



## **Board of Directors' Meeting Packet**

**September 19, 2019; 2:00 pm**

Cascades West Center  
1400 Queen Avenue, SE  
2nd Floor, Large Conference Room  
Albany, OR 97322

**Next Finance Committee and Board of  
Directors' Meetings:  
December 5, 2019 at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm**

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*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](mailto:adminGA@ocwcog.org), forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.*

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**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA  
September 19, 2019  
2:00 pm**

Cascades West Center  
1400 Queen Avenue SE  
Albany, OR 97322

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

**NOTE:** Please contact [adminga@ocwcog.org](mailto:adminga@ocwcog.org), no later than noon on Wednesday, September 17th, to confirm your attendance.

1. **Welcome and Introductions** (Chair Biff Traber)  
(2:00 – 2:05 pm)

2. **Public Comment** (Chair Biff Traber)  
(2:05 – 2:10 pm)

Floor will be open to the public for comment.

3. **Consent Calendar** (Chair Biff Traber)  
(2:10 – 2:15 pm)

- a. Approval of Previous Board of Directors' May 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes (Page 5).
- b. Financial Update (Page 16, Page 18).

**ACTION: Motion to approve Consent Calendar.**

4. **OCWCOG Event Updates** (Executive Director Fred Abousleman)  
(2:15 – 2:20 pm)

The Executive Director will present updates on *CelebrateLBL*.

**ACTION: Information only, no action needed.**

5. **2019 Regional Awards** (*Executive Director Fred Abousleman*)  
(2:20 – 2:50 pm)

The Board members will review 2019 Regional Awards' nominations for *CelebrateLBL* and select winners (Page 22).

**ACTION:** Motion to approve Board-selected winners for the 2019 Regional Awards.

6. **Regional Housing Assessment and Survey Update** (*Executive Director Fred Abousleman*)  
(2:50 – 3:00 pm)

Staff will provide an update to the *Regional Housing Assessment* and Survey (Page 43).

**ACTION:** Information only, no action needed.

7. **OCWCOG Program Updates** (*All Program Directors*)  
(3:20 – 3:35 pm)

Staff will be available to answer any questions from the Board of Directors on program updates (Community and Economic Development Program - Page 49; Community Services Program - Page 51; and Senior and Disability Services Program - Page 53).

**ACTION:** Information only, no action needed.

8. **Executive Session** (*Chair Biff Traber*)  
(3:00 – 3:20 pm)

The meeting will move into Executive Session per ORS 192.660 (i) under the provisions of Oregon Public Meeting Laws for the purpose of discussing contract and program review.

**ACTION:** Discussion only, no action to be taken.

9. **Other Business** (*Chair Biff Traber*)  
(3:35 – 3:40 pm)

10. **Adjournment** (*Chair Biff Traber*)  
(3:40 pm)

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**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
May 16, 2019**

**MEMBERS:** Mayor Biff Traber, Corvallis; Mayor Sharon Konopa, Albany; Mayor, Commissioner Claire Hall, Lincoln County; Mayor Jim Lepin, Millersburg; Commissioner Pat Malone, Benton County; Councilor Debbie Nuber, Scio; Councilor Ken Lorensen, Halsey; Councilor Wayne Rieskamp, Lebanon; Councilor Chas Jones, Philomath; Mayor Don Ware, Brownsville; Councilor Mike Caughey, Harrisburg; Rick Hohnbaum, City Administrator, Monroe; Commissioner Will Tucker, Linn County; Councilor Alan Rowe, Adair Village; and Councilor Carol Korn, Tangent.

**VIDEO:** Councilor Judy Casper, Lincoln City; Mayor Rod Cross, Toledo; Councilor Ron Hervey, Siletz; Councilor Max Glenn, Yachats; Mayor Dean Sawyer, Newport; and Deputy Director Rachael Maddock-Hughes, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG).

**OCWCOG STAFF:** Executive Director Fred Abousleman; Finance Director Sue Forty; Community and Economic Development Director Phil Warnock; Senior and Disability Services Director Randi Moore; Community Services Program Director Jennifer Moore; Brian Chytka, IT Manager, and Janet Hughes, Administrative Assistant.

The OCWCOG Board of Directors' Meeting was called to order by Chair Biff Traber at 2:03 pm at the Cascades West Center in Albany.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Introductions were made.

**2. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**3. Consent Calendar**

Chair Traber asked if any items on the consent calendar needed to be pulled out and/or discussed further.

Rick Hohnbaum, City Manager, Monroe, made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar which includes: Previous Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2019; Financial Update; Adoption of Economic Development Administration (EDA) *Revolving Loan Fund Plan* Resolution #19-05-01; Authorization of Economic Development Administration (EDA) *Planning Grant Submittal* Resolution #19-05-02; and *Meals on Wheels* Food Production and Delivery Request for Proposal Update. Commissioner Claire Hall seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Presentation of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 – 2018 Annual Financial Audit**

Kori Sarrett, CPA from Accuity, OCWCOG's auditing firm, presented her findings from the *Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-2018 Annual Financial Audit (Audit)*.

Ms. Sarett stated that she provided a Summary Sheet; this was given to all attendees, including those in Toledo. She referenced this document throughout her remarks.

Ms. Sarett commented that the audit opinion for the Board of Directors (Board) is that the audit is a clean opinion, or an unmodified opinion. This is a good thing. She told the Board that she was with the OCWCOG Finance Committee earlier to deliver these same results, and that the Board should know that the OCWCOG Finance Department does a great job; they worked hard for a clean audit.

The Department was diligent in really making sure the numbers that were giving to Auditors were clean. Ms. Sarett noted that throughout the year, the numbers are correct and when a problem arose, Department Staff identified it and if they had a hard time with in dealing with it correctly, they would call us. Ms. Sarett explained that very rarely, did the Auditors disagree with the Departments course of action on any issue. The Department was very good at identifying and moving through items on their own; they are diligent, accurate, and up-to-date.

Ms. Sarett noted that a Federal Compliance Audit is required annually. Auditors reviewed the intermediary Lending program and the Senior and Disability Services program this year, including *Meals on Wheels* and the majority of the Senior and Disability Services program. There were no audit findings related to the Federal Compliance Audit this year.

Ms. Sarett commented that one of the things that has been talked about with the OCWCOG Board over the past several years is the pension liabilities, and how those liabilities are calculated. When employees retire, they are going to cost more for the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) to pay their retirement out, from what OCWCOG is currently paying into the PERS system now, and this generates a *liability*. Ms. Sarett continued by explaining that in theory, this is a simple calculation, and has been a number on the reporting schedule for many years. This number only came into play after 2015, when it looked like the State PERS number looked like it was overfunded, everyone laughed, and did not look at the number again.

Since 2015, this “overfunded” number has skyrocketed and the State has been taking steps to try and recover. By the end of June 30, 2018, this number was an \$11 million dollar liability – a number that has been reported to OCWCOG. The 2017 number was \$12.4, so the liability is starting to stabilize and this year (2019), it will be closer to the \$12 million dollar mark, so Accuity, expects the number to remain around \$12 million. To note, this number is contingent on when the State completes its next actuarial valuation, and if assumptions, plans, or the like are changed, but for now, it this number is stabilized.

Ms. Sarett explained a new reporting standard for health instance, which started after June 30, 2018 and looks similar to PERS; OCWCOG is required to offer coverage to employees when they retire from your organization, until they meet their Medicare age. So there is an implied liability, Accuity calls it an inflight subsidy, in that a retiree can medically cost the health insurance system more than a 25-year-old person and so by covering them, OCWCOG is paying more in health insurance then it would if it did not have to cover these retired employees.

Ms. Sarett knows that many organizations would like to know their exact liability, though she does not have this answer. This liability does not go away, but does fluctuate based on the age of an organization’s employee population; on how many retirees the organization is currently covering; and how many retirees are eligible to be covered; etc. Ms. Sarett emphasized that this liability is not going anywhere. The net liability for OCWCOG was just over \$7 million for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018.

Ms. Sarett noted that OCWCOG's unrestricted liability portion is negative; OCWCOG is carrying a positive net liability. Most of OCWCOG's funding is restricted for program funding, rather than for general operations.

Finally, Ms. Sarett commented that the Audit did not raise any compliance issues. There were no issues with insurance, budget adoption, public bidding, etc.

Councilor Chas Jones asked what are the implications for having a negative unrestricted balance?

Ms. Sarett replied, at this time, it is not a budgetary one and so there are not really any implications. The unrestricted balance comes from having \$12 million worth of liability that OCWCOG does not control. So, unfortunately, it is what it is at this point. Ms. Sarett noted, as the organization is making financial decisions moving forward, it is worth knowing that this unrestricted liability is there. She commented that the balance is interesting because it is a PERS liability. OCWCOG is a healthy organization, there is plenty of money to go throw at everything, but there is this unrestricted balance that is out of the organization's control. Ms. Sarett praised the Administration for managing the growth of the organization that needed to happen with the available resources.

Commissioner Will Tucker said he would move to accept the *FY2017-2018 Annual Financial Audit*, if you don't mind. Chair Traber asked if he could get help from Staff, then asked Commissioner Tucker what the clarification is on that.

Commissioner Tucker said that the clarification is that without going through this document, without having the qualification to actually read and properly interpret the document, the Board is taking the representation of the County, and so in my mind would not approve this, I would accept this, but that is the motion to accept and not approve.

Executive Director Fred Abousleman said, that technically the Board members are taking the *Audit*. The Board must take the *Audit* document as it is, so are approving the acceptance of the *Audit*. The Board can then make motions to go back and tell the Auditors that members are not happy with something, and Members want something else audited and/or do not believe the statement is correct. However, technically, the *Audit* is what it is. So, whether the Board approves it or accept it, the Board has to do something with it at this moment. The Board is then free to go back to the Auditors for any subsequent changes/questions.

Chair Traber replied, noting that he understands the distinction that Commissioner Tucker was making and that it is appropriate, as long as it does not leave the organization hanging without having done something with the *Audit*. Chair Traber noted that an action had to be taken by the end of the Fiscal Year.

Chair Traber said there is a motion on the table, do we have a second to accept the *FY2017-2018 Annual Financial Audit*? Commissioner Pat Malone seconded the motion to accept the *FY2017-2018 Annual Financial Audit*. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Traber thanked Ms. Sarett, the OCWCOG Finance Committee, and the OCWCOG Finance Department for their time.

**5. Presentation and adoption the *Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 – 2020 Work Program and Budget***

Executive Director Abousleman noted that at the last Board meeting, Staff presented the Draft *FY 2019-2020 Work Program & Budget (Budget)*. Since that time, the OCWCOG Budget and Finance Committees have had an opportunity to review the document; it was recommended earlier today to be sent to the Full Board for approval.

Executive Director Abousleman commented that there are no substantive changes between what you saw as the draft and the document you have in front of you today. I'll turn it over to Finance Director Sue Forty for further comments, then will open the floor for any questions or comments from the Board.

Finance Director Forty said that the *Budget* presented today is a balanced budget. Moving forward over the next few years, Staff need to be concerned or considerate of finding extra revenue, as expenditures continue to rise.

Finance Director Forty commented on the \$366 thousand PERS increase in this *Budget* this year. She noted that all local and regional governments are experiencing these types of increases for the PERS cost. Other than that, there is not a lot to note. Finance Director Forty explained that Staff will be presenting a *Supplemental Budget* July, as new revenue sources that are potentially coming in will need to be actualized in the *Budget*. The two affected programs include: *Foster Grandparent Program*, Benton County Veteran Services Office, and *\$tand by Me*.

***\$tand by Me***

Executive Director Abousleman discussed the one addition new program called *\$tand by Me*. He noted that OCWCOG received some seed funding to start the program. Benton County Commissioner Annabelle Jaramillo, with the support of her two fellow commissioners, had seen a financial literacy program at a conference, which is currently residing in Delaware, and approached OCWCOG and asked if the organization would be interested in examining the program to see if it would be worthwhile to implement as a replica; could it be implemented; and would it be beneficial to Benton County and then the Region at-large.

Executive Director Abousleman continued by commented that Community Services Program Director Jennifer Moore, Deputy Director Rachael Maddock-Hughes, and himself went to Delaware to study the *\$tand by Me* program, where they learned that the program does four things very well: it raises savings for Delawareans; it reduces their debt; increases their credit scores; and it provides lifelong counseling for people who want to build budgets, ultimately find better jobs, purchase homes, and purchase cars. It has touched about 120,000 people in Delaware over the past 10 years. Delaware's program is primarily funded through two major profit sources, then banks, mortgage companies, and others.

The County graciously said it would like to see if OCWCOG can start the program in the County, and gave OCWCOG seed money of \$85,000 to pursue \$500,000 to procure coaching. The templates and materials to begin to put together financial literacy program are available from Delaware and is well within OCWCOG's in portfolio to help its residents. Executive Director Abousleman noted that the OCWCOG is going to test the program, to find the funding to launch it, hopefully come back to the Board with some success stories, and see how OCWCOG can replicate it in other parts of the Region.



Executive Director Aoulosleman said the program was absolutely going to be marketed. He noted that the program is at least 13 months away from being able to launch anything outside of Benton County. Once it is on the ground in Benton County, there will be Coaches imbedded in the community and organizations will have provided some level of social service. The organizations could include the food bank, Willamette Neighbor & Housing, etc. Delaware's target population has been seniors, Veterans, families, English as a Second Language (ESL) population, and Workers in Transition. OCWCOG / Benton County has not decided on a population focus or if they will have a population focus yet.

Executive Director Aoulosleman explained how *Stand by Me* works at a community level. He noted that if a Senior Center was a volunteer organization where a Coach was imbedded, the Coach could then have seniors come in to meet with him/her there. The population of the Senior Center would be marketed to that population for that coaching. That population would have access for free, as long as they wanted, to a series of financial tools. These are not one-off tolls, clients receive as much as they need until they become financially stable and more financially informed.

Executive Director Aoulosleman commented that he was surprised to find that the Region's three-Counties were in need of such a service. He noted that needs in Benton County include students living in poverty or residents who are just about above the poverty line. He explained that the \$85,000 gives OCWCOG the platform to find more money and to launch the program Region-wide. He also noted that he is happy to brief any of the Region's councils or commissions on this. The program is called *Stand by Me Delaware*, if anyone is interested in learning more.

Chair Traber asked if this was coming in the Supplemental Budget. Executive Director Aoulosleman confirmed that yes, the *Stand by Me* program was coming in the Supplemental Budget and would have its own line item. Finance Director Forty further explained that like Meals on Wheels, RSVP, and other programs, *Stand by Me* will have its own section, making the program income and expenses easily identifiable, trackable, and transparent.

