



McKenzie Rebuilds Kick-off Meeting Meeting Summary

Sept 23, 2021 1:00 p.m.- 4:00p.m.
(held via Zoom)

Participating Team Members: Merrick Firestone, Darren Bucich, Joe Moll, Cliff Richardson, Jae Pudewell, Lane Tompkins, Val Rapp, Patrick Wingard, Sara Means, Todd Payne, Max Gimbel, Karl Morgenstern, Alice Bonasio, Austin Ramirez, Melanie Stanley, Kathi Jaworski, Mary Camarata, Jacob Fox, Darren Cross,

Guests: Dulcy Pierce, Robert Kentta, Lisa Mattes

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

Oregon Solutions Staff Team: Karmen Fore, Margaret Van Vilet, Kristen Wright, Mika Sakai

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Overview

Van Vliet welcomed the group and thanked team members for participating, noting that everyone serves on many committees and the hope is that this team complements, instead of duplicating, other work taking place. She provided virtual meeting logistics, noting that non team members are welcome to make comments at the end of the meeting.

Commissioner Buch welcomed and thanked team members and shared her thoughts and reflections on the impacts of the Holiday Farm wildfire. She further noted that the community has just marked the one year anniversary of the wildfires, and asked Wright to introduce an exercise. Wright invited team members to offer one word that describes their current feelings and to put them in the chat. The resulting chat “waterfall” contained the following words from members:

shifting, division, recovery, rebuild, resilience, stuck, hopeful, heavy, collaboration, opportunity, hope, resilient, slowly-emerging-recovery, uncertainty, appropriate, shock, momentum.

Comm. Buch continued, emphasizing that Oregon Solutions is about taking action together. She noted her appreciation for the OS collaborative process and her hopes that the team will be able to build on what the community has already brought together.

Co-convenor Jones also expressed her gratitude to the team, and explained the purpose of this project: to bring back residents, students and businesses as quickly as possible, and to rebuild with sensitivity to the environment. She noted that she’s lived in Vida for 20 years, and while she was not directly impacted many of her friends and neighbors were - just like the team members. Jones expressed her hope that the collaborative process - though challenging - will lead to vibrant communities, welcoming to new and former



residents alike.

Van Vliet reviewed the agenda items, and requested the members to introduce themselves briefly including their name, organization, and aspirations.

Roles, Expectations, and Operating Protocols

Karmen Fore provided a brief overview of Oregon Solutions, its history, role, and process. She highlighted that Oregon Solutions is here to help the community to identify its vision, aspirations and goals, all with an emphasis on taking action together. She described the roles of the conveners, team members, and project staff, and explained that the final work product will be a Declaration of Cooperation signed by all team members.

In response to a question Wright explained that team members are responsible for representing their organizations and constituencies, and sharing information back and forth. She also noted that team meetings are public.

Wright went through the draft [Operating Protocols](#) by section, and invited team members to indicate their level of agreement in the chat. Most areas were agreed to by all members. Two areas generated discussion.

1. Participation. Discussion entailed a desire by some to have team membership be more inclusive and representative of the most impacted, low-income renters. One member wondered if there were too many government employees on the team. Staff and team members also discussed the more general topic of community engagement and transparency. **It was agreed that inclusion and engagement would be discussed in more depth at the next meeting.**
2. Media. Insofar as the use of social media was not addressed in the document, this topic generated discussion. The group agreed to the following amendment: **“In order to prevent misunderstanding, the project team will select a designated member to make postings on behalf of the project team. Otherwise project team members will refrain from posting on social media unless with agreement from the group and or sharing official documents from the process.”** Discussion also acknowledged that media and social media are strongly linked to engagement and this issue will also be revisited at the next meeting.

Oregon Solution Assessment Themes

Van Vliet provided a high-level overview of the assessment and the themes/potential projects.

Scoping Exercise: Reviewing Themes and Potential Projects

Wright referred people to the Draft Themes and Potential Projects, explaining that these were merely a starting place, based on the assessment and some early conversations with some stakeholders. Extended discussion ensued with members offering observations about where there were already efforts in motion,



which projects already had funding, and which other groups or committees were addressing different aspects of recovery. Some observed that the scoping exercise would be of significant interest to others not at this table, which reinforced the need for inclusion, balance in representation, transparency, and engagement.

During discussion of infrastructure, the Blue River Water and Sanitation District's new authorities and funding were noted, with some wondering if that means Oregon Solutions would not be needed. The need to have a new system before residents and jobs returned was underscored. Communications and emergency alert systems were also briefly discussed.

Housing need was mentioned as a uniting factor in that the need is great, and that it will require land use approvals and it will impact watershed protection. Displaced families and school children are a major concern, as is economic viability and jobs as relate to adequate housing.

Communications is a potential focus area, and some efforts are in motion in this regard. The need for people to have good information about what's available, what's been done, and what's coming is huge for this recovering set of communities.

Watershed restoration is also in motion. Flood and landslide risks exist in some places where houses used to be; rebuilding in those same places could be detrimental both to residents and the watershed.

Public Comments and Next Steps

There was no public comment.

Wrap Up

The co-conveners thanked the project team members for their participation and efforts, and noted the next meeting to take place October 28.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.