



Executive Committee Meeting Packet

February 25, 2021 at 9:00 am

Zoom Video Conference:

<https://zoom.us/j/93874443113>

Meeting ID: 938 7444 3113

Password: 599699

Phone Number:

669-900-9128, pwd

93874443113#

**Next OCWCOG Executive Committee
Meeting: April 22nd**

The meeting locations are wheelchair accessible. If you need special assistance, please contact Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments at 541-967-8720 or adminGA@ocwcog.org, forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.



1400 Queen Ave SE • Suite 201 • Albany, OR 97322
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**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA**

February 25, 2021

9:00 – 11:00 am

Zoom Video Conference

<https://zoom.us/j/93874443113>

Meeting ID: 938 7444 3113

Passcode: 599699

Phone Number: 16699009128,,93874443113#

An Executive Session may be called as deemed necessary by the Chair, pursuant to ORS 192.660.

1. **Welcome and Introductions** (Chair Claire Hall)

(9:00 – 9:00 am)

2. **Approval of Minutes from previous meetings** (Chair Claire Hall)

(9:00 – 9:05 am)

- Approval of October 22, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes (Page 4).

ACTION: Motion to approve the minutes from October 22, 2020 Executive Committee meeting.

3. **Executive Director Update** (Executive Director, Ryan Vogt)

(9:05 – 9:20 am)

ACTION: Information only.

4. **Bias Response Memo** (Executive Director, Ryan Vogt)

(9:20 – 9:30 am)

- Presentation of Memo (Page 8).

ACTION: Request approval to move to the Board of Directors.

5. **CWEDD 2020-2025 Main Plan** (CED Director, Jenny Glass)

(9:30 – 10:00 am)

- Presentation of CEDs Strategy Plan. (Handout, Page 10)

To see full report, please click on this link: http://www.ocwcoq.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/CWEDD-2020-25-CEDS-Main-Plan-and-Appendices_FINAL.pdf

ACTION: Information only.

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS — COUNTIES: Benton, Lincoln, and Linn **CITIES:** Adair Village, Albany, Brownsville, Corvallis, Depoe Bay, Halsey, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Lincoln City, Lyons, Millersburg, Monroe, Newport, Philomath, Scio, Siletz, Sweet Home, Tangent, Toledo, Waldport, Yachats **OTHER:** Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Port of Newport

6. **Work Program and Budget process** (Finance Director, Sue Forty)
(10:00 – 10:20 am)

- Request to adjust the schedule for a Draft Budget. (Page 12)

ACTION: Motion to approve and recommendation to move to the Finance Committee and Full Board of Directions for consideration.

7. **Program Updates** (Program Directors)
(10:20 – 10:50 am)

- Senior and Disabilities Services Program Director, Randi Moore (Page 13)
- CED Director, Jenny Glass (Page 15)
- Technology Services Director, John Haytas
- Finance Director, Sue Forty
- Human Resources Manager, Ryan Schulze

ACTION: No action, information only.

8. **Other Business** (Chair Biff Traber)
(10:50 – 10:55 am)

9. **Adjournment**
(11:00 am)

**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Via Zoom Audio / Video Conference
October 22, 2020**

MEMBERS: Commissioner Pat Malone, Benton County; **Secretary**, Mayor Sharon Konopa, City of Albany; Mayor Jim Lepin, City of Millersburg; Mayor Dean Sawyer, City of Newport; and **Chair**, Mayor Biff Traber, City of Corvallis.

STAFF: Executive Director, Ryan Vogt; Finance Director, Sue Forty; Technology and Services Operations Director, John Haytas; Human Resource Manager, Ryan Schulze; Senior and Disabilities Services Director, Randi Moore; CED Planners, Justin Peterson and Steph Nappa; and Executive Assistant, Kathleen Codinha.

ABSENT: **Vice-Chair**, Commissioner Claire Hall, Lincoln County; Transportation Manager, Nick Meltzer

PUBLIC: Suzanne Hurt

Chair Biff Traber called the October 22, 2020 meeting of the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments' (COG) Executive Committee to order at 9:05 am via Zoom®.

