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Press Release
Oregon Solutions Tillamook Flood Mitigation Project

Following a successful Oregon Solutions Tillamook Flood Mitigation Project Team meeting on September 12th, Co-conveners State Senator Betsy Johnson and Tillamook County Commissioner Mark Labhart met in Portland with congressional staff to discuss the process for “earmarking” funds in Washington D.C. needed for projects. Senator Smith’s office hosted the meeting. Commissioner Labhart said, “I’m very encouraged by the open door they showed us to discuss our needs.” After the congressional briefing, the Co-conveners met at the Oregon Solutions office at Portland State University to discuss prioritized projects and seek staff funding for them. Also attending were Mike Carrier the Governor’s Natural Resource Advisor and Mark Ellsworth, Regional Coordinator for the Governor’s Economic Revitalization Team. During the discussions, Greg Wolf, Director of the National Policy Consensus Center, under which Oregon Solutions resides, congratulated the group and said he was “amazed at how far the Tillamook flooding project has come in such a short period of time.”

At the meeting, Senator Johnson emphasized the benefits of a collaborative process that has brought them to this point. “We’re encouraged by the partnership that remains strong through this Oregon Solutions process. It’s now time to fill out the details on several projects and develop them.” The prioritization of projects which occurred on September 12th has allowed the process to move one step closer to project implementation which will include engineering design, permit applications and securing funding for construction. Key among the projects discussed and agreed upon for staff funding assistance from the Oregon Solutions office were:

- A quick assessment of the Gravel Mediated Agreement/Stream Corridor Management Plan to determine key issues that need to be resolved by all parties in order to facilitate the eventual signing of the agreement.
- Oregon Solutions offered to provide specific staff to help coordinate expeditious removal of fill on the Dean property, located on N. Hwy 101.
- Oregon Solutions offered further staffing to work with a concept design team, the U.S. Corps of Engineers and other parties to implement four of the prioritized projects: installation of the Wilson-Trask Spillway; installation of a permanent Dougherty Slough structure; construction of the Hall Slough project; and implementation of the Wetlands Restoration Project.

On Monday September 23rd, Oregon Solutions staff Dick Townsend and Doug Clarke, Chief of Programs and Project Management with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers met to outline next steps for project design. It was agreed that the Corps will continue to be available to work on several projects with a concept design group. Townsend said he’s grateful for the collaborative relationship Oregon Solutions continues to have with the Corps.

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