Chair Traber said that they should all have the Budget Resolution in front of them, Resolution #19-5-03. He asked for a motion on the floor to approve the budget and adopt the resolution.

Commissioner Malone moved to approve the *FY2019 – 2020 Work Program & Budget* and adoption of Resolution #19-05-03 Agency Budget for FY2019 – 2020. Mayor Jim Lepin seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

#### **6. Board of Directors' Endorsement of the Older American's Act**

Executive Director Aoulosleman said it has been his honor for the past five years that he has been able to celebrate Older Americans Month in Oregon. OCWCOG takes resolutions to its member Cities and Counties, asking if they too would like to proclaim May as Older Americans Month.

Executive Director Aoulosleman commented that the resolution presented today is on that Staff would ask you to endorse on behalf of OCWCOG, which our knowledge of our senior residents; and proclaims the need to better understand the needs our senior residents have to live independently and securely and in the residence of their own choice and as healthy as possible.

Chair Traber stated that he did not know how many of the membership has, but the City of Corvallis has proclaimed May as Older Americans Month. Several members replied that they had already proclaimed it or were going to proclaim it at a future date in the month.

Chair Traber acknowledged that the Board all seems to be onboard with it; and asked for a motion.

Mayor Don Ware made a motion approve the endorsement of May as Older Americans Month. Councilor Debbie Nuber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **7. OCWCOG Event Updates**

Executive Director Abousleman gave a brief update on the two upcoming events that have been held for the past three years.

### ***Tapas and Treasures – Meals on Wheels* fundraiser**

Executive Director Abousleman said that *Tapas and Treasures* is the signature *Meals on Wheels* (MOW) fundraiser, which is held in Corvallis at Garland's Nursery. While it is in Benton County, it is not exclusively for Benton County residents or for Benton County sponsors. He encouraged all Board members to attend.

Executive Director Abousleman explained that *Tapas and Treasures* is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Corvallis and the Oregon Cascades West Senior Services Foundation; the OCWCOG staffs it. The goal this year is to raise over \$10,000 for MOW. Every \$10 is one meal delivered to a senior in need. July 12th from 5:00 – 8:00 pm is the date and time. Executive Director Abousleman commented that the Board will see a number of emails about the event. Please attend if you can, and if you cannot, please send the emails onto your network; your communities, including your chambers, rotaries, your friends' list, etc.. The more folks that attend, the more fun, and the more money that goes to MOW.

Executive Director Abousleman noted that there are four signature beverage sponsors this year, plus Valley Catering.

### ***CelebrateLBL***

Executive Director Abousleman said the second event is going to be our third annual *CelebrateLBL*. This is OCWCOG's signature awards ceremony in recognition of all the great things that happen in our Region. Regional Award nominations have been released, so please start thinking about nominations for this event. There are six awards ranging from Project of the Year; Citizen of the Year; to Volunteer of the Year.

Executive Director Abousleman said that the key piece for the Regional Award nominations is sometimes individuals do not think of who might be regionally significant, so keep thinking outside the box and encourage your community members to do the same. It has been a great, great series of nominations, especially those that think innovatively; it might not be the first person that comes to your mind, it could be that person who has just been a great volunteer, advocate, someone you know that has just done great things. The projects are significant, Staff really noticed some projects, just outstanding projects in our communities; and as you know, probably one of the most significant award winners was, Mike Volpe, who is an advocate for people with disabilities, who is also getting an award from the State in a month; has just been a great

champion for OCWCOG. We do appreciate that. Please think of nominees, we'd like to have a full field.

Executive Director Abousleman recalled the locations of past events, including: Corvallis at OSU and Coast at the Aquarium. This year we will be in Linn County.

Executive Director Abousleman noted that we do not have a date yet, but it will be in October, more than likely the week of the 20th. Staff is looking at two possible venues: The Carousal and The Expo.

Chair Traber commented that that was an important event, as it recognized individual community members who help the Region; he appreciates the Regional focus. He also likes that it's a fundraiser and a fun get-together.

#### **8. OCWCOG Program Updates**

Mayor Lepin said he had just a comment regarding the caseload of APS; he spoke with Executive Director Abousleman before the meeting, but with these numbers increasing, he is alarmed. Mayor Lepin asked if there is a reason to be significantly concerned about this for the Region. He noted that he would like to learn more about this going forward and would like this to be monitored. He also commented that his personal interaction with APS parallels some the child abuse situations that are going on in the Region. He thinks these number are alarming for the Region.

Executive Director Abousleman answered his concerns; he thanked Mayor Lepin for bringing this up and stated that he spoke with the Benton County Commissioners and Linn County Commissioners about this issue as well. He emphasized that the issue is alarming, because it is Statewide. It is just not in our Region. Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director Randi Moore can speak to more of the specifics, as there are two things OCWCOG is looking at in reviewing the numbers: are Staff seeing more instances of abuse, or is the population growing, or both. Staff believe it is both. Executive Director Abousleman continued, the more of one is aware of the abuse in communities from the business side or the schools or from Senior Centers and are reporting it. They are also reporting it on a larger growing population and if you've seen the statistics in Oregon, and the elderly population over 50 in Oregon will double in the next 10 years, and so that think this number is going to continue to rise.

SDS Director Randi is working with the State and with fellow triple AAA's about how to get more State resources to identify this and how are we going to get better at managing this.

Executive Director Abousleman commented that the second piece to this, which he mentioned to the Mayor and Commissioners, is that at one point, facilities were counted as one event, even though it could have been multiple people who had cases or alleged abuse. Now, every case is counted as an event. For instance, one facility had five people, previously, the system would say that was one case, now the system says five cases. So, it is good that Staff and the State know more about what is happening in the facilities, and we have had a number of facilities recently that have had some significant problems. However, this has bumped up the numbers as well.

Chair Traber asked when this change to the way of counting started. SDS Director Randi Moore stated that it happened in July of 2018.

Mayor Sharon Konopa asked if any of the complaints were a repeat at the same facility or same person. SDS Director Moore said that no, if it was identified as a specific complaint, it was a separate interaction or separate event. If it had been a call about something APS Staff already knew, it would have added it as another statement to the APS investigation.

Executive Director Abousleman said that SDS Director Moore is preparing a memo for all of Board members and OCWCOG Members that will go out ASAP; this memo will discuss *Adult Protective Services* is, what it does and what it cannot do. Sometimes there is some confusion on what the program's actual authorities are.

#### **9. Topics of Regional Interest: Shared Service**

Chair Traber said this was an opportunity to talk about shared interests. He noted that the Board has been using it to talk about opportunities where OCWCOG can help various governments. This month's discussion was about opportunities for Water Treatment Plant Operators.

Executive Director Abousleman asked if this was still a need for the communities; Staff is preparing a survey that I promised at the last Board meeting to go out.

Chair Traber said that he believed Mayor Cutter started that discussion as it was something that he would be interested in.

City Manager Rick Hohnbaum said the City of Monroe would be interested in it. City Manager Hohnbaum encouraged OCWCOG to have a conversation with the State Safe Drinking Water, because they have had some fuzzy definitions about how many different plants somebody can be responsible party for. Executive Director Abousleman said that was good to know.

Chair Traber asked if there were any other interest topics.

Executive Director Abousleman said as a further shared service, so everyone is aware, Finance Director Forty has been doing financial work on the Coast, helping manage the finances of a few cities, and potentially helping the Tribe. OCWCOG is doing an HR assessment on the Coast as well. Finally, Technology Services Manager Brian Chytka has been helping cities with their IT services, and we hope to continue to do that for you.

I know it generally impacts the smaller communities more, but things like Waste Water Planning Services for planning purposes, providing GIS services with the City of Monroe, and planning services for Sweet Home, are just a few of the projects out of OCWCOG's Community and Economic Development Department. We'll talk about things like Water Treatment Facility Operator, and some of the more specific ones, but there is also this growing need for more basic service. If we can help you identify what you might need, we'd be happy to do that.

Chair Traber said that is a topic that we have been trying to explore over several meetings, where there are areas where multiple governments can get together, and together with the OCWCOG can get more cost-effective services.

#### ***Shared Transit Services***

Executive Director Abousleman asked if he could put Commissioner Tucker on a spot, he spoke of shared transit services and if he came to any resolutions.

Commissioner Tucker said there is no resolution. He continued noting that there are examples across the U.S. of transportation services being offered using the same buses/driver to do other than haul students to school in the morning, and it's happening across the U.S., and Canada.

It does require some boundaries being thought through differently. Linn County is talking about using some of the fixed route dial-a-bus type services and the Commissioners have thought to do some things with after school things for kids in Lebanon. Commissioner Tucker continued by noting that he thought it was going, but is actually not, or it is not happening yet; but the conversation is occurring by attempting to use those same buses for more than just bus time, by using the bus networks, connections of just more than just for adults. The County could be hauling more as well.

Commissioner Tucker noted that the conversation has occurred, but nothing has moved very far. It is in the STIFF master plan that the County uses. He noted that the Commissioner's tried to do some things around this, but for opportunities, they need to have more conversation. He noted that he appreciates the Linn-Benton Loop shuttle work that has been done. He thinks they have a pretty robust network that is getting better all the time.

Executive Director Abousleman said since his transportation staff is not here, I will task them with further identifying opportunities if they can.

#### *Human Resources Survey*

Councilor Jones mentioned during his recent Budget meetings, his City was considering doing a survey of other communities. His City is going entering into budget negotiations with the union next year, so they are considering doing a community survey to find out what other communities positions are paying, benefits, etc. The City's Finance Director is planning on doing that as some of the communities are paying as much as 5% population or something like that. Is this information cities would be willing to share? Councilor Jones mentioned that Philomath considering hiring a consultant to do it, but hiring an outside consultant would cost \$20 – 30,000.

Mayor Konopa thought that the League of Oregon Cities would have a lot of that information; that way you can get it for free.

Executive Director Abousleman interrupted to introduce OCWCOG Human Resources (HR) Manager Ryan Schutze. HR Manager Schutze came from DHS at the State and has been with OCWCOG for three months now. Executive Director Abousleman wanted the Board to meet HR Manager Schutze and to discuss the salary survey work that Philomath is doing, and how we can share that information with each other. Mayor Lepin said that Millersburg would be interested in a similar survey as well.

Executive Director Abousleman said that what other communities have done is pool their resources together and, he doesn't know if our staff has capacity or not. We can help you pull resources to find and maybe this could be a yearly kind of activity for you. Do you want us to explore this?

Mayor Konopa stated that her City had just gone through this. She said it was helpful to have a consultant, as it took a great amount of work to go through each of the job

descriptions; for instance, each Administrative Assistant might have different job descriptions depending on who or what department they work for.

Councilor Jones also said they were told If they hired an outside consultant, it would definitely be public information. However, he knows that everything is public anyway. Even if OCWCOG completed the survey, it would be public.

There was no interest from Coast on doing or being part of a salary survey.

Mayor Konopa stated that their City Attorney presented to them the salary comparison survey in Executive Session, because it would have impacted labor negotiations at that time because a contract had not been ratified.

Executive Director Abousleman said HR Manager Schultze will work with Philomath, Millersburg, and Harrisburg on a salary survey.

#### **10. Other Business**

Chair Traber let Mayor Lepin do the ceremonial Draft page rip out of the *FY2019-2020 Work Plan & Budget*. Everyone ripped the page out.

##### *2020 Census*

Executive Director Abousleman said for purposes of the 2020 Census, Linn County and Benton County have officially designated OCWCOG to form the Census Count Committee – presentations have been made to Linn and Lincoln Counties thus far. This entails is the Census asking that a Complete Count Committee be created and that is getting all the Committee partners around the table to talk about how you count hard to find, easy to find, and other populations that might be in your community.

Executive Director Abousleman explained that starting with Linn and Benton Counties, Staff is talking about resources with the Counties' Administrators. Staff will start to form a Committee with healthcare, housing, homelessness, senior centers, and others, then put information together that will be disseminating about complete counts, what it means to Oregon.

Executive Director Abousleman commented that in the State of Oregon, every apartment block is worth \$2,000. So, if a block of apartments isn't counted on the Census, \$2,000 of Federal funding is not received. In total, \$13 billion is coming into the State of Oregon from the Census. It is a considerable block of money. Executive Director Abousleman believes Oregon is about 50 to 70% Federal money. Census dollars are critical. Executive Director Abousleman does not have any direction today, he just met with the Census Representative yesterday.

Mayor Konopa said that she thought the Census was being done differently this time. They had a big involvement for the last Census. What she has heard is that they are not hiring,

Executive Director Abousleman said that was correct, they are not hiring, they are having committees, more mail, more electronic counting; then what they are going to focus on is the hard to count, the people that can't be reached by mail, or electronic, which he was told will be primary focus for our role.

Executive Director Abousleman further stated that the Governor now has a commission on hard to count and complete count items. He believes that has of yesterday, he has been put on the subcommittee on this. Also, the Governor is asking the Legislature to release funds to support local communities on this.

**11. Adjourn**

No further business, Chair Traber adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

*Meeting minutes taken by Janet Hughes.*





1400 Queen Ave SE • Suite 201 • Albany, OR 97322  
(541) 967-8720 • FAX (541) 967-6123

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 19, 2019  
**TO:** OCWCOG Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Sue Forty, Finance Director  
**RE:** **OCWCOG Financial Update**

Please accept the following snapshot, and Consolidated Revenue and Expense Statement, for period ending June 30, 2019 with notes to pertinent items. We strive to make the following financial information consistent, accessible, and transparent.