1. Welcome and Introductions

After calling the meeting to order, Chair Traber asked the Board Members to introduce themselves, followed by both CED Planners, Justin Peterson and Steph Nappa, that were there to answer questions in the absence of the Transportation Manager, Nick Meltzer.

2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

Chair Traber called for a motion to approve the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting on August 27, 2020. Technology and Services Director, John Haytas asked for a correction on page five: the reference to DMS, Document Management System should read as "DNS – Domain Name System". Commissioner Pat Malone moved to approve the edited minutes and was seconded by Mayor Sharon Konopa. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Consent Calendar Items

Chair Traber asked for a motion to accept the Consent Calendar item as presented; Mayor Konopa moved to approve the Consent Calendar item and Commissioner Malone seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

4. Executive Director Update

The first item brought up for discussion by Executive Director, Ryan Vogt was the Officer elections for the Executive Committee and Board of Directors next year. At the December 3, 2020 meeting, a memo will be included in the packet with explicit directions of the process. In brief, the Chair will appoint a nominating committee to propose candidates for any vacancies for the following two year cycle. The candidates for Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer must be from different counties; people serving in those positions can only serve for two consecutive terms.

In January, the individual counties will propose members for their At-large positions. If the current member would like to maintain their position, they can as there is no time limit to serve in that capacity.

Everyone agreed it would be prudent to wait until after the November 3, 2020 elections to start the process. Mayor Konopa and Mayor Jim Lepin volunteered to be on the nominating committee.

The next topic was the results from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion survey. The topic was brought up at a combined Coastal/Valley City Managers lunch and to see if the COG could play a role in sustaining and coordinating a regional response. The raw survey scores were included in the packet. The results show a general broad support for the COG's involvement, but with no runaway favorite. The highest score was to have the COG coordinate training activities.

The next step will be to pull together a working sub-committee to determine what level of work needs to be done and how that work may be assigned, and then come back to the full board with a proposal to see if people want to leverage resources together to fund those next steps.

Executive Director Vogt asked for feedback and Mayor Konopa said that it's generally not the COGs' role. She voiced concern about the COG spending resources of time and money to go through this arduous process, only to discover it's not a hot topic anymore. She continued by saying it could be a good document for newly elected officials in each city to fully understand diversity issues. If it's a document that all cities use, they should all contribute to the cost; it shouldn't come out of COG funds.

Commissioner Malone thinks the role the COG might take is to coordinate training that other cities or counties have already put together and to make everyone aware of the efforts already in place. An example is the City of Philomath uploading a couple of trainings on YouTube, while Benton County hired a dedicated person to tackle these issues. Mayor Traber is starting a series of joint training between city council and senior staff. The City of Waldport is also doing video training.

Commissioner Malone suggested that someone at the COG create a checklist of what's being done, by whom, and what needs to be done. Mayor Lepin stated they just updated their employee manual, which covers it at great length so doesn't feel the need for anything additional. Mayor Traber doesn't think the COG should be taking on more obligations. If work is done, it shouldn't be taken out of funds that everyone contributes to, but rather only those that are requesting help. Executive Director Vogt did convey that some respondents said it's not the COG's job, and other respondents said their city doesn't require help. He said it was important to give a voice to those that want help and if it's coordinating communications with what each sub-committee is doing, or if its actual work that the COG needs to do that requires leadership, it would be brought back to the Board for consideration.

The last subject for discussion was the merger update between OCWCOG and Community Services Consortium (CSC) and how the two agencies might be able to leverage opportunities to bring more services to the community. Two administrative functions that could potentially share duties are Finance and Human Resources. A big concern is both finance directors have given timeframes for their retirement. They have been meeting regularly to discuss how the two agencies might be able to combine work by comparing software similarities, gaps in staff, processes, and procedures. All change initiative requires upfront effort and additional costs to navigate through. Are the back end savings enough?

