



## **McKenzie Rebuilds Meeting Summary**

*Jan 27, 2022 2:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.  
(held via Zoom)*

**McKenzie Rebuilds Project Purpose:** *To help communities of the McKenzie River Valley that suffered devastating impacts from the Holiday Farm Fire to bring back residents, students, and businesses as quickly as possible while meeting community priorities for restoring an environmentally sound, equitable, and climate-smart built environment.*

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**Participating Team Members:** Cliff Richardson, Lane Tompkins, Devin Thompson, Patrick Wingard, Matt McRae, Melanie Stanley, Jacob Fox, Mary Camarata, Darren Bucich, Darren Cross, Sarah Means, Austin Raminez, Kathi Jaworski

**Guests:** Priti Shah(FEMA), Tim Larue, Robert Kentta (Siletz)

**Co-Conveners:** Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch, Mandy Jones

**Oregon Solutions Staff:** Karmen Fore, Margaret Van Vliet, Kristen Wright, Mika Sakai, Wendy Willis, Nujhat Ahmed

### **Welcome/Agenda Review**

Co-convenor Commissioner Buch welcomed and thanked everyone for participating in weekly meetings so that we can finish our prioritization work. She also appreciated that the discussion last time was really productive, and the level of candor is helpful to getting at the underlying issues. Buch recognized exhaustion and fatigue on the part of area residents and reminded the group that the OS staff team and conveners are available as resources to be helpful.

Van Vliet reviewed the agenda and meeting logistics.

### **Identifying Scope of Work and Priorities: Watershed Restoration and Economy**

Wright provided a reminder of the infrastructure and housing prioritization exercises from the prior meetings and indicated that we hope to get through watershed and economy today. She mentioned that the consensus last time seemed to be to focus on major projects, not so much the low-hanging fruit, but that we will check that again today and next week.

Wright also let the team know that OS staff continue to reach out to the different Tribes about what is important to each of them in this effort. We have heard a few things so far, and recognize that this does not represent the views of all of the tribes:

Ensuring any tribal members living in the area have the support they need,  
Identifying cultural resources, as part of the States' Goal 5  
Cultural resource restoration, like replanting first foods, or other resources like cedar.

Guest Kentta, Cultural Resources director for the Siletz Tribe, offered that compliance with Goal 5 is the central issue.

### Breakout Groups and Impact/Effort Grid: Watershed Restoration.

Breakout Groups were then organized to get people talking about what is most important with respect to watershed restoration as people get ready for the prioritization work. The feedback from the breakout groups:

- Scale of burned hillsides, wonder if any of the projects fully capture the associated complexities.
- Water quality / fish & wildlife - Pure Water Partners program. In the LTRG survey there are an additional 85 people/orgs that are interested in supporting that effort.
- Appreciate recommendation from tribes for replanting of cedar in the area.
- Youth corp starting work later in Feb in fire hazard reduction.
- Water quality circled back to water/sewer infrastructure - hard to tease apart.
- Riparian corridor - acknowledge competing interests (wildlife and human)  
Allowing people to occupy the properties and balance with conservation efforts.  
Respecting people's right/desire to rebuild.
- Finding efficiencies in partnerships - collaborate toward a common goal then prioritize and work toward a cohesive plan.
- Burned hillsides - how to replenish and mitigate downwater impacts from that.

Following report-outs, individuals were asked to rank each of the pre-identified project concepts using the Slido.com tool (which then consolidates responses). This was done for both relative level of effort, and relative level of impact, with the results charted accordingly on the prioritization grid.

Team members discussed the resulting array, with some noting that it's possible individuals have different levels of depth of understanding about complexity and wondering if we should pause to get things better defined. Wright suggested that these issues will be sorted out in subsequent steps. The result of assessing impact and effort for watershed restoration items can be found in Attachment A.

One member mentioned, and others agreed, that with so much federal money flowing to forest health and resilience that the potential future forest products economic activity may need to get elevate. Others noted the strong tie to housing placement and wastewater management.