### Snapshot by Major Line Item

	<b>FY2019 Budget</b>	<b>June Year-End</b>	<b>Percentage FYE</b>	<b>Prior Year FYE</b>
Dues	296,303.00	296,302.69	100.00%	99.29%
Contracts	2,337,560.00	2,275,629.15	97.35%	82.59%
Grants	265,169.00	265,169.00	53.02%	67.47%
Donations	282,000.00	157,914.48	56.00%	87.78%
State Revenue	1,865,511.00	1,447,415.35	77.59%	91.66%
Federal Revenue	13,128,129.00	12,257,917.54	93.37%	97.33%
Coordinated Care	7,379,243.00	8,288,511.87	112.32%	106.56%
<b>Total Income (all line items)</b>	<b>39,844,382.46</b>	<b>38,870,244.43</b>	<b>97.56%</b>	<b>99.03%</b>
<b>Total Payroll Expense</b>	<b>14,397,620.00</b>	<b>12,833,061.17</b>	<b>89.13%</b>	<b>87.05%</b>
Contract Expense	8,958,393.00	10,032,504.56	111.99%	99.18%
Indirect Expense	2,162,294.00	2,030,938.70	93.93%	98.34%
Maintenance & Repair	128,650.00	70,352.40	54.69%	39.38%
Supplies	132,180.00	176,881.80	133.82%	104.05%
Telephone	152,108.00	152,751.58	100.42%	68.98%
Travel / Training	364,686.00	326,180.78	89.44%	106.31%
<b>Total Expense (all line items)</b>	<b>39,844,382.46</b>	<b>27,993,816.29</b>	<b>70.26%</b>	<b>70.44%</b>
<b>Net Gain / (Loss)</b>		<b>10,876,428.14</b>		



## **Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 - 2019 Financial Narrative (Revenue)**

- a. Net/Gain (Loss) FY2018-2019 Budget, OCWCOG has a balanced budget. The annual audit was presented to the Board at the May 2019 meeting. Beginning Balance numbers have been recorded for the year.
- b. Contract revenue is on budget. Vacant positions and mid-year project start dates have directly reflected reimbursement-based contract revenue in some program areas.
- c. The *Supplemental Budget* was approved in July 2018 and is reflected in this report. Total Revenue and Total Expenses have been updated and will no longer match the Adopted Budget document FY2018-2019.
- d. Grant revenue came in lower than anticipated.
- e. Donations revenue is low this year. Program staff are researching options for new fundraising opportunities for the FY2019-2020.
- f. State revenue contract percentages are low due vacant positions in Oregon Department of Transportation-reimbursed projects. All vacant positions have been filled and revenue will increase accordingly in the FY2019-2020.
- g. Federal revenue came in close to budget. The agency had some long-term vacancies in Federal projects that are reimbursement based. All vacant positions have been filled and revenue will increase accordingly in FY2019-2020.

## **FY2018-2019 Financial Narrative (Personnel and Material & Supplies)**

- a. Personnel expense is down slightly. All critical vacant positions are filled as soon as possible. The agency is reviewing all positions when vacant to ensure funding is utilized in the most equitable way.
- b. Contract expense is high due to more non-emergent medical transportation rides and the additional travel and overnight expense for Finance staff to perform the duties of the new fiscal contracts with City of Yachats and City of Depoe Bay. These additional expenses are billed to the Cities at the end of each month.
- c. Indirect expenses are low due to the return of unspent indirect revenue in the FY. Indirect rates are charged to all program areas based on the number of staff employed in each program, and are used to fund General Administration, Human Resources, Finance, and Technology Services.
- d. Maintenance and Repair expenses are low. FY2018-2019 budgeted projects were completed in the FY2019-2020 due to contractor scheduling.
- e. The agency continues to monitor the supplies purchased. With the opening of the new Corvallis office, the agency purchased additional items that were coded to this line item, i.e. pictures, grand opening items, and desk items for staff.
- f. Telephone and Travel are on budget. Training came in low due to vacancies in the FY.

If you need additional information or clarification, please contact Finance Director Forty.

# Consolidate Revenue and Expense Statement

## Finance Committee Financial Report

For Period Ended June 30, 2019

Revenues year-to-date under budget

Revenues year-to-date over budget

Percent of budget to date 100%

Acct No	Description	Budget	YTD Bal	YTD %	
000710	Beg Bal-Restricted for Grants	\$ 1,746.00	\$ 789.47	45.22%	
000725	Beg Bal-Restrict for Contracts	\$ 1,719,599.00	\$ 1,815,397.97	105.57%	
000735	Beg Bal-Restricted Reconcile	\$ 1,532,985.00	\$ 1,562,985.00	101.96%	
000740	Beg Bal-Restricted for Other	\$ 2,526,186.46	\$ 2,413,379.55	95.53%	
000740	Beg Bal-Restricted for Other	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	100.00%	
000745	Beg Bal-Restrict Reserve	\$ 2,230,000.00	\$ 2,230,000.00	100.00%	
000750	Beg Bal-Unrestricted	\$ 2,583,432.00	\$ 2,624,287.77	101.58%	
000801	Dues	\$ 296,303.00	\$ 296,302.69	100.00%	
000802	Fees For Service	\$ 84,000.00	\$ 92,260.79	109.83%	
000803	Internal Transfer	\$ 2,153,610.00	\$ 1,757,338.33	81.60%	
000804	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 35,010.66	1000.30%	Property damage reimbursement, brokerage provider trainings, and security deposit for refund for Jefferson Place.
000805	Contract Revenue	\$ 2,337,560.00	\$ 2,275,629.15	97.35%	
000806	Grant Revenue	\$ 265,169.00	\$ 140,601.53	53.02%	Grant revenue came in lower than anticipated.
000807	Donations	\$ 282,000.00	\$ 157,914.48	56.00%	Donation revenue came in lower than anticipated.
000808	Interest Revenue	\$ 232,211.00	\$ 339,677.17	146.28%	
000809	Transfers In	\$ 103,671.00	\$ 56,238.99	54.25%	Business Lending did not require a transfer.
000812	Sponsorship	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 13,166.00	52.66%	Anticipated additional Bike Share stations that did not transpire.
000819	Special Event Revenue	\$ -	\$ 22,221.10	0.00%	This account was created for special event revenue.
000820	Program Meals Revenue	\$ 153,804.00	\$ 174,645.33	113.55%	
000822	Loan Packaging Fees	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 9,360.00	62.40%	
000823	Program Income	\$ 657,153.00	\$ 649,479.84	98.83%	
000824	Match	\$ 114,465.00	\$ 67,735.62	59.18%	Approved supplemental budget for RSVP matching funds, will be used for new award for Senior Companions next Fiscal Year.
000826	Borrowers Fees	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,563.19	104.21%	
000828	Service Fees	\$ 5,550.00	\$ 6,441.90	116.07%	Lending contract with Lincoln City Urban Renewal Agency revenue is coming in at higher than budgeted.
000829	Program Administration	\$ 132,055.00	\$ 118,973.14	90.09%	
000840	Veterans	\$ 105,166.00	\$ 105,166.00	100.00%	
000841	Oregon Project Independence	\$ 1,120,978.00	\$ 855,527.14	76.32%	Did not spend or bill for 100% of Younger Disabled OPI funds. Some funds will carry forward.
000843	ODOT	\$ 639,367.00	\$ 486,722.21	76.13%	AAMPO and CAMPO are reimbursement based programs that have had vacancies for several months, staff have been hired and revenue will increase accordingly.
000846	Coordinated Care	\$ 7,379,243.00	\$ 8,288,511.87	112.32%	More Non-Emergent Medical Transportation rides provided than budgeted.
000860	Economic Development Admin	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	100.00%	

000862	Older Americans Act	\$	1,150,854.00	\$	1,202,457.00	104.48%
000863	Title XIX	\$	10,645,542.00	\$	10,291,728.03	96.68%
000864	Federal Senior Meals	\$	388,072.00	\$	383,031.00	98.70%
000865	USDA	\$	111,280.00	\$	102,257.00	91.89%
000867	Federal Match	\$	497,381.00	\$	110,190.10	22.15%
000868	Environmental Protection Agenc	\$	200,000.00	\$	81,983.41	40.99%
000869	Siletz Revenue	\$	5,000.00	\$	11,271.00	225.42%
000870	Federal Contracts	\$	55,000.00	\$	-	0.00%

Title XIX match was not required this Fiscal Year.

This project is just ramping up at the end of FY2018-2019.

Additional Tribal meals being served; budget adjustment may be needed

FLAP grant just ramping up working with Federal Lands to determine project delivery.

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>39,844,382.46</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>38,870,244.43</b>	<b>97.56%</b>
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000410	Leave Benefits	\$	492,088.00	\$	494,896.26	100.57%
000420	Fringe Benefits	\$	804,599.00	\$	756,690.34	94.05%
000421	Insurance Benefits	\$	2,724,808.00	\$	2,181,775.62	80.07%
000425	PERS Benefits	\$	1,746,252.00	\$	1,532,604.04	87.77%
000430	PERS Reserve	\$	92,039.00	\$	72,867.62	79.17%
0001ED	Executive Director	\$	135,316.00	\$	144,637.17	106.89%
0004DD	Deputy Director	\$	91,123.00	\$	100,606.32	110.41%
0004PD	Program Director	\$	294,835.00	\$	298,630.01	101.29%
0004SD	Services Director	\$	71,753.00	\$	75,440.61	105.14%
0010PM	Program Manager	\$	66,278.00	\$	70,088.47	105.75%
0013PS	RSVP Supervisor	\$	610,808.00	\$	580,734.78	95.08%
0016LO	Loan Officer	\$	71,603.00	\$	69,821.30	97.51%
0019CA	Clerical Assistant	\$	32,342.00	\$	-	0.00%
0019PM	Personnel Manager	\$	90,194.00	\$	80,888.69	89.68%
0019TM	Technology Services Manager	\$	82,845.00	\$	84,577.55	102.09%
0046CM	Case Manager	\$	1,915,810.00	\$	1,794,778.85	93.68%
0053CC	Contracts Coordinator	\$	83,266.00	\$	65,664.13	78.86%
0055CS	Clerical Supervisor	\$	51,347.00	\$	52,841.06	102.91%
0058AP	Assistant Planner	\$	-	\$	64,182.20	0.00%
0060AS	Accounting Specialist	\$	52,303.00	\$	52,630.19	100.63%
0064ES	Eligibility Specialist	\$	1,024,702.00	\$	986,472.83	96.27%
0064IR	Information & Referral	\$	-	\$	17,217.94	0.00%
0064MM	Money Management Coord	\$	-	\$	11,497.36	0.00%
0067EA	Executive Assistant	\$	50,028.00	\$	49,223.55	98.39%
0070AC	Accounting Clerk II	\$	38,510.00	\$	43,440.73	112.80%
0076AA	Administrative Assistant	\$	406,804.00	\$	320,643.10	78.82%
0085CS	Clerical Specialist	\$	285,716.00	\$	198,823.40	69.59%
0085TS	Technology Support Specialist	\$	-	\$	3,539.16	0.00%
0085WS	Workstation Support Specialist	\$	51,141.00	\$	34,176.31	66.83%
013CDP	CED Planner II	\$	193,302.00	\$	26,706.81	13.82%
013MDR	MPO Director	\$	-	\$	2,427.42	0.00%

Retired staff returned, working limited hours, until program vacancies are filled.

This position was hired at a Clerical Specialist.

This position was originally budgeted as a planner.

Brokerage staff reclassified to this classification.

Position was budgeted at a case manager classification

Additional 5% working out of class on Finance Contracts.

New position.

Position has vacated and hired at planner and assistant planner classifications.

Vacant position.

013TSM	Transportation Manager	\$	79,207.00	\$	-	0.00%	Vacant position.
025NSS	Network Support Specialist	\$	77,178.00	\$	76,788.90	99.50%	
031CDP	CED Planner	\$	185,896.00	\$	194,471.82	104.61%	
034APS	Adult Protective Services Spec	\$	402,982.00	\$	392,304.56	97.35%	
037DTC	Diversion & Transition Coord	\$	189,222.00	\$	175,996.16	93.01%	
037LCM	Lead Case Manager	\$	271,626.00	\$	189,878.69	69.90%	
045ISS	Information Support Specialist	\$	64,774.00	\$	66,485.66	102.64%	
052ALO	Assistant Loan Officer	\$	28,015.00	\$	-	0.00%	Vacant position.
055SMS	Senior Meals Supervisor	\$	58,228.00	\$	47,951.39	82.35%	
055VSO	Veterans Service Officer	\$	49,510.00	\$	18,766.21	37.90%	Vacant position.
060FMC	Facility Maint. Coordinator	\$	42,713.00	\$	39,125.77	91.60%	
061LES	Lead Eligibility Specialist	\$	31,987.00	\$	45,088.38	140.96%	STEPS coordinator hired at higher level than budgeted; funding is available for the increase.
064ADR	ADRC Specialist	\$	226,610.00	\$	205,375.71	90.63%	
064ALW	License & Monitoring Spec	\$	73,480.00	\$	94,678.59	128.85%	
067CEA	Confidential Executive Assist	\$	91,940.00	\$	97,428.48	105.97%	
073MRW	Medical Resource Worker	\$	-	\$	16,080.35	0.00%	Brokerage staff reclassified to this classification.
075LTB	Lead Trans Brokerage Spec.	\$	44,589.00	\$	41,587.69	93.27%	
075TBS	Transportation Brokerage Spec.	\$	415,042.00	\$	295,827.22	71.28%	
076IHA	In Home Assistant	\$	153,297.00	\$	183,850.03	119.93%	
082SMC	Senior Meals Coordinator	\$	44,389.00	\$	61,305.23	138.11%	Employee working out of class to cover critical work.
090RSM	Relief Site Manager	\$	18,917.00	\$	22,556.34	119.24%	Due to vacancies in the Meals Programs.
099EXH	Extra Hire	\$	93,426.00	\$	121,265.60	129.80%	CED project.
88MSM3	Meal Site Manager 3	\$	194,780.00	\$	177,724.57	91.24%	
	<b>PERSONNEL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,397,620.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,833,061.17</b>	<b>89.13%</b>	
<b>Expenses year-to-date over budget</b>							
000504	Advertising	\$	19,850.00	\$	10,753.77	54.18%	
000506	Auto Expense	\$	12,500.00	\$	11,752.45	94.02%	
000510	Bank Charges	\$	17,700.00	\$	11,323.09	63.97%	
000513	Board/Comm/Meeting Expense	\$	41,050.00	\$	18,347.37	44.70%	
000516	Computer Maintenance	\$	132,970.00	\$	189,972.34	142.87%	Financial software one-time payment paid at beginning of FY2018-2019 and contracted equipment for member cities billed out by Tech.
000521	Contract Administration	\$	2,500.00	\$	1,588.00	63.52%	
000522	Contract Expense	\$	8,958,393.00	\$	10,032,504.56	111.99%	Additional non-emergent medical transportation rides billed and Finance contracts.
000523	Admin Contract Expense	\$	500,000.00	\$	456,658.14	91.33%	
000525	Copying	\$	79,170.00	\$	75,481.31	95.34%	
000531	Dues and Memberships	\$	46,975.00	\$	44,605.55	94.96%	
000532	Equipment Expense	\$	3,800.00	\$	27.45	0.72%	
000533	Finance Indirect	\$	508,384.00	\$	445,098.51	87.55%	
000534	Indirect Expense	\$	1,007,183.00	\$	950,086.36	94.33%	
000535	Furniture & Fixtures	\$	17,400.00	\$	28,989.16	166.60%	Large purchase of office chairs to meet ergonomic assessment needs.
000537	Insurance	\$	64,977.00	\$	58,603.97	90.19%	