OCWCOG and CSC have different unions, and the benefits and pay structure of each agency are markedly different. Most assuredly, the unions would want to adopt the most advantageous package to level up all employees, creating a financial impact of over \$1M per year in wages for CSC. Considerations being explored are mutual software solutions, leveraging administrative benefits, and contemplating contracting with each other. A stronger plan will be brought before the Board in December.

On the Human Resources side, both managers have been meeting to determine how to share resources and how they might be able to help each other in areas such as recruitment, homogenizing position descriptions, and assisting with investigations.

There is forward momentum but both agencies are beginning to see some very challenging conversations. Finance Director, Sue Forty stated that she and Connor Lyons, Finance Director at CSC need more direction from the executive directors. There are large challenges to move forward, but contracts is an area that could be conjoined since CSC doesn't have a contract group.

The Executive Committee supports the efforts, and realizes increased costs is common with mergers. In discussing financial cost again, Human Resources Manager, Ryan Schulze said there will need to be a decision point about the return on investment. A merger would most likely have a negative financial impact, but is the alignment of services for the community worth the cost?

The Executive Committee asked if CSC's Board was aware of the potential financial impact to their organization, because the consensus from the COG's Board is they would like to keep pursuing this. Service to the community is the bottom line, and they don't want finances to be the only reason not to go forward. Finance Director Forty said when you have to take services away from consumers to fund administrative costs, it may not make sense. Both CSC and COG Finance have limited time to figure this out with the CSC Finance Director planning to retire in June 2020.

The whole goal was to streamline services and to save money. From a consumer standpoint, many of them would be better served to be able to walk into one door and have many more services available to them. Mayor Jim Lepin asked if the benefits and services have been quantified of both agencies so the documents could be compared side by side to see what is being brought to a merge, and what the financial cost would be. Executive Director Vogt replied that it has not been done at a comprehensive level, but if we were going to adopt each other's policies and procedures for certain bodies of work, that would be beneficial. It's a little easier to compare and contrast the administrative functions but when it gets to the programs, it becomes more nebulous. Further information will be given at the December 3, 2020 Board of Director meetings.

5. Program Updates

Human Resources Manager, Ryan Schulze reported on the two newly created workgroups: COVID Workplace and COVID Safety Committee. Teleworking has created more work for employees working on-site. The Governor has made further recommendations about face masks and OSHA has new guidelines which will be implemented November 1, 2020 and we have drafted related policy that will need to go to the Board for approval. Regarding recruitment activity, the second round of interviews will be held for the Communications Specialist position on Friday and the CED Director Position has been posted with a 30 day timeline, with national recruitment.

Ms. Nappa said the AAMPO is working on a Salem to Albany transit study, with potential bus service between communities. Corvallis MPO has been making updates to their Pedal 6 Plan and they are about to launch a public survey for a new bike share because the former one was closed by the vendor at the end of March. The Seamless Transit Project is close to launching the website and mobile ticketing live soon.

The last topic from CED was regarding the 2020 Census, which officially closed on October 15, 2020. The goal was to increase self-response and both Lincoln and Linn counties were successful in exceeding the 2010 numbers, with Benton County close; most likely OSU students were being counted at their parents' home. Lincoln County had an overall 46% self-response; Benton County 72% self-response, and Linn County had 71% self-response. Overall, Oregon had 99.9% counted rate.

Changing topics, Mayor Lepin said that Linn County is not supporting the Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDDS) process and isn't something that can be resolved at the CWEDDS Board level. Both Albany and Millersburg have pulled away from AMEDC (Albany Millersburg Economic Development Corp.) They are funding their own programs, and have gone to Pac West. As a result of the turmoil, the County is going to take over economic development for the entire county, but it's not in place yet. Mayor Lepin has tried for over six months to develop a process and parallel the CWEDDS. That's not happening, and his concern is that the CWEDDS Board Members won't be able to do their job if the County doesn't back them. There isn't value in a process in Linn County to provide adequate support to become an effective partner. At the last CWEDDS Board meeting, people recognized the problem but didn't have any solutions. They're not creating the networking ability that the plan is designed to have with the four counties. Mayor Lepin has sent a letter to the Linn County Commissioners and have asked them to come on board with the process, but to no avail because they are creating their own group. Chair Traber asked if the Executive Board wants to try again to get Linn County involved in the CWEDDS process, drop the whole effort, or continue with just the three counties. The next CWEDD board meeting is in November. With the elections within weeks, there will be a new Linn County Commissioner at beginning of year that could change the dynamics.

