



McKenzie Rebuilds Meeting Summary

*Feb 3, 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.*

Meeting Objectives. *By the end of the meeting we will:*

- *Have agreed on a scope and a set of priorities.*
 - *Have started to brainstorm how we will organize subcommittees to carry out the work described by the agreed scope and priorities.*
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Participating Team Members: Christiana Rainbow Plews, Lane Tompkins, Darren Bucich, Valerie Rapp, Alice Bonasio, Cliff Richardson, Sarah Means, Darren Cross, Devin Thompson, Patrick Wingard, Karl Morgenstern, Matt McRae, Joe Moll, Kathi Jaworski, Mary Camarata,

Guests: Lynn Burditt, Alexis Amavisca-Nieve, Priti Shah, Tim Laue, Jason Carman(RCAC)

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

Oregon Solutions Staff: Karmen Fore, Margaret Van Vliet, Kristen Wright, Mika Sakai, Wendy Willis, Belen Vega

Welcome/Agenda Review

The co-conveners each offered welcoming remarks. Commissioner Buch emphasized the importance of hearing from everyone as we continue to hone priorities. Jones reminded the group to keep in mind that our goal is to focus on work that is both essential to recovery, and that won't otherwise get done without a collaborative effort. Van Vliet reviewed the agenda.

Agreeing on Scope and Priorities

Wright summarized how past work is informing this stage. She referred everyone to the attachment A, which captures how the various projects landed on the impact/effort matrix. The original agreement had been that the scope would be those items with the most impact on the team's goals. Since then, the group reached general agreement that the scope should be narrowed because too many projects still seemed to be categorized as priorities.

Breakout groups were formed to allow more participation. Wrights asked groups to consider where the listing on attachment A resonates or not, and to discuss what other things should be considered as we approach final decision making.

Report-outs from the groups surfaced many observations and several questions. Wright facilitated the extensive large group discussion.

In response to a question about the status of Blue River water and sanitation district (and whether that project actually needs the OS collaborative process), team member Camarata described the in-process study, and noted that having good resources around it will help move it. Building back that core infrastructure will benefit the whole upper area, including water quality.

Jason Carman at RCAC is helping with the District. He has been working there to help scope the initial funds. Main thing – without it there isn't a way for the community to grow, which is problematic for lots of reasons, including the fact that the school is there. At beginning stages; there will be lots of engineering and study.

One member noted that six of the items on the list relate to housing – at least half of them are water and housing. There is a clear cluster of jobs, housing, and land use. Wastewater system as THE issue within land use, permitting, planning. Could open up other things. What happens in BR could inform other places where there are water quality concerns.

Other observations shared during the discussion:

- Forest products economic dev may not be priority, but lack of housing is a barrier for USFS.
- One is worried that some housing can be addressed, but lots of different pieces will make it very complex
- We should take this once in a life-time opportunity with resources to plan for the future, especially around jobs
- Community members are still traumatized and not ready for next disaster; fear when storms come around. This argues for preparedness. Visceral part of everyday life in the valley – things are not as they used to be. Maybe we should not have eliminated some projects?
- Some government agencies' ideas about how to gain resilience is to not let people live in these zones. Does that argue that we don't push too hard?
- Regardless of how this turns out, we'll have good connections with more people into the future; these are important wins, even if the thing a person wants most doesn't make the priority.
- There is work in process, like a FEMA grant, that will bring a fiber backbone to the valley. Alert systems would result. Also mapping landslides with LIDAR.

Wright invited team members to use check marks to indicate their individual priorities.

This resulted in the following preliminary group prioritization:

1. Blue River Water and Sanitation District
2. Housing - Planning, building, innovation
3. Zoning and Land Use
4. Economy (general sustainability planning) / Build back community and tourism infrastructure

Additional discussion ensued, during which Wright noted that we can sequence projects, and that not working on something right away does not mean it goes away. She reminded everyone that the process is iterative and that priorities can shift over time as more information is gained and circumstances change.

Wright then asked team members to signal their level of agreement with these priorities with a green/yellow/red indication in the chat. While most participants indicated green, a few posted yellow. The hesitancy related to whether or not people believe that the Blue River district work should be covered here, and also whether or not we can realistically tackle all four projects.

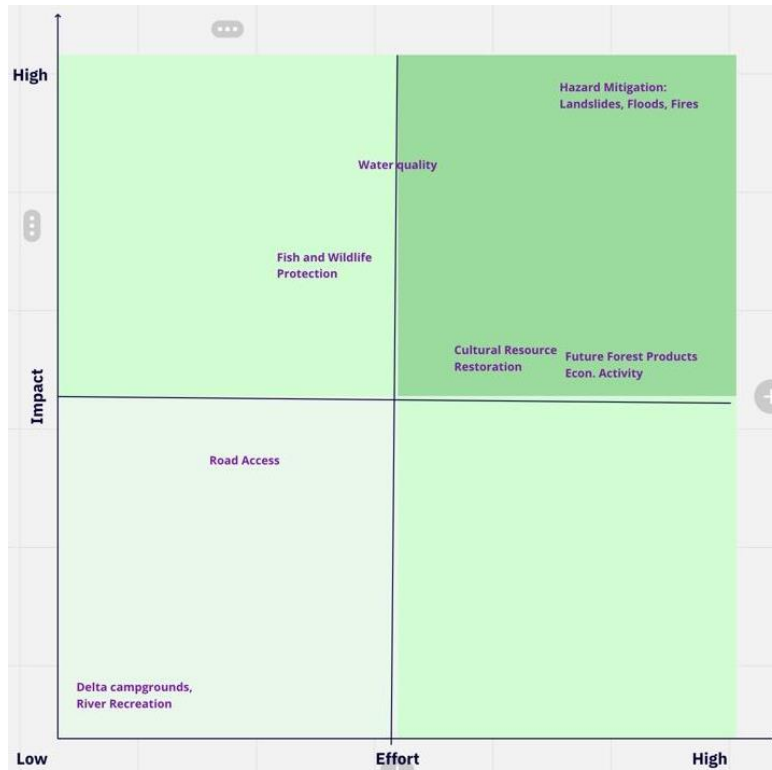
The meeting concluded without clear consensus so a follow-up was scheduled for the following week to complete the work, and give everyone additional time to reflect. At that follow up we will also discuss forming subcommittees, and other outstanding items including how to improve our outreach to Tribal and other interests that are missing.

There was no **public comment**.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Attachment A: Impact / Effort Grid Results

Watershed Restoration



Economy