000540	Interest Expense	\$	17,620.00	\$	8,731.69	49.56%	USDA RDF loan payments.
000541	Loan Legal Expense	\$	2,000.00	\$	-	0.00%	
000542	Legal Services	\$	16,650.00	\$	35,957.16	215.96%	
000543	Licenses and Fees	\$	72,925.00	\$	72,487.01	99.40%	
000546	Loan Fees	\$	1,000.00	\$	2,300.52	230.05%	Refunded excess loan payoff to borrower.
000549	Maintenance and Repair	\$	128,650.00	\$	70,352.40	54.69%	
000550	Marketing Expense	\$	5,750.00	\$	2,782.10	48.38%	
000551	Taxes	\$	3,500.00	\$	-	0.00%	
000553	Loan Admin Exp	\$	132,055.00	\$	116,040.64	87.87%	
000555	Postage	\$	63,100.00	\$	67,199.42	106.50%	Additional mailing for SDS and CSP.
000558	Printing	\$	12,955.00	\$	16,539.70	127.67%	Updating the Agency's brochures, envelope supply, and business cards.
000561	Rent	\$	656,745.00	\$	667,451.18	101.63%	
000564	Resource Reserve	\$	351,081.00	\$	54,791.52	15.61%	Match for all programs; not used until end of Fiscal Year.
000567	Supplies	\$	132,180.00	\$	176,881.80	133.82%	New office opening in Corvallis and new hires needing desk supplies
000568	Stipend	\$	145,584.00	\$	106,044.81	72.84%	
000570	Technology Indirect	\$	646,727.00	\$	635,753.83	98.30%	
000573	Telephone	\$	152,108.00	\$	152,751.58	100.42%	
000575	Special Event Expense	\$	-	\$	20,657.93	0.00%	Special event expenditure ( <i>CelebrateLBL</i> ).
000576	Training	\$	118,086.00	\$	99,365.58	84.15%	
000577	Volunteer Recognition	\$	27,750.00	\$	19,571.77	70.53%	
000578	Meal Delivery Travel	\$	98,750.00	\$	65,027.74	65.85%	
000579	Travel	\$	147,850.00	\$	161,787.46	109.43%	
000580	Transfers Out	\$	70,000.00	\$	10,000.00	14.29%	Very few program transfers were required this year.
000582	Utilities	\$	70,000.00	\$	64,701.77	92.43%	
000583	Operating Contingency	\$	4,265,591.46	\$	-	0.00%	
000584	Janitorial	\$	53,692.00	\$	75,310.23	140.26%	New janitorial staff hired at price higher than budgeted amount.
000585	Unappropriated EFB for future	\$	5,479,491.00	\$	-	0.00%	
	<b>MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>24,284,692.46</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,038,279.87</b>	<b>61.92%</b>	
000595	Capital Purchase	\$	7,000.00	\$	48,828.58	697.55%	Replace 2 Heating units.
000596	Leasehold Improvement	\$	1,091,737.00	\$	20,000.00	1.83%	
	<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,098,737.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>68,828.58</b>	<b>6.26%</b>	
000598	Principal Payment	\$	43,333.00	\$	43,333.33	100.00%	
000599	Interest Expense	\$	20,000.00	\$	10,313.34	51.57%	
	<b>DEBT SERVICES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>63,333.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>53,646.67</b>	<b>84.71%</b>	
	<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>39,844,382.46</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>27,993,816.29</b>	<b>70.26%</b>	
	<b>NET GAIN/(LOSS)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,876,428.14</b>		



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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 19, 2019  
**TO:** OCWCOG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Fred Abousleman, Executive Director  
**RE:** **2019 Regional Awards Nominations Information**

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At *CelebrateLBL* event on Thursday, October 24th, OCWCOG will be presenting six awards for the following categories. Board members are asked to pick one winner from the nominees listed below. Nominations are included in the following pages for all but the Chair's Award. Category descriptions are included on the following page, as well.

Award	Nominee
Chair's Award	
Citizen of the Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wendy Kirbey, Historic Carousel and Museum</li></ul>
Community Partner or Business of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 Spirits Distillery</li><li>• Oregon RAIN</li><li>• Russ Hedge, ServPro of Benton and Linn County</li></ul>
<i>Meals on Wheels</i> Volunteer of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bill Goslow</li><li>• Ruth and Mike Higgs</li><li>• Todd McCraven</li><li>• Bill Teal</li></ul>
Project of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Andersen Construction (Hatfield Marine Science Center)</li><li>• Dolly Parton Imagination Library</li><li>• The Linn Benton 8 Cities Collaborative</li></ul>
Volunteer of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dale Collins</li><li>• Michele Eldridge</li><li>• Mayor Eric Niemann</li><li>• Joe Novello</li></ul>

#### *Citizen of the Region*

This award will recognize an exceptional citizen of our tri-County Region who has proven to be a community leader, role model, trend setter, or visionary, or who possesses other demonstrable qualities that set them and their work apart. The award is not intended for political activism or engagement.

#### *Community Partner or Business of the Year*

The nominee will be a non-governmental organization (a non-profit, college, university, private or public company, or a subsidiary therein) that has demonstrated a commitment to bettering the lives of residents of our tri-County Region and/or has shown a commitment to growing the economy, and/or helping strengthen our communities; is a proven leader in their field; and demonstrates partnership, collaboration, and innovation.

#### *Meals on Wheels Volunteer of the Year*

In the spirit of this Annual Dinner being a fundraiser for the *Meals on Wheels* program, OCWCOG will recognize one exemplary *Meals on Wheels* Volunteer of the Year. This Volunteer Award will recognize an individual who has given of themselves above and beyond for our seniors and persons with disabilities in our communities. This Volunteer will also have a demonstrated community spirit, giving, and selflessness.

#### *Project of the Year*

A nomination for *Project of the Year* can be of almost any type: planning, research, program, study, physical infrastructure (transportation, public safety, health, water, sewer, broadband, etc.), or implementation of a new system or process. The Project must be innovative, of community significance, and demonstrate how a community will be better because of it. The Project will be replicable, and demonstrate a commitment of community partners, other jurisdictions (if applicable), and collaboration.

#### *Volunteer of the Year*

OCWCOG's Volunteer of the Year will recognize an individual who has given of themselves above and beyond. This individual will demonstrate community spirit, giving, and selflessness.



**Citizen of the Region – Ms. Wendy Kirbey**  
Historic Carousel and Museum  
(nominated by Peter Troedsson, City of Albany)

August 15, 2019



Awards Committee  
Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments

**NOMINATION FOR 2019 CITIZEN OF THE REGION AWARD**

Dear Committee members:

On this date, the second anniversary of the opening of the Albany Historic Carousel, a very special project that was the product of her vision, I proudly nominate Ms. Wendy Kirbey for recognition as the Citizen of the Region for 2019.

Wendy's vision to bring a community carousel to Albany, Oregon, was a wonderful vision, but it was just a vision. Then she began to act upon that dream, and rally citizens with a variety of talents and backgrounds to come together and create something spectacular – an attraction that would delight young and old, that would celebrate local history, that would showcase a very unique craft, and that would be a source of community pride for all. Over the course of 15 years, Wendy's patience, perseverance, and just plain hard work resulted in the acquisition of a historic carousel mechanism and the design and construction of a beautiful building in which to house the unusual attraction. This building, along with the music, art, and fun it contains, have become an Albany landmark. The Carousel opened to the public on August 15, 2017, and immediately began serving as a catalyst for new businesses and investment in Albany's historic downtown. Two years later, it has become wildly successful, drawing visitors from around the world to the mid-Willamette Valley. It will continue to serve as an anchor for commerce, community and art. The carousel is destined to add life to the heart of Albany, providing opportunities for fun for Albany's residents and visitors. The old carousel's original home was not Albany, but the effort to bring it to the region will itself become part of Albany's history.

Wendy was the driving force behind this monumental effort. She applied her energy, enthusiasm, and skill to pull together the myriad requisite components. With characteristic humility, she recognized that a project of this magnitude would require hundreds of volunteers, numerous contractors, and much public support. She sought collaborative and productive engagement with government agencies, non-profits, and business groups, recognizing that their input and support were essential to the project's success. She was able to appeal to decision makers, donors, and the many and diverse downtown stakeholders, to let them know how this project would enhance livability and promote economic growth. Ready and willing to accommodate changes to the plan when necessary, or



advocate for retaining important elements of the plan, she was able to ensure that the plan remained viable. She communicated the plan, and inspired others to support it.

Her success was due in no small part to her ability to “let loose the reins”, allowing others to bring their skills to the table; from world-renowned artisans, architects, attorneys, storytellers, politicians, merchandisers and marketers to the oldest and youngest of volunteers. The broad spectrum of talents that came to this project demonstrates Wendy’s skills in communication and promoting cooperation and collaboration. It also shows her sheer determination to build this team. And that determination and devotion continues to this day. Wendy continues to serve actively to ensure the ongoing success of the Historic Carousel and Museum.

Individuals stand out as citizens due to their efforts to contribute to their communities, and to their unique contributions to make those communities better places to live. Despite facing numerous obstacles and setbacks, Wendy persevered and succeeded in this mission. The city and the region have benefited from her efforts and will continue to benefit from the Albany Carousel for decades to come. Wendy richly deserves recognition as Citizen of the Region for 2019.

Sincerely,



Peter Troedsson  
City Manager  
Albany, Oregon

Will the nominee be attending the *CelebrateLBL* event on October 24?

Yes

## **Community Partner or Business of the Year – 4 Spirits Distillery**

(nominated by Josh Whisenhunt, Oregon State Credit Union)

### What makes this project unique?

4 Spirits is a craft distillery with a unique destination location in south Corvallis. Since the expansion of the business to their new location in 2017, the distillery has been able to provide unique offerings beyond the sale of packaged spirits including a full bar and food menu, fun event spaces for groups and gatherings, and a brand new mobile bar service for outside events. 4 Spirits is also highly involved in local and regional veteran support projects throughout Oregon. In 2019, 4 Spirits funded its first big endowment project with the OSU Foundation: 4 Spirits Veteran Scholarship Endowment Fund. They are beginning to receive their very first applicants, and this scholarship will assist local combat veterans with tuition expenses at OSU beginning in 2020. They also take part in supporting a variety of regional veteran reintegration programs throughout Oregon each quarter.

### What are or will be the outcomes?

The continued growth and success of the distillery as a destination for locals and visitors alike, as well as strengthening partnerships with other craft beverage producers in the area to attract new visitors. Their growth will also increase their ability to support regional veteran programs.

### What makes it replicable?

The business has really unique components, although the concept of a full bar, restaurant and event space inside of a distillery could definitely be replicated. It is a newer concept, but in their opinion, works to strengthen existing distilleries and diversify revenue sources so that small producers can stay in business without depending on spirit sales alone.

### How will it make your community better?

Increase craft beverage related travel and tourism to the area, offer affordable and unique gathering spaces for groups, and provide career opportunities.

### What is a (short) history of the project?

4 Spirits opened its doors in 2011 as a distillery production facility creating small batch vodka for distribution throughout Oregon. Named in honor of four fallen soldiers from the Oregon National Guard 2 Battalion, 2-162 Infantry Regiment, the distillery now produces a full line of craft whiskeys, rums, vodkas and a new cucumber gin and distributes in seven states. One specific and very special product, 4 Spirits Bourbon Whiskey, pays tribute to the lives of our fallen service members, and donates 10% of each bottle sold to local veteran reintegration programs in the states where they are distributed. As of July 2017, 4 Spirits expanded and opened the doors to a brand new facility located in south Corvallis, complete with a much larger production area, large indoor/outdoor event spaces, a full bar, restaurant and tasting room with scenic views of Mary's Peak. Today, 4 Spirits has expanded to three distinct business divisions including 4 Spirits Food and Drink at our tasting room, 4 Spirits Distillery Production and Wholesale Distribution, and 4 Spirits Marketing and Events. With the move to their new facility, they now have the ability to produce much more product, expand their line of spirits, and host new and exciting events that support the industry and craft distilling as a destination attraction for the Mid-Willamette Valley.

### Who is the sponsor and/or how was the project funded?

The expansion project at the new site in South Corvallis was financed by Oregon State Credit Union and OCWCOG using the SBA 504 loan program.

### How has the project made your regional community better?

Increased exposure to the growing craft beverage industry as a tourist attraction in our region, as well as provided an enhanced community experience here locally in South Corvallis.

### Will the nominee be attending the CelebrateLBL event on October 24? No

## **Community Partner or Business of the Year – Oregon RAIN**

(nominated by Mayor Eric Niemann, City of Philomath)

### What type of project is this?

Oregon Regional Accelerator Innovation Network helps provide Venture Catalysts across 8 communities located in the Willamette Valley Region.

### Where is this project located?

Adair Village, Albany, Brownsville, Halsey, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Monroe, Philomath, Sweet Home, Linn County, and Benton County.

### What makes this project unique?

Helps simulate entrepreneurs throughout the region by providing a venture catalyst that helps provide assistance with business plans and hosts event to match potential entrepreneurs with funding sources.

### What are or will be the outcomes?

Help stimulate economic development across the region through encouragement, advice, consultation, and innovative ideas.

### What makes it replicable?

Success stories will stimulate and inspire other potential entrepreneurs throughout the region by hosting other regional events and hosting similar venture catalyst led events.

### How will it make your community(s) better?

Small business start-ups will lead to a healthier economy and help identify viable alternatives to the timber industry which has declined in the region in recent decades.

### What is a (short) history of the project?

Oregon RAIN has collaborated with 8 communities initially in 2018-2019

### Who is the sponsor and/or how was the project funded?

Communities of Adair Village, Albany, Brownsville, Halsey, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Monroe, Philomath, Sweet Home, Linn County, and Benton County.

### How has the project made your regional community better?

Since May 2018 the Oregon Rain Project has served 35 different businesses and generated \$369K of revenue for them. This project has served 43 individual entrepreneurs through multiple events hosted by a Venture Catalyst. This has also created over 20 full time or contractor jobs in the past year. This has created a model for future business development throughout the region.

### Will the nominee be attending the *CelebrateLBL* event on October 24th?

Yes

## **Community Partner or Business of the Year – Mr. Russ Hedge, ServPro of Benton and Linn Counties**

(nominated by Marlene Brown, Agent at New York Life Insurance Company)

### Why are you nominating this person?

Russ Hedge is a very special person. He is a person you can go to for any support for your business or personal life and will always help when he can. He hardly ever says no and always tries to be everywhere when he can. I don't know how I would have gotten my business going without him. He is well known in the community and always believes in supporting you.