The next update was given by Seniors and Disabilities Services Director, Randi Moore. She said the integrated eligibility transformation system launches in our region in November. As a reminder, this is how the State is going to be issuing benefits for Oregonians and involves a shared case load across the State. The learning curve is steep but will be good for Oregonians. They will be able to go to the nearest office, access an on-line portal, or call an 800 number and will be able to access all benefits. This is the biggest change to Medicaid in 20 years.

Updates from Finance Director, Sue Forty were:

- The supplemental budget has been entered into the system
- One of the Contract Coordinators has resigned, and that position was approved by the Union to post both internally and externally
- Work in Yachats and Waldport is going well
- The annual audit begins in two weeks

Updates from Technology and Services Director, John Haytas were:

- The Network Security Engineer position was filled by Jacob Blinn; he was already performing the work as a contractor.
- Has begun replacing Virtual Private Networking (VPN) with much success
- Once the VPN update is complete, the focus will shift to the Domain Name System (DNS) and Dynamic Hardware Configuration Protocol (DHCP) to improve the stability of systems
- Will look at alternate solutions to the email gateway (spam filter) to deliver mail consistently within COG and City customers.

6. Other Business

A date wasn't set in December so the determination was to meet an hour before the Board of Directors meeting on December 3, 2020. If there are no pressing topics, it will be cancelled.

7. Adjournment

Chair Traber adjourned at 10:30 am.

Meeting minutes taken by Kathleen Codinha.



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 25, 2021
TO: OCWCOG Executive Board
FROM: Ryan Vogt, Executive Director
RE: Project for Researching a Community Response to Bias

This memo is being crafted as a proposal for consideration by the City of Corvallis to fund a project at the OCWCOG to research and recommend possible pathways for a community response to bias concerns.

Background:

In light of the recent national and local attention to racism, inequality, and a desire to support welcoming communities that are and feel safe for all community members, communities are looking to their elected leaders to acknowledge and act on the historic and systemic racial discrimination which prevents equity throughout our communities. Various city and county entities throughout the tri-county region, have been engaging local voice in working towards a solution. However, there is some recognition that a regional approach may yield better returns by: not overtaxing our underrepresented communities with multiple requests to be part of solutions teams, not creating different methods of response/engagement throughout the community, leveraging existing structures in place and minimizing duplication. City managers have been discussing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for several months as a group. They have asked the OCWCOG to consider leading an effort to research existing systems in place, pull together community engagement sessions, catalogue and distribute information about existing and emerging trainings, and provide recommendations for a Regional response to Bias, Diversity, Equity and Racial Justice Concerns.

The City of Corvallis has set aside money to perform research and planning for a local response to Bias concerns, and has asked the OCWCOG to lead this effort and to consider more regional implications.

Proposal:

OCWCOG would contract directly with the city of Corvallis to:

1. Staff a position, dedicated to this project.
2. Further develop the details of, and execute a project plan in support of an effort to explore development of a regional bias response program.
 - a. The project manager will facilitate the work of engaging agency representatives and communities of color, Tribal representatives, non-English speaking groups, and other underserved/underrepresented communities throughout the area.
 - b. The project manager will support the work by researching bias response programs and approaches, researching existing trainings, community forums, and scheduled events etc. which focus on Diversity, Equity, Racial Justice and Bias.
 - c. Coordinate a Regional Bias Response Summit that will create a forum for local and government leadership to learn directly from marginalized communities to develop a bias response program that is supportive for the region. This summit may include local, regional, and national experts to provide deeper insight, perspective, and best practice.

Conclusion:

To engage in this work authentically takes time and relationship building. It also requires thinking well outside of normal structures and current ways of doing business. The person in this role would need to go TO the community in an effort to build the trust necessary to have open dialogue with the very systems that have implicitly or explicitly marginalized the communities we seek to engage. Any proposed solutions would have to be driven BY the communities.

