



## **McKenzie Rebuilds Meeting Summary**

*Feb 10, 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.*

---

**Participating Team Members:** Valerie Rapp, Sarah Means, Lisa Maates, Merrick Firestone, Matt McRae, Patrick Wingard, Devin Thompson, Mary Camarata, Daren Cross, Lane Tompkins, Jae Pudewell, Kathi Jaworski, Darren Bucich, Melanie Stanley

**Guests:** Lynn Burditt, Priti Shah(FEMA CPCG), Tim Larue, Matt Garrett (Wildfire Recovery Director)

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

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

### **Welcome/Agenda Review**

Co-convenor Commissioner Buch welcomed and thanked the team for their great work of narrowing down the priorities last week. She emphasized that their today's goal would be to reach a final agreement about the priorities, and move forward. Mandy Jones followed and encouraged the team to participate and engage in a conversation - listen to a different perspective from each other. She also thanked everyone in the meeting and was excited to move forward. Van Vliet then reviewed the agenda and meeting logistics.

### **State Support for the McKenzie Rebuilds Effort**

Karmen Fore, Oregon Solutions Director, introduced Matt Garrett, Wildfire Recovery Director from Governor's Office. Garrett shared that agency directors from Housing and Community Services, Business Oregon, Department of Environmental Quality, and

others from Regional Solutions, Lane County, and Oregon Solutions had met to raise awareness and reinforce the need for support for the McKenzie Rebuilds project. Mr. Garrett reinforced that this was not a business as usual circumstance and that the community and project team could be assured they had the support of the agencies behind them. Sara Means with Regional Solutions then shared with the group her insights and thoughts on the four priorities discussed advocating that there is a critical path and as such the priorities in her mind were: 1) wastewater, 2) zoning/land use, and 3) economy and housing development.

### **Agreeing on Scope and Priorities** (Attachment A)

Team members were asked to review Attachment A and were split into breakout groups to discuss and develop their proposal for the project team's priorities. Back as a full group, the project team shared their different draft proposals created in the breakout group and then discussed why certain issues should or should not be priorities, or how to organize the work and made edits accordingly to the proposals. The final two proposals presented were as follows:

#### **Priorities Proposal 1:**

1. Housing: Planning, Building, and Innovation (in parallel with economy)
2. Economy: Planning and Infrastructure (in parallel with economy)
  - a. Building back community and tourism infrastructure
  - b. Economic sustainability planning, including development of a shared strategy and scenario planning for the upper McKenzie Valley future economy.
3. Blue River Water and Sanitation District. Tech support to leverage and support existing efforts.
4. Zoning and Land Use (longer term)

#### **Priorities Proposal 2:**

Address land use in each of the following:

1. Wastewater Infrastructure Solutions
  - Blue River Water and Sanitation District. Tech support to leverage and support existing efforts.
  - Individual / Community and in between
2. Housing: Planning, Building, and Innovation
3. Economy: Planning and Infrastructure
  - Building back community and tourism infrastructure
  - Economic sustainability planning, including development of a shared strategy and scenario planning for the upper McKenzie Valley future economy.

After the project team refined and discussed the proposals, the project team was polled to see which of the two proposals for priorities were preferred. Proposal two had had the most support. Below is the final proposal that the group by consensus decision agreed to advance as priorities. It was noted that land use would be addressed in all of the areas and elevated to the project team, and that the group would remain open to

making adjustments to the priorities as information comes in from public engagement, the LTRG needs assessment, among other information sources.

### McKenzie Rebuilds Project Team Priorities

1. Wastewater Infrastructure Solutions
  - Blue River Water and Sanitation District. Tech support to leverage and support existing efforts.
  - Individual / Community and in between
2. Housing: Planning, Building, and Innovation
3. Economy: Planning and Infrastructure
  - Building back community and tourism infrastructure
  - Economic sustainability planning, including development of a shared strategy and scenario planning for the upper McKenzie Valley future economy.

### **Public Comment and Next Steps**

The following public comments were offered:

- Need to be explicit about the protection and enhancement of the natural environment in the McKenzie Valley. McKenzie is loved by people because of its natural beauty. Make the beauty and diversity of McKenzie Valley expressed in everything done.

Comm. Buch thanked the team for their work, and shared that Oregon Solutions staff would be coordinating the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.