### What makes this person's work outstanding?

He is passionate about life which flows into his business mission. He only does what he believes in and will always do what's best for everyone. He is involved with non profits which he supports personally or through the business.

### What makes this person an exemplary regional citizen or volunteer?

No one could possibly be matched with Russ. He has so much energy and passion for a lot of people in the community that he hands down should win. He wakes up every morning very early to walk his dog, pray and gets ready for his very busy day. Russ volunteers not because he has to, he does it for the community which makes him feel good everyday. Servpro is all about giving back to the community which is why Russ is such a good fit with Servpro.

### Please provide a short bio on the career or life of this nominee.

Russ Hedge is the Marketing Manager for SERVPRO of Benton County / SERVPRO of Linn County. Russ has over 20 years in Marketing and management. Russ has the following certifications from the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC): Fire & Smoke Restoration Technician, Water Removal Technician. Russ is certified with SERVPRO's E.C.T.P program in Fire, Water, Crew Trainer and Carpet and Upholstery.

When Russ isn't working he is a worship pastor in Salem, OR; he also loves spending time with his wife Leah, his kids, and beagle.

### Will the nominee be attending the *CelebrateLBL* event on October 24th?

Yes

## ***Meals on Wheels (MOW) Volunteer of the Year – Mr. Bill Goslow***

Corvallis Meal Site Volunteer

(nominated by Dr. Lee Strandberg, Rotary Club of Corvallis)

### Why are you nominating this person?

Bill has been a dedicated MOW volunteer for many years, including going to people on his route on weekends to see if they need food or help. He also has called 911 for people in crisis and held the hands of people on his route when dying awaiting 911. He is truly an example of what it means to volunteer.

### What makes this person's work outstanding?

Please see above.

### What makes this person an exemplary regional citizen or volunteer?

Please see above.

### Please provide a short bio on the career or life of this nominee.

Bill is a career educator, having served the Corvallis School System for his career.

### Will the nominee be attending the *CelebrateLBL* event on October 24th?

Yes

***Meals on Wheels (MOW) Volunteer of the Year –***  
**Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Ruth Higgs**

Mill City Meal Site Volunteer  
(nominated by Carmen Martinez, Mill City Meal Site Manager)

Why are you nominating this person?

Ruth and Mike have been volunteers with the Meals on Wheels Program for over 15 years. They have worked in the kitchen and delivered meals as needed. Ruth has trained the past two meal site managers and continues to be a relief manager as needed. Ruth is also a member of the Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee.

What makes this person's work outstanding?

Ruth and Mike are always there and filled in multiple times at a moments notice. Both know each person on their route and every diner that comes in for a meal. Service is always done with a smile and a laugh.

What makes this person an exemplary regional citizen or volunteer?

Ruth and Mike often make changes in their lives to meet the needs of those who need it most.

Please provide a short bio on the career or life of this nominee.

Mike retired from the City of Salem Parks & Recreation Department. Ruth retired from the Marion County Fire District as a Finance Administrative Assistant. In 2013, they moved to Gates and Ruth became the Mill City Site Manger for 10 years before resigning and becoming a volunteer. During that time Mike was elected as Mayor of Gates, serving six years in that position and volunteering at the meal site. Both have dedicated the last 15 years to the service of others.

Will the nominee be attending the *CelebrateLBL* event on October 24th?

Yes

## ***Meals on Wheels (MOW) Volunteer of the Year – Mr. Todd McCraven***

Lebanon Meal Site Volunteer  
(nominated by Tori Hartman, Lebanon Meal Site Manager)

Why are you nominating this person?

Long time volunteer. Volunteers 5 days a week

What makes this person's work outstanding?

Rarely misses a day, helps in the kitchen and delivers meals

What makes this person an exemplary regional citizen or volunteer?

all the clients love him, he knows the clients well and is so friendly

Please provide a short bio on the career or life of this nominee.

He has lived in Lebanon all his life and has devoted the past 10 years to Meals on Wheels.

Will the nominee be attending the *CelebrateLBL* event on October 24th?

No

## ***Meals on Wheels (MOW) Volunteer of the Year – Mr. Bill Teal***

South Linn Meal Site Volunteer  
(nominated Kay Prim-Sorensen, South Linn Meal Site Manager)

### Why are you nominating this person?

Bill can be called on short notice to drive. He puts his personal things aside to help us out.

### What makes this person's work outstanding?

Bill has been a volunteer for 12 years. he comes in and sets his station up and helps the other volunteer with there work. He always remember to do a follow up if people aren't home.

### What makes this person an exemplary regional citizen or volunteer?

To care about our seniors and to always know the needs of others. He has been devoting his time to this organization for 12 years.

### Please provide a short bio on the career or life of this nominee.

Caring and Sharing himself to others. He is a very good gardener and shares his vegies with the Seniors.

### Will the nominee be attending the *CelebrateLBL* event on October 24th?

Yes



## **Project of the Year – Andersen Construction**

Hatfield Marine Sciences Center

(nominated by Mark Farley, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Hatfield Marine Sciences Center)

Where is this project located?

Newport, OR

What makes this project unique?

Vertical Evacuation site for Tsunami preparedness

What are or will be the outcomes?

Expansion of research, classroom space for Hatfield, additional life safety for South Beach region.

What makes it replicable?

Example/Pilot project for critical infrastructure needs in tsunami zones

How will it make your community(s) better?

Expanded development for the research economy, greater life safety for inundation threatened South Beach region.

What is the (short) history of the project?

Not sure how to answer this - there are various angles that can be taken for this answer.

Who is the sponsor and/or how was the project funded?

Private donations, State of Oregon Funding, Oregon State University funding

How has the project made your regional community better?

Expanded development for the research economy, greater life safety for inundation threatened South Beach region. Example/Pilot project for critical infrastructure needs in tsunami zones

Will the nominee be attending the *CelebrateLBL* event on October 24th?

Yes

## **Project of the Year – The Dolly Parton Imagination Library**

(nominated by Blake Pang, United Ways serving Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties)

### What type of project is this?

An Early Childhood Literacy project that provides free books to children ages 0 to 5 design assistance and tourism promotion.

### Where is this project located?

Linn County, Lincoln County and Rural Benton County (Corvallis by 2020)

### What makes this project unique?

It is a project led by multiple organizations in each county and United Way serves as the fiscal agent and backbone organization. Children may be enrolled in the program beginning as newborns and they complete it when they turn 5. Kids receive a free, age-appropriate and curated book every month in the mail. All kids are eligible but the project aims promotion at children in low-income households or those with less resources. In Linn County since 2015, over 2,600 kids are currently in the program with more than 4,500 lifetime. In Lincoln County since 2018, more than 600 kids are enrolled. In Rural Benton (launched 2019), more than 200 kids enrolled.

### What are or will be the outcomes?

In Greater Albany Public Schools Kindergarten Readiness Scores for 2018-2019, participants who had been in the program greater than 3 years (since inception in Linn County) showed 25% better Upper Letter Recognition, 19% better Lowercase Letter Recognition and 64% better Letter-Sound Recognition compared to their peers.

### What makes it replicable?

We've already replicated it, twice. Linn County kicked off in 2015. Lincoln County kicked off in 2018 and Rural Benton just a few months ago. It is one of the most easily recognized programs in the region not just because of Dolly Parton but also because of it's effectiveness and efficiency.

### How will it make your community(s) better?

It gets are youngest learners excited to find their book in the mail box. When they get the book they ask their parents, siblings or other caregivers to read with them. It inspires them to learn to read and get ready for school. The final book they receive at Age 5 is Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!

### What is a (short) history of the project?

Started in Linn County in 2015 via a partnership between Greater Albany Rotary, Rotary of Albany, Lebanon Rotary, Corvallis Morning Rotary and Rotary of Sweet Home with a District Grant from Rotary District 5110, the Albany Public Library and a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation.

### Who is the sponsor and/or how was the project funded?

United Way, Greater Albany Rotary, Rotary of Albany, Lebanon Rotary, Rotary of Sweet Home, Rotary District 5110, Coastal Farm & Ranch, Albany Public Library, Lincoln County Libraries, Rippey Family Foundation, Weyerhaeuser Foundation, Umpqua Charitable Foundation, Corvallis School District, Monroe School District, Philomath School District, the Early Learning Hub and United Way Donors.

### How has the project made your regional community better?

See outcomes.

### Will the nominee be attending the *CelebrateLBL* event on October 24th?

Yes

## **Project of the Year – The Linn Benton 8 Cities Collaborative**

(nominated by Alysia Rodgers, City of Lebanon)

### What type of project is this?

Rural Entrepreneurial Development collaboration between 8 cities in Linn and Benton county

### Where is this project located?

Adair Village, Brownsville, Halsey, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Monroe, Philomath and Sweet Home

### What makes this project unique?

It is unique for 8 small cities to come together and recognize the importance of entrepreneurship in our rural communities. Not only did the city leaders recognize that there was opportunity here, but they all helped in being able to fund the project as well.

### What are or will be the outcomes?

Through contracting with Oregon RAIN to hire a venture catalyst he was able to identify 59 entrepreneurs, hold 48 events, engage 9 volunteers and 20 mentors, conducted 5 surveys of entrepreneurs, and identified additional funding (\$97,590) across the 8 Cities. In addition to that he has done asset mapping of existing small business resources and created plans to address the gaps in service. He has also worked to build the stakeholder network to help build entrepreneurial ecosystems in the various communities.

### What makes it replicable?

This model can easily be replicable, all it would take is a group of like-minded communities to come together that see the value in promoting entrepreneurship. There are many programs available to help aid in financing and the Venture Catalyst model can easily be shaped to any community big or small.

### How will it make your community(s) better?

Most new business and business growths comes from small businesses and who better to start a new business venture in your community than one of your very own residents. Helping to foster a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem will help grow jobs organically and keep jobs in our rural communities. The number of new entrepreneurs is at an all time low and this is especially true in small towns. The benefit this will bring to our community will allow new start ups to stay in our community instead of having to go to larger cities to be able to access resources.

### What is a (short) history of the project?

The 8 cities group originally wanted to work together to broach the topic of regional economic development within rural communities. Gary Marks, the former City Manager for Lebanon, had heard of the ROI grant through Business Oregon. He approached some of the other cities including 3 Benton County cities to all apply for the grant. The cities decided to work together to do a regional approach towards entrepreneurial development. The hope of the group is to be able to tackle other Economic Development issues on a regional approach as we continue to have successes and move forward.

### Who is the sponsor and/or how was the project funded?

The project was primarily funded by the Business Oregon ROI grant. Other funding came from the 8 cities (\$20,000), Linn and Benton Counties and The Ford Family Foundation

### How has the project made your regional community better?

This project has given our region a better understanding of what resources are available and a way to access them. We are now able to help entrepreneurs in a more helpful way and help to grow them into actual businesses. By working together as a region, it has helped us all identify gaps and look at ways to better serve this underserved market.

### Will the nominee be attending the CelebrateLBL event on October 24th? Yes

## **Volunteer of the Year – Former Philomath Mayor Dale Collins**

Volunteer, Philomath Park Advisory Board  
(nominated by Mayor Eric Niemann, City of Philomath)

### Why are you nominating this person?

Dale Collins serves as an extraordinary volunteer in the City of Philomath. He is the Chairman of our Park Advisory Board which organized a "Concerts in the Park" program that has continued to grow consistently every year for the last 4 years. These concerts are held in Philomath's City Park once a month throughout the summer months of May, June, July, and August. Dale works with the Park Advisory Board to schedule the bands, solicit sponsors, and coordinate execution of these events. The monies raised from these events are then donated to the Philomath Foundation for the Performing Arts and helps the local middle school music and theatre programs. This also helps our parks get utilized regularly for great community events and gathers Philomath residents together in a positive way. The Park Advisory Board has also begun a Philomath Fabulous Photo Contest to inspire local residents to snap photos and submit them for award consideration and to be posted as artwork in City Hall. This is another way to engage the public with our parks and our community.

Dale also volunteers his time maintaining traffic medians and popular right of ways by tirelessly weeding and keeping our city looking great. In addition, Dale can often be spotted driving a water truck around on weekends to water and maintain our city's flower baskets. These flowers always provide color and a warm welcome to all those who pass through Philomath on their way to the Oregon Coast.

Dale is also an extremely active member of the Philomath Lion's Club that sponsors numerous fundraisers throughout the year to include a garage sale, a book sale, fireworks sale, and a Lion's Breakfast which is held during the Philomath Frolic & Rodeo. The Lions Club uses the money from these fundraisers to award book scholarships for graduating Philomath High School Students.

When he gets done flipping flapjacks for the Lion's Club breakfast, Dale zips over to serve as the announcer for our annual Philomath Frolic Parade. If that's not enough, he then zooms over to our Philomath Car Show and pedals 50/50 raffle tickets on behalf of the Car Show Committee. He is everywhere!

### What makes this person's work outstanding?

Dale Collins is a consummate volunteer. He is gregarious, friendly, courteous, and kind. He is service minded to his core and willingly contributes his time for the betterment of the city. Dale serves with a smile and is passionate about the betterment of the City of Philomath.

### What makes this person an exemplary regional citizen or volunteer?

Dale Collins is a fantastic example of selfless service. Dale was first elected to City Council in 1976 and was subsequently elected Mayor in 1978 and served 2 terms (1979-1982). This was during the time the Urban Growth Boundary's were developed and Philomath was formulating its First Comprehensive Plan. He led the City of Philomath through a challenging time developing and implementing this plan.

After volunteering as an elected official for 5 years, he has continued to serve the last 38 years in a variety of roles ranging from Park Advisory Board Chair, to flower waterer, to raffle ticket seller, to parade announcer to Lions Club do-gooder. He serves as an shining example of the positive impact that one person can have in a community and a region regardless of the fact they are an elected official or simply a passionate citizen with a willingness to serve.

Martin Luther famously observed that "Life's most persistent & urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" Dale Collins has answered this question better than anyone I know!

### Please provide a short bio on the career or life of this nominee.

Please review the recent newspaper article featuring Dale Collins' outstanding volunteerism and contributions to the community at the link below.

[https://www.gazettetimes.com/philomathexpress/local/former-mayor-dale-collins-continuesstrong-presence-in-philomath/article\\_16fcb77e-8fa4-5fe5-b29a-c88578334d5d.html](https://www.gazettetimes.com/philomathexpress/local/former-mayor-dale-collins-continuesstrong-presence-in-philomath/article_16fcb77e-8fa4-5fe5-b29a-c88578334d5d.html)

The article appears, in full, below:

Thumbing through a scrapbook with photos and other memorabilia from four decades of public service in Philomath, Dale Collins cracks several smiles while recalling old friends, neighbors and the "good old days."