The project, in its current form, would be to make recommendations for a regional response – including a possible resources/staffing, training plan(s), resource development, and recommendations for next steps for implementation items. The implementation stage would require additional community support, both regarding leadership and funding.

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS — **COUNTIES:** Benton, Lincoln, and Linn **CITIES:** Adair Village, Albany, Brownsville, Corvallis, Depoe Bay, Halsey, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Lincoln City, Lyons, Millersburg, Monroe, Newport, Philomath, Scio, Siletz, Sweet Home, Tangent, Toledo, Waldport, Yachats **OTHER:** Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Port of Newport

CWEDD CEDS | 2020-25



Photos courtesy of Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives

The Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) is designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration to work on economic development efforts in **Benton, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn Counties**. CWEDD advocates for, supports, and coordinates regionally significant economic development activities in the region.

The CEDS highlights **key strategic priorities** for the region in the next five years. Principles of economic resilience are the foundation of these priorities.

The CEDS is implemented through the **collaborative efforts** of the region's economic development stakeholders.

Built on a foundation of resilience

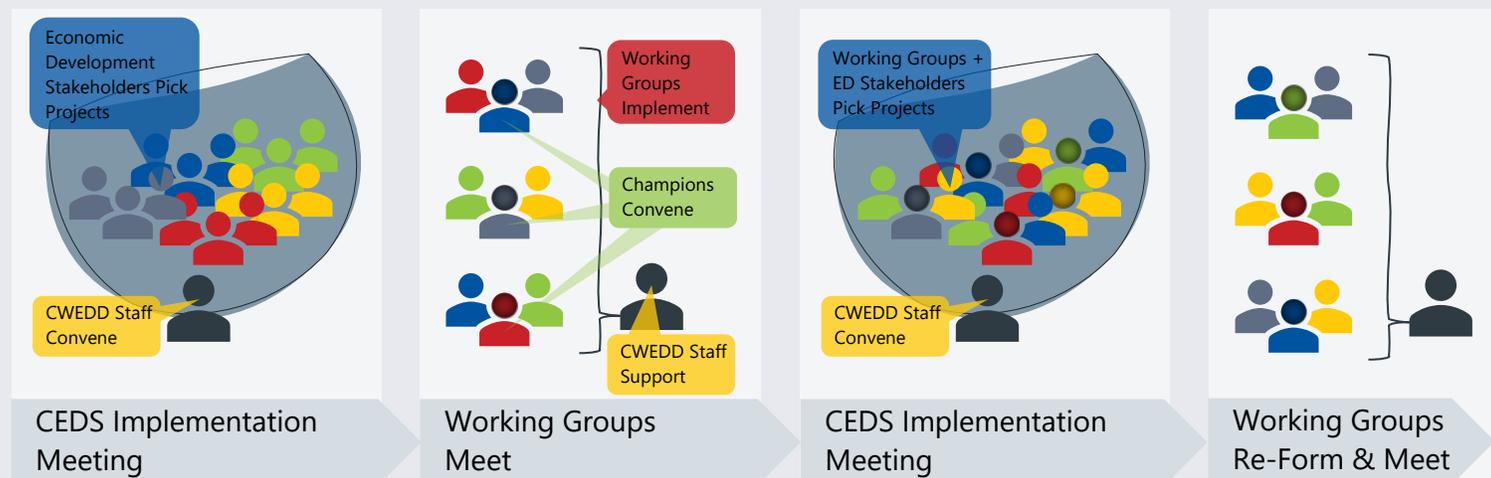
Principles of Economic Resilience

- 1 Diversification of industries & economic sectors
- 2 Workforce flexibility
- 3 Infrastructure redundancy and resiliency
- 4 Equitable access
- 5 Pre-disaster planning for response, continuity, & recovery
- 6 Internal coordination and external communication