### Breakout Groups and Impact/Effort Grid: Watershed Economy.

Wright then turned the group's attention to the **economy** theme, repeating the short break-out group exercise as well as the individual-to-group ranking process.

The feedback from the breakout groups:

- Big need for affordable housing for firefighters and restoration jobs - connecting housing with economy is key.
- Basketball academy - still for sale? used for housing?
- Need store/gas station to help people not have to travel as far
- Connection of economy to other needs - esp. affordable housing! Need to make that connection.
- Seasonalness experienced up river - maybe less about industry but types of jobs upriver that are seasonal but could be strung together with other things. To be responsive to opportunities up river.
- Grocery store - think about zoning around grocery stores and ways to grow specialty crops in the area that would add value.
- Need economy beyond seasonal - year round activities. Restoration economy - blue pool attracts people year round. Need housing! Timing is tough - need jobs & housing.

Following group discussion of the grid, members agreed with a suggestion that all four items belong in the upper right quadrant. Moreover, there was considerable discussion about the potential with the basketball academy, with Jacob reporting that HFG is working to secure site control to allow for planning.

Additional comments that arose as members reflected on the grid included:

- The relationship of housing to the economic base, and how that translates to commute times and patterns
- Broadband internet and cell service are critical for any business and perhaps these should be on the list
- A "restoration economy" seems to have potential and could be an economic engine
- Tourists are actually still coming to the area, in part to view fire damage, which caused some to wonder how important the tourism industry really is

The result of assessing impact and effort for economy items can be found in Attachment A.

There was no **public comment**.

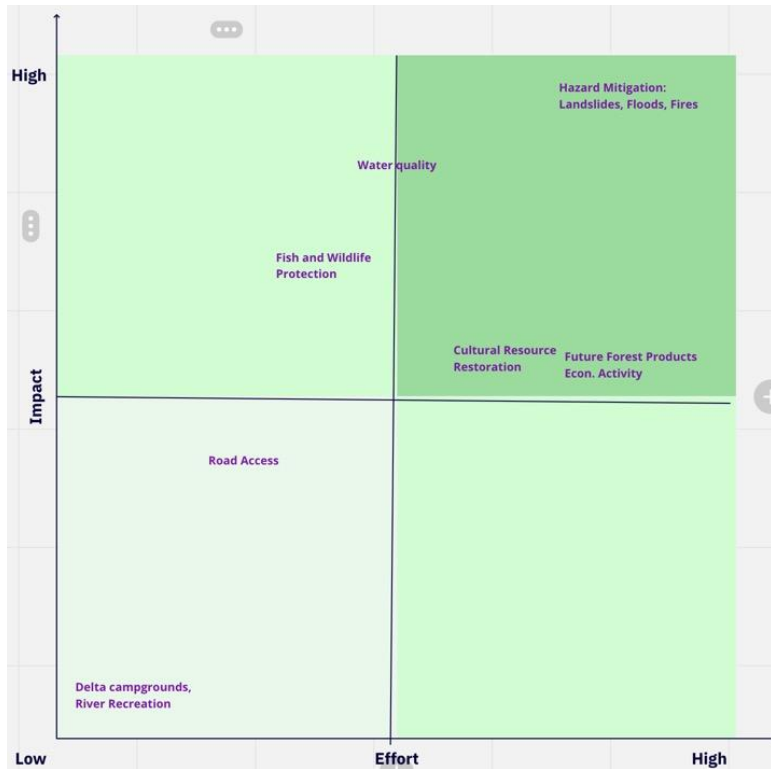
### **Wrap Up/ Next Steps**

Since we have finished all four themes, next week (2/3) we will look at the way in which the resulting grids fit together, and more prioritization will be needed. Wright reminded everyone that our focus should be on high impact projects that need the collective effort in order to move forward and succeed.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.**

# Attachment A: Impact / Effort Grid Results

## Watershed Restoration



## Economy