Now 70 years old, Collins isn't currently getting around too well as he recovers from back surgery. "I call it old fart's syndrome," he says with a laugh.

But don't expect the former mayor to ever slow down. His wife of 50 years, Mary Jo, says that on occasion, he needs to be hogtied to get him to ease up.

"As long as I can do it and I feel good when I'm doing it," Collins said when asked if he plans to continue volunteering. "I get cabin fever pretty easily and if I can get out and just do something for a half-hour. She slows me down quite a bit now."

A short talk with Collins reveals the fact that he's a straight shooter and doesn't mind sharing his opinion on an issue. As a former public servant in city government, Collins has experienced both the highs and the lows while working through the community's growing pains in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

"When we first came through this town going to the coast, our comments were, 'who'd want to live in a dirty little town like this?'" Collins said. "My objective on it never was to change what people had done, but to make it better. And that was even a battle trying to make things better." It may be a surprise to some that Collins had his challenges during his teen years. When he was young, he moved with his family from Colorado to Albany, but circumstances took him to Elkhart, Kansas, where he graduated from high school.

"That was quite a learning experience for me. I was kind of headed in the wrong direction, if I can use that term," he said. "My folks thought it might be a good idea to change my atmosphere and it worked out good for everybody. I got myself turned around and straightened out and going in the direction I should've been."

Collins started an insurance agency in Albany in 1969 but he and Mary Jo wanted to move to a smaller town to raise children. In 1973, opportunities opened up to relocate his business.

"With the fishing I love to do, I picked La Grande," Collins said. "But the family did not want to move that far away from family ... so we selected Philomath."

Collins was first elected to the Philomath City Council in 1976 and two years later, he won the seat for mayor. He served two terms.

"You can serve three, but there was so much involved when I was mayor, it was very time consuming," Collins said. "We had the comprehensive plan at that time."

Collins is referring to the plan that established urban growth boundaries and all of the challenges it involved. Those decisions from 35 years ago have a lot to do with Philomath's look today.

"Philomath was young enough, we were still able to do quite a bit," Collins said.

The process wasn't always easy.

"We called them nimbies, the people that said 'I think what you're doing is an excellent idea, but just not in my backyard,'" Collins said.

Nimby is an acronym for "not in my backyard."

But Collins believes everything turned out fine, especially in regards to the timber and farm lands that were reserved.

"We still have a lot of open space that we wouldn't (otherwise) see," he said. "You can drive a couple minutes out of Philomath in any direction and see open space."

When asked what led him into public service for the city, Collins referred to poor building code standards back in the 1970s. He can go into detail about situations that existed at the time with structures built to minimum code, the city's budget trying to survive on a 1958 tax base and challenges with water and sewer.

Collins believed it was very important for Philomath to hire a city manager.

"That was the first thing I said we've got to do, come up with a way to get a city manager,"

Collins said. "I said, 'our council is all volunteer, I'm a volunteer, we've got to have somebody overseeing things.'"

The city figured out a way to make it work.

"It goes back too far to remember all the details but it all worked out well and the city still has a city manager," he said.

Another primary area of concern that improved involved the police department. Collins said two police chiefs stick out in his mind for getting local law enforcement "headed in the right direction" — Rich Raleigh and Ken Elwer, who remains in that position today.

"Rich took it from the good old boy (way of doing things) to an outstanding police department," Collins said. "And Ken picked it up and has improved on that."

Volunteering has always been a mainstay in Collins' life from those very first years in Philomath. For example, when the volunteer fire department in town needed help, Collins said "it occurred to me to at least visit and give it a try."

Six months later, he was working as the department's engineer, or as he described, to "get the truck to the fire and get water coming out of it." In all, he spent a decade with the fire department.

Longtime residents will remember the days when a siren went off in town to alert volunteers.

"There were six of us that had telephones in our homes that had a button on it," he said. "One of us would decide if we needed to call the rest of the volunteers out. If we did, we hit that button and that set off the main siren downtown and everybody would head to the fire."

And did a child in the house ever set off the siren?

"Yeah," he laughed.

Not all memories of the fire department can be laughed off, however.

"I was in the fire one night and all of a sudden, ammo started going off," he said. "That's pretty scary. It was in a gun cabinet and I finally got out of there and was just lucky."

But that's not the entire story. After exiting the house and dripping wet from the battle, he reached out to pick up a garden hose.

"Somebody said, 'drop that,' I heard that over all that noise," he recalled. "It was a power line that had been disconnected from the house that was still live. And here I am soaking wet. That was scary."

Collins retired from professional life in 2007.

"About a year before I retired, I said, 'I'll probably serve on committees, but I'll do no more boards, no more night meetings and such,'" he said.

Collins has done plenty for the community in the years since, especially with gardening being one of his favorite activities.

"When they built the reader board down there, we turned that into a little park," Collins said. "I went down to the city manager and told him underneath that, it says 'City of Volunteers.' That should have volunteers taking care of it."

Randy Kugler, who was city manager at the time, had a response.

"He said, 'well, thanks for volunteering' and I said, 'that wasn't my intention,'" Collins recalled. "I had just retired and I thought that'll give me something to do. So I was mowing it and weeding it and taking care of it, fertilizing it and everything."

Collins continues to take care of that space except for the mowing.

That's just one example of what Collins has done around town in the spirit of beautification.



"Anything that comes along, he's going to get involved with it," Mary Jo said.

But despite that "City of Volunteers" slogan, Collins sees unfortunate changes with the volunteerism mentality.

"We've lost two generations already, people who won't step up to the plate and volunteer," he said. "If they could really take a look and picture their life, they're not nearly as busy as they think they are. There are so many people that want to volunteer for projects happening in town, but they want to volunteer for the day of the happening. Nobody wants to go through the steps of what it takes to get there. That's the tough part."

Collins remains active through his membership in the Lion's Club, an organization that he's been involved with for about four decades, and as a chamber of commerce ambassador. He's a senior citizen representative for the school board and got very involved with the new picnic shelter in Philomath City Park. He also continues to be involved with the Philomath Downtown Association's design team.

"I have a wife and two daughters that have been my rock," he said. "I've had to do stuff and it was a little upsetting at times but we all worked through it. ... We still love each other to pieces and have two wonderful daughters that I can't praise enough."

Today, Collins can look around Philomath and smile about what has been accomplished since that drive so many years ago on the way to the coast.

"I'm just so proud of where this town's gone."

Will the nominee be attending the *CelebrateLBL* event on October 24th?

Yes

## **Volunteer of the Year – Ms. Michele Eldridge**

Volunteer, City of Harrisburg  
(nominated by Councilor Mike Caughey, City of Harrisburg)

### Why are you nominating this person?

Michele is active in many organizations and contributes heavily in time and knowledge to them. She gives freely of her time and talents without any external recognition in most cases.

### What makes this person's work outstanding?

Although busy with her family and home, she contributes much time to make lives better for many others, most with no accolades or recognition. She does these things because she believes in contributing to her own city as well as Harrisburg. We are all better for her work and contributions of her knowledge, organizational skills and vision.

### What makes this person an exemplary regional citizen or volunteer?

She is the "one who gets things done". She enhances her job, her city (Monroe) and the City of Harrisburg, although not being a resident. Michele works for those programs that make our lives richer and enhances our cities. She is always available to help, teach or advise people whether part of her job duties or not. She is highly valued by the people and organizations of which she is a part.

### Please provide a short bio on the career or life of this nominee.

Michele has been an integral part of Harrisburg owing to her employment as City Recorder and Assistant City Administrator. In Harrisburg, she has been a major force in the Library Guild that helps our Public Library by raising funds for a future Library Building as well as ongoing assistance in providing computers and other resources for library programs 2007-present. Other volunteer activities include Monroe Beautification Committee 2017-present, Harrisburg Harvest Festival Association 2017-present, Tri-County Chamber of Commerce several years to present, Oregon Association of Municipal Records (officer), Harrisburg Summer Sounds Committee 2013-present, Harrisburg Mainstreet Program Lead 2018-present, Graduate of the Ford Institute Leadership Program.

### Will the nominee be attending the *CelebrateLBL* event on October 24th?

No



## **Volunteer of the Year – Mayor Eric Niemann**

City of Philomath

(nominated by Chris Workman, City of Philomath)

### Why are you nominating this person?

Mayor Niemann has gone above and beyond the duties of a volunteer mayor since he took office in January. In response to the recent influx of new development, Philomath citizens became increasingly concerned about the City's water supply. Mayor Niemann took it upon himself to plan, coordinate and carry out a community town hall on the subject of water.

### What makes this person's work outstanding?

Prior to the Water Town Hall, Mayor Niemann prepared and presented a 20-minute slide presentation at the City Council meeting on The History of Water in Philomath. The presentation was recorded and posted on YouTube, with a link placed on the City website providing easy access to members of the public unable to attend the meeting in person. Mayor Niemann's work was outstanding because he took it upon himself to plan and prepare every aspect of the Water Town Hall. He contacted the Scout Lodge and got the use of the facility donated for the evening. He reached out to industry experts, including professors at OSU, the regional water master, private water consultants, and a fellow councilman with hydrology expertise. He moderated the Town Hall, providing questions he had gathered from the public in advance and gave time for audience members to ask questions directly of the panelists. The Water Town Hall was streamed on Facebook Live so those unable to attend in person could have access to the meeting.

His desire to address this growing concern in our community demonstrates his sense of community spirit and willingness to give of his time for the benefit of others.

### What makes this person an exemplary regional citizen or volunteer?

Both Mayor Niemann's 20-minute presentation, The History of Water in Philomath, and the Water Town Hall are still online and available to the public for review. They are very informative and answer questions not only relevant to Philomath, but to the entire region as they address concerns about climate change, water scarcity, and the need for communities to pull together to solve this and other issues facing our region. He sets a great example to other leaders within the region of hearing the concerns of his community and working tirelessly to address their concerns.

### Please provide a short bio on the career or life of this nominee.

Mayor Niemann was first elected to the Philomath City Council in 2015. He served as Council President from July 2017-January 2019 when he was elected mayor by the citizens of Philomath. He is a Project Manager & Business Consultant for IBM with a Masters of Business Administration from Penn State University and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Mayor Niemann serves as a Board Member of Philomath Youth Activities Club and is Cubmaster for Boy Scout Pack 161.

### Will the nominee be attending the *CelebrateLBL* event on October 24th?

Yes

## **Volunteer of the Year – Mr. Joe Novello**

Volunteer, OCWCOG Disability and Senior Services Advisory Council  
(nominated by Bud Shoemake, Port of Toledo)

### Why are you nominating this person?

Joe's contributions to the Port of Toledo are significant but the Port is not the only benefactor of his enthusiasm and leadership. Under Joe's leadership, the Retired Old Guy Sailing Club, has completed community service projects including construction of a boathouse for the Port of Toledo's Community Boathouse Program, developed a free boating program that provides boater and water safety, completed beautiful wood trim work in the Pacific Maritime Heritage Museum, and built planter boxes for the Community Garden in Yachats.

Joe's love of boating and boat building also has him directing the family boat building event at the Port's annual Wooden Boat show. Joe has developed a program to build an 8' Elegant Punt in 2 days and he builds many of these versatile little boats at home with his family and friends. Joe saw the Port's need for skilled workers and encouraged a partnership between the Port of Toledo and Lincoln County School District which resulted in high school students having internships at our shipyard. The partnership with the School District has expanded to include a vocational welding lab operated by Oregon Coast Community College.

The Port is very lucky to have Joe as a friend who is willing to share his experience and contacts to make a positive impact in our community.

### What makes this person's work outstanding?

Joe's ability to attract and retain volunteers that share his enthusiasm for their projects. Joe has fun, and is willing to learn new skills and teach others as they accomplish new tasks. Joe was the guiding force behind the development of the Free Boating Program at the Port of Toledo's Community Boathouse. The program was started last summer and operated by volunteers from the Retired Old Guy Sailing Club, and has grown this summer to include a regular 20 volunteers, that have supervised over 1,500 visitors. The volunteers provide boating instructions, pdfs, and supervision to boaters of all ages as they try kayaks, sailboats, paddleboards or rowboats.

### What makes this person an exemplary regional citizen or volunteer?

Joe's contributions provide outreach beyond our community. He continues to use his teaching skills to encourage youth boating. His positive influence has attracted volunteers that are willing to travel from out of state, and from Albany and Corvallis to work on community projects in Lincoln County. The volunteers for the Free Boating Program teach safety as they encourage boaters to try something new. They provide opportunities to locals as well as visitors from out of state, or out of the country, some with physical limitations that have not had the opportunity to be in a boat before. Joe celebrates the individual successes of the volunteers and visitors.

Joe grew up in San Francisco and has lived in the Newport area since 1975. Joe has worked 30 years in Education and retired in 2013. Since retiring he has learned to blow glass and started PJ Pacific Crafts with his wife, volunteers with several community groups including the Retired Old Guys Sailing Club and the Toledo Community Boathouse, and enjoys travelling.

### Will the nominee be attending the *CelebrateLBL* event on October 24th?

Yes



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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 19, 2019  
**TO:** OCWCOG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Fred Abousleman, Executive Director  
**RE:** *Regional Housing Assessment Update*

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Available housing stock has not kept up with new demand across our Region. Several factors seem to play into this - lack of new-start construction; land constraints; faster than expected job growth; code and compliance issues; and, lack of skilled trades and construction crews.

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG), at the request of its Board of Directors, is examining how we can support our members to address these and other housing issues, at both a local and regional level, and help coordinate the policy and program discussion around transportation, economic development, health, land use, and environmental considerations.

This memorandum serves as an update on that project, with a emphasis on a recently completed survey. In April 2019, a survey was distributed to elected leaders and local government administrators in our Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Region. Twenty-six responses were collected from our member communities, with all but seven communities represented.