Implementation Roles

Decision-making	Convening & Support	Advisory	Action
CWEDD Board Adopt CEDS; direct CWEDD Staff priorities	CWEDD Staff Convene CEDS Implementation Meetings and support Working Groups	Economic Development Practitioners & Stakeholders Provide local updates during CEDS Implementation Meetings, advise on priority projects, and join Working Groups	Working Groups (composed of ED Practitioners & Stakeholders) Carry out action on priority projects identified during CEDS Implementation Meetings; a project must have a Champion to be viable

Implementation Process



CEDS Strategic Priority Areas

	Description	Key Partners	Indicators
 <p>Priority Area 1 Regional Collaboration & Partnerships</p>	<p>A regional economic development strategy is most effective when it considers and incorporates the interests and strengths of all jurisdictions in the region. By leveraging the strengths and capabilities of each county towards a wider economic strategy, the region can become more prosperous, resilient, and cohesive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Economic development staff across the region ❖ CWEDD Board ❖ Business Oregon ❖ Regional Solutions ❖ University of Oregon EDA University Center 	<p>Collaboration: Presence of cross- and multi-jurisdictional economic development projects</p> <p>Equity & Inclusion: Representativeness of CWEDD Board & Working Groups</p> <p>Resilience: Incorporation of resilience considerations into regional and local economic development strategies</p>
 <p>Priority Area 2 Sector Diversification Through Business Development</p>	<p>Our region's businesses are the beating heart of our economy. To thrive, the region must support and retain existing businesses while also cultivating new businesses that will help diversify our economy and generate job growth. With macro-level economic changes – from globalization to shifting market structures – the regional economy will require a continued influx of fresh energy from new and existing businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Economic development staff ❖ Small Business Development Centers ❖ Oregon RAIN ❖ Chambers and other business associations 	<p>Collaboration: Presence of referrals between business support providers</p> <p>Equity & Inclusion: Representativeness of business owner demographics</p> <p>Resilience: Presence of continuity of operations plans</p>
 <p>Priority Area 3 Infrastructure Resilience</p>	<p>Large infrastructure projects, particularly those of regional significance, often exceed the capacity and technical expertise of local municipalities. Further, they often involve multiple partners, public-private partnerships, complex regulatory systems, and strategic stakeholder engagement. To effectively achieve needed infrastructure improvements in the region, technical support will be required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Economic development staff ❖ Business Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority ❖ Local & county emergency managers 	<p>Collaboration: Presence of cross- or multi-jurisdictional infrastructure projects</p> <p>Equity & Inclusion: Presence of projects explicitly considering equity</p> <p>Resilience: Presence of projects explicitly considering resilience and redundancy</p>
 <p>Priority Area 4 Workforce Support</p>	<p>Many businesses in the region report that they are struggling to find qualified employees for a range of skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled positions, in part because of training, and in part because of livability factors like lack of affordable housing options. There is also an ongoing need to support existing workforce training efforts and to coordinate and align the efforts of the various Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) in the region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Economic development staff ❖ Workforce Investment Boards ❖ K-12 & higher education representatives ❖ Local & county planning staff 	<p>Collaboration: Level of coordination between EDOs and WIBs</p> <p>Equity & Inclusion: Percentage of cost-burdened households</p> <p>Resilience: Level of coordination between education/worker-training programs and businesses</p>
 <p>Priority Area 5 Rural Vitality</p>	<p>Rural communities have unique economic strengths and challenges. While training and educational opportunities exist in the region, distance and other challenges can prevent rural communities from accessing those services. Lack of basic services can make rural areas less attractive to prospective residents and employers. Therefore, ensuring equitable access to basic services for residents and businesses in rural areas is a critical strategic opportunity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Economic development staff ❖ Regional tourism staff ❖ Rural school districts and education service districts ❖ Health care providers ❖ Local & county emergency managers 	<p>Collaboration: Presence of multi-jurisdictional projects in rural areas</p> <p>Equity & Inclusion: Access to health and education services</p> <p>Resilience: Presence of rural infrastructure projects explicitly considering self-sufficiency</p>





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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 25, 2021
TO: OCWCOG Executive Committee
FROM: Sue Forty, Finance Director
RE: **OCWCOG Work Program and Budget Process**

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments' long standing Work Program and Budget process has included the creation and presentation of a draft annual Work Program and Budget to the Budget Committee, Finance Committee, and Full Board for review in the March meetings, with the final budget review, approval and adoption at the May meetings.

