and their operations include ground in Harney County. This road issue could have a significantly negative impact on that company; it was reportedly considering shutting down. The IFA helped fund the design and engineering study that ODOT will use for construction. The RST coordinator was shepherding this project for the last couple of years.

D. Regional Priorities

Scott Fairley, Northeast Region Coordinator, will provide an Eastern Oregon RST overview and talk about regional priorities, which are provided in Attachment C.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- A. Regional Solutions Teams summary
- B. Eastern Region Advisory Committee and team members
- C. Eastern Region Advisory Committee priorities

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS CENTERS

Regional Solutions Centers (RSCs) are places for state agencies to collaborate with each other, local governments, and with other public, private, and civic interests to solve problems and seize opportunities. Regional Advisory Committees, made up of Oregonians appointed by the Governor from business, civic organizations, government, foundations, and higher education, identify priorities to guide the work in each of the ten regions. The committees also help connect resources from the community to expand the state's collective capacity to solve problems and seize opportunities. Initially, RSCs focus on completing priority projects to bring new jobs or retain existing ones.

To rebuild Oregon's economy, all of us—public, private, and civic partners—must work together. The state can no longer afford single objective investing. The RSCs allow regional leaders and citizens to leverage all available funding to complete the highest priority projects.

Where and Who

Centers are located at universities in Bend, Medford, Eugene, Portland, Tillamook, and La Grande. RSCs are staffed by Regional Solutions Teams composed of a representative from each of five state agencies: the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), the Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Department of Housing and Community Services (OHCS), and the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD). Other state agencies are added to the teams as needed for regional priorities. The teams are led by a regional coordinator who represents the Governor as a catalyst for action in each region. State agency directors meet regularly with the Governor to review and evaluate the RSCs' work.

How

RSCs complete projects addressing the priorities identified by the Regional Solutions Committees. Team members collaborate with each other, local officials, private citizens, and with other organizations to effectively complete projects. RSCs are also part of the Oregon Solutions Network which links them with the state's dispute resolution program, Oregon Consensus, and the state's collaborative implementation program, Oregon Solutions. For each regional priority, the coordinator develops a work plan including objectives, expected outcomes, agency involvement, targets, and milestones. Through collaboration, efficient communication, and strategic action, the RSCs work to achieve Oregon's most important economic and community objectives.

ATTACHMENT B

Greater Eastern Oregon Advisory Committee

Cam Preuse, BMCC – Convener
Don Rice, Greenwood Resources – Business
Phillip Houk, Pendleton Mayor – Cities
Steve Shaffer, Gilliam County Judge – Counties
Tim Mabry, Oregon Community Foundation – Philanthropy

Additional members chosen by Advisory Committee members

Bob Levy, L&L Farms
Dave Tovey, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Steve Grasty, Harney County Judge
Mike McLaughlin, Vale Mayor
Fred Flippenace, Harney Electric

Northeast Oregon Advisory Committee Appointed by the Governor

Tim Seydel, EOU – Convener
Tom Inkso, Boise Cascade – Business
Mark Davidson, Union County Commissioner – Counties
Dennis Sands, Joseph Mayor – Cities
Dianne Ellingson, Leo Adler Foundation – Philanthropy

Additional members chosen by Advisory Committee members

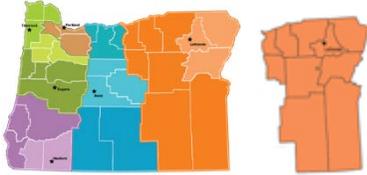
Nils Christoferson, Wallowa Resources
Curtis Martin, VP Ranch

Eastern Regional Solutions Team members

Scott Fairley, Coordinator
Craig Sipp, Oregon Department of Transportation
Randy Jones, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Melisa Drugge; Business Oregon (chair)
Tawni Bean and Shana Bailey, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Grant Young, Department of Land Conservation and Development

EASTERN REGION ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

Greater Eastern & Northeast Oregon Regions:



This geographical region includes Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wheeler counties. Baker, Union and Wallowa comprise the Northeast Oregon Region; Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla and Wheeler comprise the Greater Eastern Oregon Region. Together the two are the Eastern Region.

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES As of April 21, 2014

Northeast Region (Union, Baker and Wallowa counties)

- Increased productivity from federal forest lands
- Skilled workforce availability
- Marketable industrial land
- Available infrastructure to serve industrial sites
- Value-added agriculture
- Support regional vertical integration opportunities
- Regulatory technical assistance
- Mining/Metals extraction
- Regional business recruitment marketing strategy
- USFS 39 Road
- Entrepreneurial development
- Business succession/transition to next generation

Greater Eastern Region (Gilliam, Wheeler, Morrow, Umatilla, Grant, Harney and Malheur counties)

- Increased productivity from federal forest lands
- Water management and development
- Skilled workforce availability
- Workforce housing
- Infrastructure to serve industrial sites
- Regulatory technical assistance
- Avoid/Mitigate Sage Grouse Endangered Species Act listing
- Marketable industrial land
- FEMA National Flood Insurance Program changes
- Mining/Metals extraction
- Unmanned Aviation Vehicle industry