### Findings

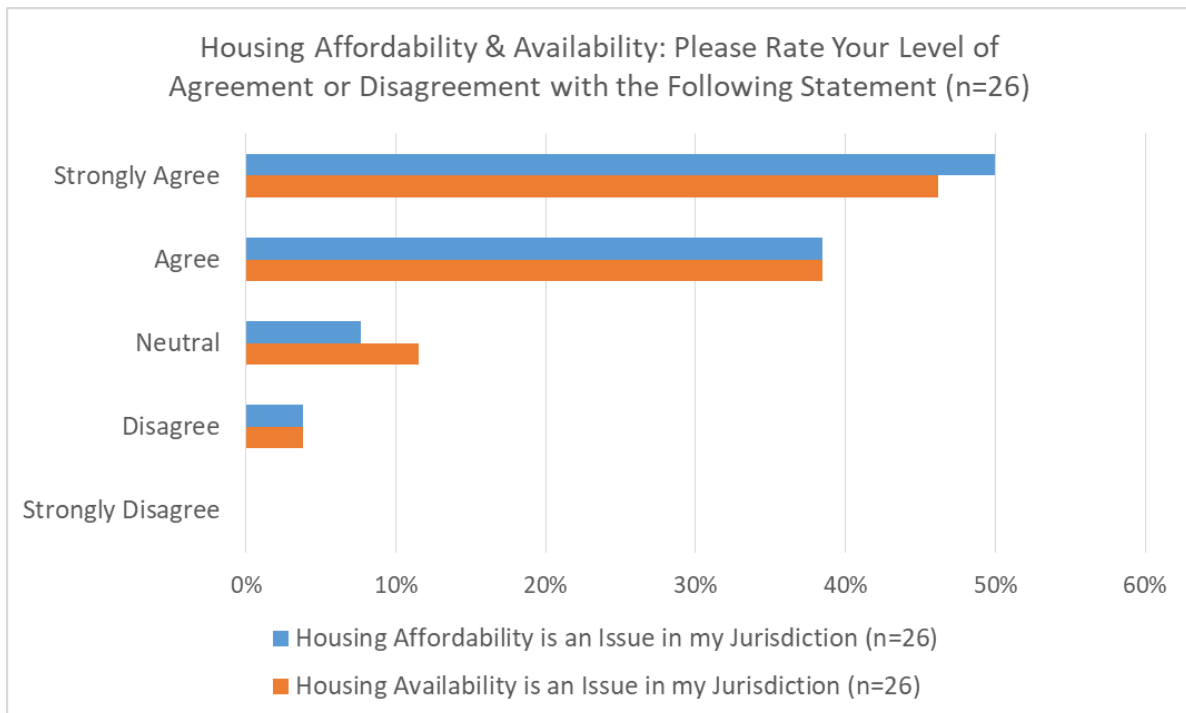
The following findings are taken from the survey results and subsequent discussions with OCWCOG Staff:

- **Housing is an issue in our Region.** Nearly 90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that housing affordability is an issue in their community.
- **There is inadequate support at both the regional and State level for housing assistance.** Close to 80% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that they receive adequate support from State and regional housing resources.
- **Members support OCWCOG taking a role in housing issues, however there is a reluctance to financially support an unknown program at this time.** Most members support OCWCOG taking a role in housing, while some remain unsure or have conditional support. The top three tasks requested were 1) analyzing cost burden data to determine type of housing needed; 2) interviewing local/regional developers to assess market challenges; and 3) review and analysis of potential barriers in the development code.
- **The initial requests for housing task support can be funded using existing funding or paid for separately.** It is estimated that the top three tasks can be done by OCWCOG staff at a basic level for \$5,000 each. There is budget available in the Special Projects Fund set aside for housing work or members can choose to fund it separately.

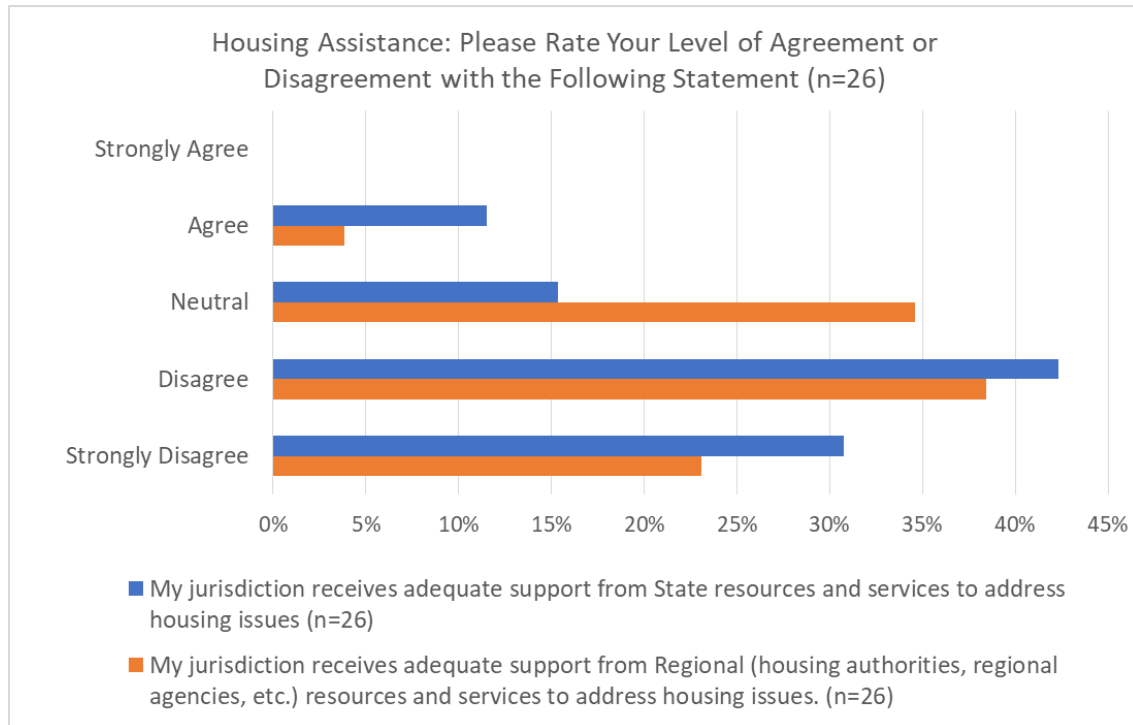
- **OCWCOG is exploring additional and ongoing funding opportunities through the Legislature, and Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD).** We are working with neighboring Council of Governments to endorse a funding package to increase technical assistance to communities for housing and economic development.

### Survey Results

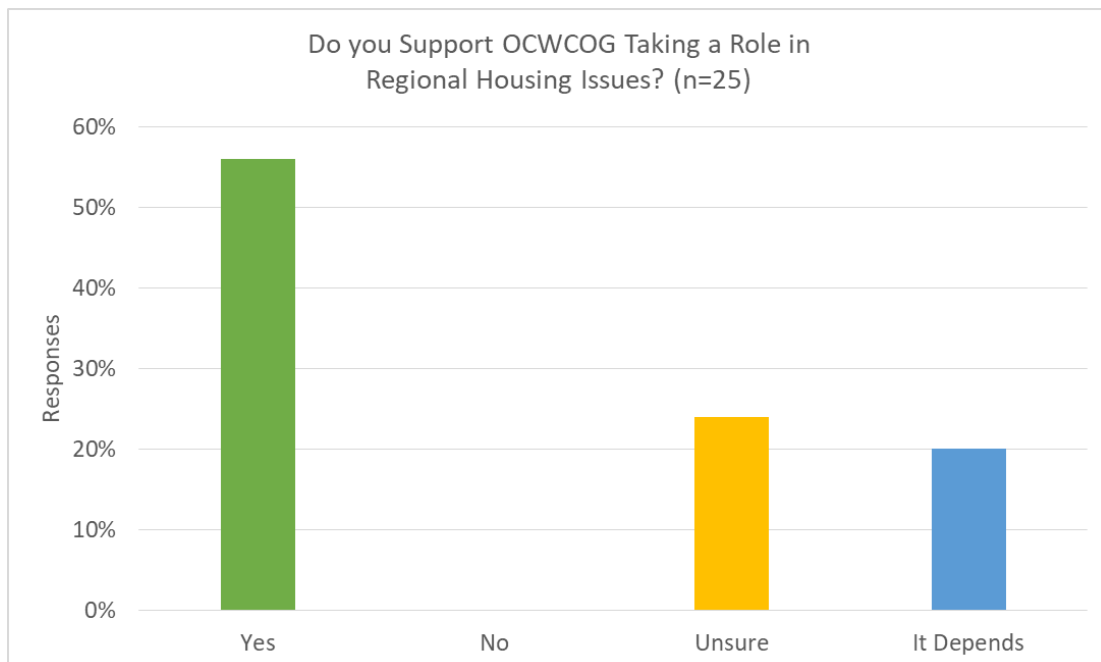
Respondents were initially asked whether housing affordability and availability are issues in their community. Nearly 90% agreed or strongly agreed that housing affordability is an issue in their community, while approximately 80% agreed or strongly agreed that availability is an issue. Note the difference between affordability and availability is that a city may have many homes for sale, but they are not affordable for their residents, whereas other cities lack a supply of any homes and that drives up the cost creating an affordability issue.



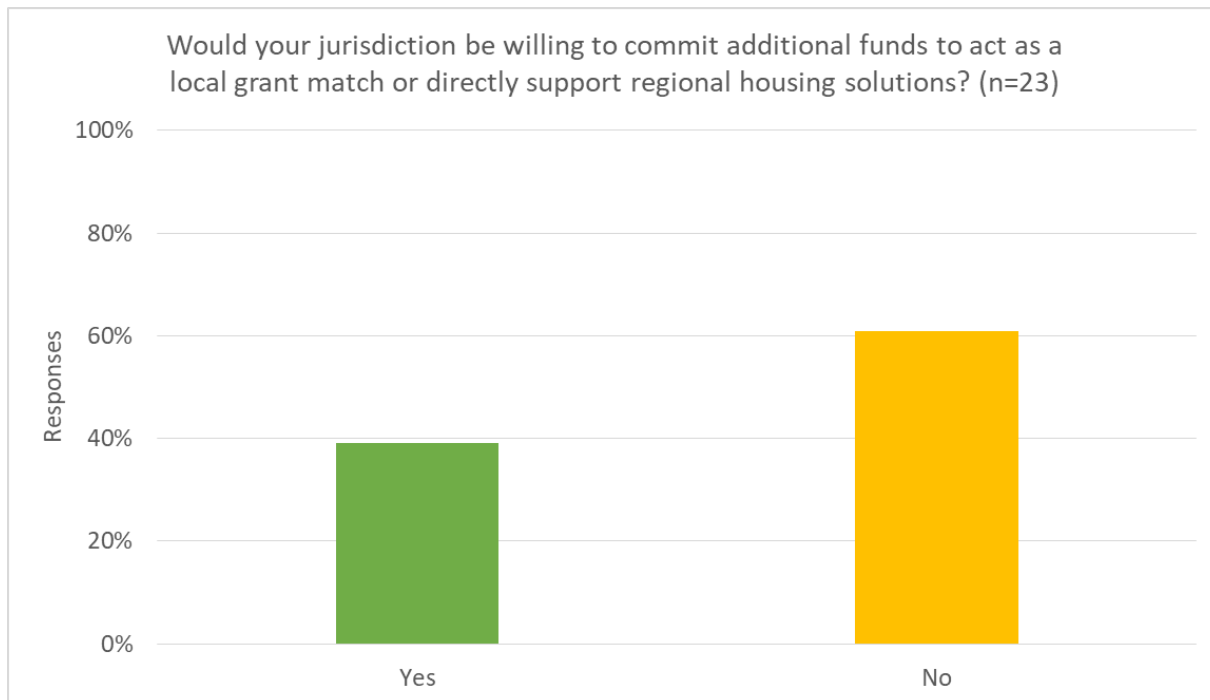
Respondents were then asked about any assistance they receive at a State or regional level. The majority of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that they receive an adequate level of support at the State and regional levels.



When asked if respondents supported OCWCOG taking on a role in regional housing issues, over 50% said yes, while none of the respondents said no. The remaining were unsure or said “it depends,” with most of their responses concerned with additional regulation, lack of actionable items, and a desire for more details on specific roles, or less planning and more funding.



Respondents were mixed on their willingness to commit to funding for local grant matches or directly supporting a housing program, with 60% saying no.



### Solution Development

This presents a classic Oregon planning problem: communities recognize the need for intervention, admit there is a lack of assistance from the State and regional resources, yet lack the funding to directly support solutions. Recognizing there is a need for housing assistance, OCWCOG Staff prepared the following cost estimate, based on responses to the survey. We are actively pursuing external funding through DLCD, however we realize the need is pressing and any external opportunities are uncertain.

### Task Outline

*Ongoing Task 1: “State of the Region” Data Collection, Mapping, and Analyzation.*

*Analyze Cost Burden and Vacancy to Determine Type of Housing Needed*

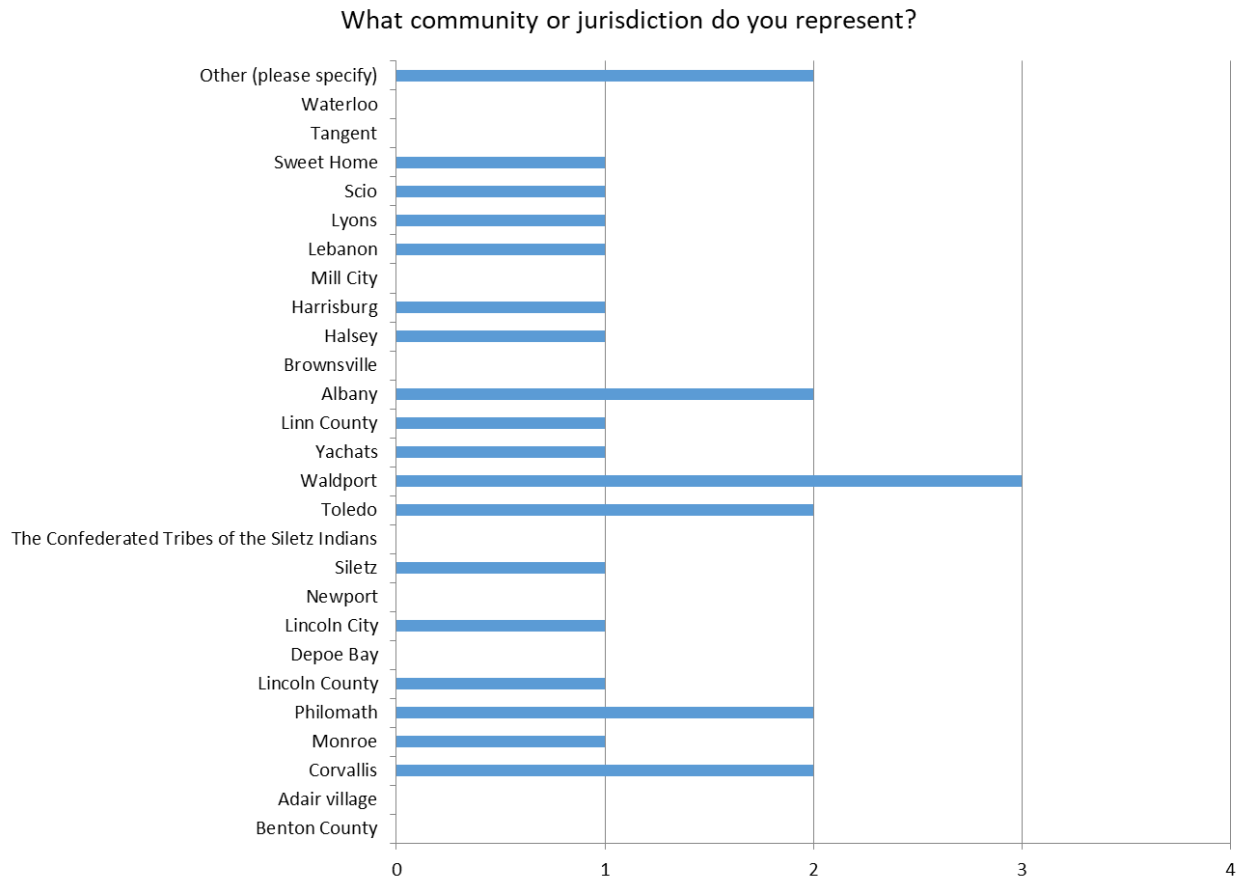
*Estimated Cost: \$6,000*

This task will collect data on income range of residents, cost burden, market rates, vacancy rates, and new housing units developed over the past few years. If available, additional data will be collected including commute times, vacant land, jobs/housing balance, etc.