Per Oregon Budget Law for 190 Intergovernmental Agencies, each budgeted fund (agency program) must include numbers that consist of two (2) year prior actuals, current year adopted and estimated actuals and a proposed new budget, but does not require a draft budget.

We have historically started the process in December each year for the upcoming budget cycle, using the actual revenue and expense through the month of November for the estimated actual calculations, as well as the numbers for the upcoming year. Due to this timing, staff are using numbers that consist of only five (5) months of actual operations to compete the estimated actuals and new budget numbers for the upcoming year. This timing is problematic at times due to some revenue and expenses being paid or billed quarterly.

At the time this draft budget process starts there are many unknowns and this often leads to staff having to estimate revenues and expenditures in order to complete this draft within the timeline allowable to get the published document to the March meetings. We have many revenue sources that have not been identified due to granting cycles and contracts not yet determined many months prior to the actual award. Therefore our initial draft budget is substantially limited in its accuracy, and of very little value.

In the four (4) cities I have worked in over the last several years, their budget meetings start near the time we present our draft budget, in March. Work sessions are scheduled for the Budget Committee Members and Program Staff to talk about the coming year.

I would like to propose that OCWCOG not publish a draft budget in March, but rather hold two (2) Budget Committee work sessions one (1) in March and one (1) in April with more involvement from our established Budget Committee identified in the Bylaws, beginning with the budget cycle for 2022-2023. These meetings will allow program staff additional time to prepare a more comprehensive and accurate budget for the coming year. This process also allows the Committee members to ask questions and be more involved in the completion of the OCWCOG budget, that they are authorizing moving forward to the Finance Committee for approval and Full Board for adoption.

Please let me know if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sue Forty, OCWCOG Finance Director



Senior, Disability and Community Services

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Area Agency on Aging

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 25, 2021
TO: OCWCOG Executive Committee
FROM: Randi Moore, Senior, Disability, and Community Services Director
RE: Program Updates

Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Helps People Navigate Vaccination Process

Navigating the systems put in place by County Health Departments to receive a COVID-19 vaccination can be a complicated process. Unfortunately, the community members who are most vulnerable to the COVID -19 Virus, older adults and people with disabilities, face even more barriers than their neighbors in understanding and managing the process for getting vaccinated. These barriers include a lack of computer proficiency (which is the way appointments are being scheduled), inability to leave their home to go to shot locations, and a lack of accessible transportation.

ADRC call center agents are receiving a large number of calls from at risk community members daily and are providing a much needed resource for callers seeking support and information. Additionally, callers who identify that they want to get signed up for a vaccine but don't have the ability to do it for themselves and have no friends or family to assist are routed to an agent who can help them register for and appointment time, explain the process, and schedule a time for the booster to be administered. Consumers identifying that they have a lack of transportation to vaccine clinic locations are referred to the ADRC supervisory team who are problem-solving these issues on a case by case basis.

Adult Protective Services Numbers Continue to Increase

OCWCOG's Adult Protective Services (APS) team investigates allegations of verbal, sexual, and physical abuse, as well as neglect and financial exploitation. Protective services are provided to those 65 and older, and people with physical disabilities over the age of 18. Preventing abuse and neglect before it happens and bringing awareness of the issue to the community has been the focus of the increased outreach the unit has done over the last four years.

Data pulled recently for the creation of OCWCOG's 2021-2025 Area Plan highlighted how that outreach has affected the workload for the APS unit since 2017.

