



MEETING NOTES
Executive Committee
Vernonia Schools Oregon Solutions Team

September 17, 2009
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Vernonia School District Office

ATTENDING

Sharon Bernal, Dan Brown, Ken Cox, Steve Effros, Mark Ellsworth, Bill Haack, Tony Hyde, Betsy Johnson, Jim Johnson, Tom Kelly (by phone), Alissa Keny-Guyer, Jim Krahn, Dawn Plews, Bob Young, Wendy Willis

NOTES

The Executive Committee of the Oregon Solutions Team met to move the project on to the next phase. Alissa Keny-Guyer was introduced as the replacement for Wendy Willis for this next (fundraising) phase. Senator Johnson updated the group on the interview schedule for fundraising council. Senator Johnson, Bill Haack, Tony Hyde, Tom Kelly, and Alissa Keny-Guyer agreed to cover the interviews and make a recommendation following the last interviews on October 5, 2009.

The group adopted the protocols for communication:

1. All development leads and/or contacts go through Bill Haack. Bill will track all of those contacts.
2. Bill Haack and Betsy Johnson will take the lead in communicating with fundraising counsel. Strategy questions should be directed through them.
3. Sharon Bernal will keep this group apprised of progress on the bond measure.
4. Questions about the progress of the project will be directed to Steve Effros.

5. Alissa Keny-Guyer will coordinate the Oregon Solutions meetings and Executive Committee meetings and serve as the communications hub for both groups.
6. If anyone needs action by the committee within 24 hours, s/he will email the whole group, then follow up by phone.
7. The committee members will endeavor to respond to any other email within 48 hours.
8. Everyone in the group will attempt to combine questions in single emails rather than send multiple emails in one day.

Sharon Bernal updated the group on the progress of the bond campaign and the outreach to local newspapers. From an informal telephone poll on 9/15/09, there is overwhelming support: 640 Yes (74%), 92 No, 125 Undecided.

Jim Johnson updated the group on the land use process and the conversion process for the land and water conservation grant that encumbers Spencer Park. The proposed urban growth boundary expansion has been presented to the Columbia County Planning Commission, the Vernonia Planning Commission, and the Vernonia City Council. No one spoke in opposition of the plan at any of the hearings. The land and water conservation grant process is more complex and Jim is working with city and school district attorneys to complete it.

Senator Johnson reported on her conversation with the Governor's office about the ARRA funds flowing to the state. Senator Johnson reported that the Governor is still committed to the project, though the ARRA funds are much more restricted than anyone originally believed they would be.

Bill Haack walked the group through a fundraising sector analysis, and the group brainstormed some possible strategies. The group agreed that no decisions would be made until fundraising counsel was on board.

The group decided to continue to operate as an Executive Committee with the addition of the field staff for the Congressional Staff and a finance person, and that the Executive Committee would be expanded to a full Oregon Solutions Team after the November election.

The group adopted the proposed calendar as an interim schedule and agreed to block out the proposed dates:

NEXT STEPS

<u>Who</u>	<u>Task</u>
Sen. Johnson & committee	Select fundraising council
Alissa Keny-Guyer	Before Bond vote: Call former team members, thank them for their service, update them on Phase 2, gauge interest in future participation
Mark Ellsworth & Alissa Keny-Guyer	Meet with Congressional field staff and update them on projects
Mark Ellsworth	Get letter of support from Governor for Bond; After Bond, get thank you letter from Governor for all Phase 1 team members
Steve Effros	Monitor and alert group to short-term opportunities
Bill Haack	Create team contact sheet
Bill Haack/Ken Cox	Develop list of donors/donations which helped in flood relief and schools rehab/construction
Bill Haack & Steve Effros	Follow up on TrailBlazers opportunity