With this information, OCWCOG Staff will develop a “housing profile” of each community outlining the type of housing needed. OCWCOG will also attempt to understand what type of housing is needed and where.

## Attachment: Additional Survey Responses

### Respondents





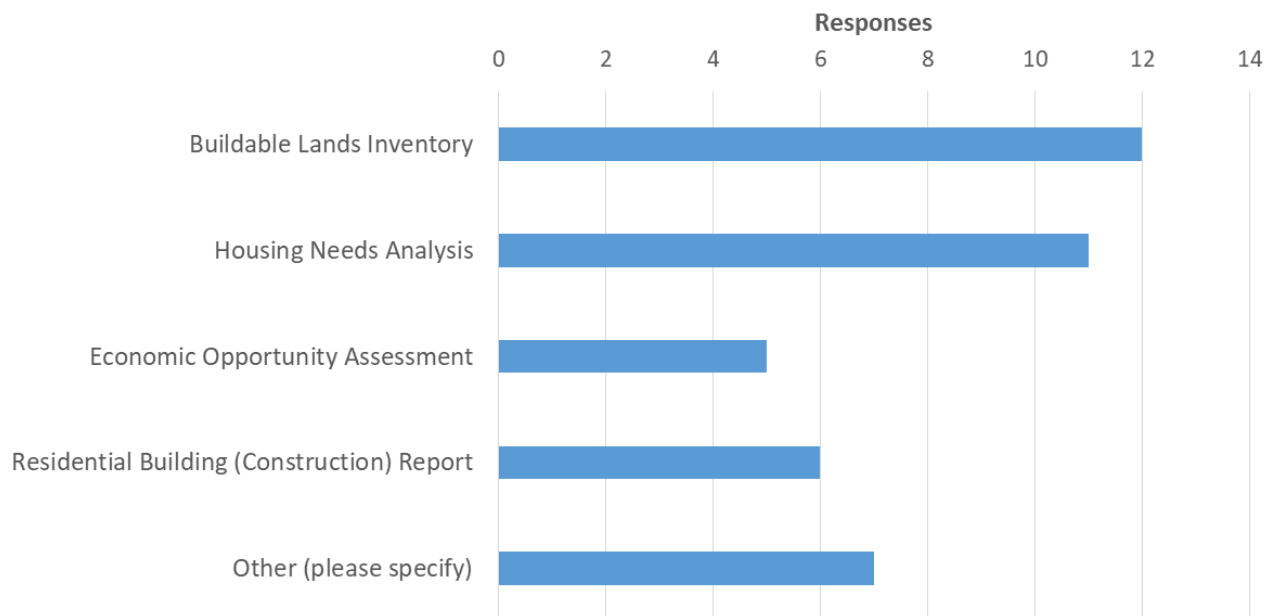
## Ranked and Weighted Services to Address Housing

Please rank the following services in order of how valuable they would be to your jurisdiction to help address housing issues. (1 = Most valuable; 2 = Second most valuable; 3 = Third most valuable)  
(n=24)



## Current Housing Work

Has your jurisdiction completed, within the last five years, or is your jurisdiction currently working on any of the following analyses (n=21)?





## Community and Economic Development

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### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 19, 2019  
**TO:** OCWCOG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Phil Warnock, Community and Economic Development (CED) Director  
**RE:** **CED Program Update**

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#### Transportation:

##### Transportation Options

- OCWCOG has delivered the draft *Regional Park and Ride Plan* to the Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation (CWACTION) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for comments. The draft was reviewed by the full CWACTION on August 22nd.
- *Pedal Corvallis* celebrated its 3rd anniversary by swapping out the three-year-old bikes for a new fleet, which are now available for use around town. The new bikes were unveiled and celebrated at the Corvallis Open Streets event on August 18th.
- *Cascades West Transportation Options* program, in coordination with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), has launched *Get There*, a new Statewide ride matching tool that makes it easier than ever for Oregonians to take advantage of transportation options like carpooling, vanpooling, walking, biking, or riding transit. *Cascades West Transportation Options*, the regional administrator, has been gearing up for this year's Statewide challenge this fall by securing sponsorships from local businesses like the Mid-Willamette YMCA, Lincoln City Community Center, Tidal Raves Seafood Grill, Mo's Restaurant, and Izzy's Pizza. *Get There* is available at <https://GetThereOregon.org>.

##### Marys Peak to Pacific Scenic Byway

- *Marys Peak to Pacific Scenic Byway* (Highway 34) has received route signs. A ribbon cutting celebration is scheduled for September 28th in Waldport, with the potential for a corresponding event in Tangent.

##### Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO)

- The AAMPO TAC and Policy Board reaffirmed their Allocation Policy for Surface Transportation Block Grant funding and approved funding requests for approximately \$2.5 million available for qualifying local projects during the *Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021-2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)* cycle. The projects are: (1) a guardrail project in the City of Millersburg, (2) Goldfish Farm Road preservation and safety improvements in Albany, and (3) Tangent Dive road enhancement in Tangent. These projects will receive funding in the FFY2021-2024 cycle.

- The MPO's draft *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* is currently being compiled and will be submitted to the State for review in October.
- On behalf of the City of Jefferson, AAMPO Staff applied for a Transportation and Growth Management Grant for a new *Transportation System Plan*. Jefferson and AAMPO were successful in this request and will embark on the planning process in the coming weeks.

#### Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO)

- The CAMPO Policy Board approved the list of projects for the *FY2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program* at their August meeting. The projects are spread across the Region and range from intersection reconstruction to roadway resurfacing to school circulation studies.

#### Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordination

- CAMPO and AAMPO are hosting a bikeway design workshop in October. Two, one day workshops will be held, one each in Corvallis and Albany. The goal of the workshop is to train local staff on how to implement bicycle networks in their recently completed *Transportation System Plans*. This is the first time a training like this is being held in our Region. There will be an evening reception with elected officials to discuss implementation of the lessons staff learned in the training. For more information, contact Nick Meltzer at [nmeltzer@ocwcog.org](mailto:nmeltzer@ocwcog.org).

### **Planning:**

#### Community Development Planning

- The regional Census Complete Count Committee is forming; member jurisdictions are encouraged to designate their Committee member(s) and send contact info to Steph Nappa at [snappa@ocwcog.org](mailto:snappa@ocwcog.org). Staff are working on communication methods and formats for targeted Census outreach.
- CED Staff are developing Geographic Information System (GIS) data mapping and interactive viewer platforms for multiple member jurisdictions. If your community is interested in how this could be beneficial, please let us know and an onsite demonstration can be arranged.
- OCWCOG Staff has been working with the City of Yachats to update their Flood Hazard Ordinance and adopt the newest Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps to ensure continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. Expected Adoption date is October 18, 2019.



# Community Services Program

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 19, 2019  
**TO:** OCWCOG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Jennifer Moore, Community Services Program (CSP) Director  
**RE:** **CSP Program Updates**

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### **Benton County Veteran's Services Office (VSO)**

- Met with Timberhill Assisted Living Administrator(s) to discuss VSO services and outreach to residents; subsequently presented to 20 Veteran residents and staff. Conducted informational presentation to Veteran residents and staff of Corvallis Caring Place and Stoneybrook Assisted Living.
- Staff presented to Benton and Lincoln County Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) counselors to discuss Veteran's Affairs (VA) Medical Benefits.
- Conducted two appointments at the Philomath Scout Lodge.
- Continue to participate in Vet-Net meetings. Vet-Net is a coalition of local agencies providing various services to the Veteran community. Recent meetings have been focused on the upcoming *Stand Down* event, scheduled for September 26, 2019, at Linn-Benton Community College.
- Benton County's Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution proclaiming September Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.
- Participated in a *Veterans Behavioral Health Summit* and training on Gulf War Illness Claims.

### **Meals on Wheels (MOW)**

- Lincoln County Commissioner Kaety Jacobson participated in the South Newport home-delivered route with a MOW volunteer driver. She shared with MOW Supervisor Anita Lengacher her impression of the experience. Commissioner Jacobson now understands first-hand that the program is not only about the food, "but about getting eyes/ears on people that are homebound, without transportation, mentally ill, or just alone that do not have others to check on them." She also reports learning that, "there is a way to transport soup without it spilling everywhere!"
- Through their *Gift of Caring* program, Girl Scouts® of Oregon and SW Washington (GSOSW) donated approximately 200 cases (or 2,400 boxes) of assorted Girl Scout Cookies to MOW. During the Girl Scout Cookie season (February and March), community members can choose to donate purchased cookies to this program. Mayor Jim Lepin, Millersburg, and Lincoln County Commissioner Claire Hall participated in delivering cookies to home-delivered and dining room clients. Describing his visit with a 28-year Millersburg resident, Mayor Lepin said this, "... [he] appreciated the cookies, but it was obvious that he appreciated the chance to share some knowledge and history, which I too appreciated."

**Money Management Program (MMP)**

- Currently managing 56 clients, including 29 Representative Payee clients. There are 19 referrals for services in various states of evaluation, and four individuals on the wait list. Referrals are received regularly from the *Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)*, *Adult Protective Services (APS)*, local senior centers, Samaritan Health Services, Lumina Hospice, and other agencies.
- The program continues to actively recruit volunteers. Increasing the number of volunteers available to match with clients will allow *MMP* to expand the capacity of the program and work through the wait list.

**Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative (OABHI)**

- Conducted total of 12 complex case consultations across the Region, with nine of those in Lincoln County.
- Conducted four instances of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for Corvallis, Albany, and Lebanon Police Departments, and Oregon State Troopers; this has led to a secondary training opportunity with the Lebanon Police Department. CIT includes information on conducting forensic interviews with seniors and people with disabilities.
- Collaborating with Avamere Nursing in Lincoln County to provide services to residents.
- Participating in meetings with Samaritan's Dementia Workgroup to develop curriculum.
- Coordinating workforce development training sessions with assisted living facilities in Lincoln County.

**Senior Corps Programs: *Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)*, *Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)*, and *Senior Companion Program (SCP)***

- *FGP* completed the first year of a three-year partnership with the Start Making a Reader Today (SMART) Program, an evidence-based literacy intervention aimed at improving Grade 3 reading scores. Recruitment is underway for three-to-five additional volunteers to place in Waldport and Albany schools this school year.
- Program staff attended the Seniors Serving Oregon Coalition (SSOC) yearly meeting in Eugene. The event brings together other Senior Corps Program staff from around the State that also operate *RSVP*, *Foster Grandparent*, and *Senior Companion Programs*. Oregon sponsors include Columbia River Fire and Rescue; Clackamas County's Social Services; Multnomah County Aging Disability Services Division; Community Volunteer Network (Medford); UCAN Douglas County; Community Counseling Solutions (Umatilla County); United Way of Lane County; and Lane Community College.
- The first iteration of a Regional Data Book for the Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties is now available in digital format at [bit.ly/EarlyLearningHub](https://bit.ly/EarlyLearningHub). Senior Corps Supervisor Alicia Lucke is part of the Hub's Data and Evaluation Workgroup, which ensures that the Early Learning Hub has the data it needs to make decisions informed by an understanding of the target population and progress towards outcomes.



# Senior and Disability Services

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 19, 2019  
**TO:** OCWCOG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Randi Moore, OCWCOG Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director  
**RE:** SDS Program Updates

### Changes in Service Eligibility Help Prepare for Statewide Eligibility Transformation

Soon there will be a large change in how Medicaid is administered in Oregon. Eligibility Transformation (ET), planned to start roll out in winter of 2020 with full implementation expected by mid-2021, will allow *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)* and Medicaid consumers better access to benefits by allowing them to apply online or in person at the office that is closest or most convenient to them. ET also will streamline eligibility by pooling caseloads Statewide and having workers across the State accomplish tasks in a timelier way.

- OCWCOG's SDS Department is taking small steps to better serve our consumers and prepare for ET implementation.
- Regionalization of the Eligibility teams locally is the first priority – with all consumers in OCWCOG's tri-County Region being in one shared caseload by the end of September. The first step in obtaining this is for all incoming documents to be scanned as they come into the office – this involved a significant investment in technology and equipment.
- Currently, OCWCOG consumers applying to receive Long-Term Care Services in their homes or community-based care facilities work with their Case Manager to verify they meet income and resource guidelines. OCWCOG is beginning the process of transitioning this work from the Case Managers for these consumers to the Eligibility Specialist (ES) unit.
- The first cases have been transitioned - 54 service cases were reassigned to the ES unit this month. The 54 cases are consumers who also receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) income and were due for a financial recertification this month.
- In addition to these 54 cases, current consumers who already work with the ES unit and are applying for Long-Term Care Services will remain with the ES unit. Previously, they would have been transferred to the Case Management unit.
- Each month thereafter a certain number of cases will be transitioned, with the goal to have transitioned the financial eligibility functions for all 2,500 Long-Term Care Services consumers in our tri-County Region to the ES unit, before the end of the calendar year.
  - A letter will be mailed to all consumers who are having their cases transitioned.
  - Case Managers will be provided with talking points to share with consumers about this transition and reason.

ES unit staff have already completed intensive training on the new tasks that they are taking on and both Case Management and ES units will begin initial trainings on the coordination of these cases and communication between the units, while the cases transition.

## *Notes*



## *Notes*



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