2017-2020 Adult Protective Services Data by County			
	Complaints	Community Investigations	Facility Investigations
Linn 2017	1062	413	248
Linn 2018	1398	431	294
Linn 2019	1656	479	343
Linn 2020	1531	428	219
Increase/decrease	44%	4%	-12%
Benton 2017	346	118	104
Benton 2018	350	68	120
Benton 2019	495	106	151
Benton 2020	698	142	182
Increase	101%	20%	75%
Lincoln 2017	299	156	26
Lincoln 2018	328	129	21
Lincoln 2019	404	135	49
Lincoln 2020	537	180	55
Increase	80%	13%	112%

Workload for Adult Protective Services across the State is something that is being looked at this Legislative session. Fingers crossed, that advocacy efforts lead to a bump in funding that will enable us to hire more APS screeners and investigators, increasing bandwidth to support the higher call volume trends.



Community and Economic Development

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 25, 2021
TO: Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments Executive Committee
FROM: Jenny Glass, Community and Economic Development Director
RE: **OCWCOG CED Program Update**

The Community and Economic Development (CED) Department starts calendar year 2021 by bringing on a new CED Director, Jenny Glass. Jenny joins the OCWCOG team from Portland, where she led community economic development efforts through her leadership with The Rosewood Initiative. The CED Department weathered a lot of transition through 2020 and staff are looking forward to strengthening the team's foundation to both deepen the impact of current programs and projects, as well as seek new opportunities to support communities across the Cascades West region.

Here are a few updates from our team regarding activities in Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties:

Transportation

- Transportation Options: Creating packets for area DMV's to provide transportation options for seniors/others who may be losing driving privileges
- Seamless Transit progress to provide a website (cwride.org) that integrates all regional agency information, including bus routes, agency fares, bus locational data, predications on bus arrival times, and purchasing tickets online. Smart phones will have accessibility to use the website, and additional apps for the bus data and purchasing tickets.
- Completed the Highway 99W Transit Feasibility Study, with collaboration with the University of Oregon, researched the demand along Highway 99W between Junction City and McMinnville. Key findings found variances between the population demographics and frequency of transportation needs.
- Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) is working with Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to update the Corvallis Albany Lebanon Model (CALM), the region's travel demand model
- Joint AAMPO/CAMPO meeting in March
- Continuing work on Albany Area MPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- Co-managing Jefferson Transportation System Plan (TSP) update, beginning talks with Tangent to update their TSP
- Helping with Cherriot's Salem to Albany Corridor Feasibility Study Project
- Since the start of the pandemic, Ride Line was still providing Non-Emergent Medical Transport and have provided over 60,000 physical rides to over 4,000 unique individuals, these numbers are from April 2020 – December 2020. This does not include

mileage reimbursement. For mileage, we have reimbursed over 22,000 trips to over 550 unique individuals.

- Our NEMT Drivers were eligible for the COVID Vaccine in Phase 1a. There were in Group 3.
- Ride Line has been providing transport to COVID testing sites and has started providing transport to COVID Vaccine sites.
- Albany Transit System (ATS) has a Transit Development Plan from 2018 that provided a general outline for transit improvements over short, medium, and long term scenarios.
- The Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) provided funding for Albany to move forward with the medium term scenario. ATS requested funding to implement this scenario through the Linn Co STIF plan, which Commissioners recently approved.
- This project develops a more detailed implementation strategy, finalizing routes, stops, and schedules. COG is handling project management and public outreach, and is working with consultants Nelson\Nygaard who are providing technical support.
- Nelson\Nygaard will develop several transit route maps which will be ready for public feedback around late March.

Community Development

- OCWCOG staff provide planning and land use services in Yachats and Toledo.
- Helped secure a Transportation Growth Management grant in Sweet Home.
- Cascades West Regional Consortium, an independent 501c3 supported by OCWCOG, continues to meet to work on issues surrounding land development in wetland areas.
- OCWCOG continues to provide GIS mapping services to the region including:
 - Geodatabase maintenance for Philomath, Toledo, Monroe and Adair Village utilities (storm, water, sewer) and administrative data, with interactive viewers;
 - Buildable Lands Inventories

Economic Development

- 2020-2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) adopted by Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) Board on February 11, 2021
- Anne Whittington was hired as OCWCOG's Economic Recovery Coordinator with CARES ACT funding received in 2020