



Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District July 2015 Newsletter

JULY 5, 2015

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Happy Summer!

As we head into a traditionally less busy time of economic development activity, Col-Pac has a full schedule, laying the foundation for a productive year ahead.

Col-Pac and West Oregon Wood Products Host Congresswoman Bonamici and USDA Oregon Director Walker Visit

A long time Col-Pac loan client, West Oregon Wood Products in Columbia City provided an excellent opportunity to view one of NW Oregon's long standing wood products manufacturing companies in operation.



Following the site visit, Bonamici and Walker met with Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde, Col-Pac staff, and Community Action Team (CAT) staff to discuss key economic development issues and opportunities in NW Oregon.

Col-Pac Successfully Applies for a RARE Participant



Col-Pac will be interviewing candidates this month for a RARE (Resource Assistance for Rural Environments) position, to assist with implementing the AGORA electronic project-funding matching platform, and updating NW Oregon's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

John Luquette
Port of Garibaldi

Joyce Aho
Oregon Employment

Larry Galizio
Clatsop Community
College

Sandra Fowler-Hill
Portland Community
College

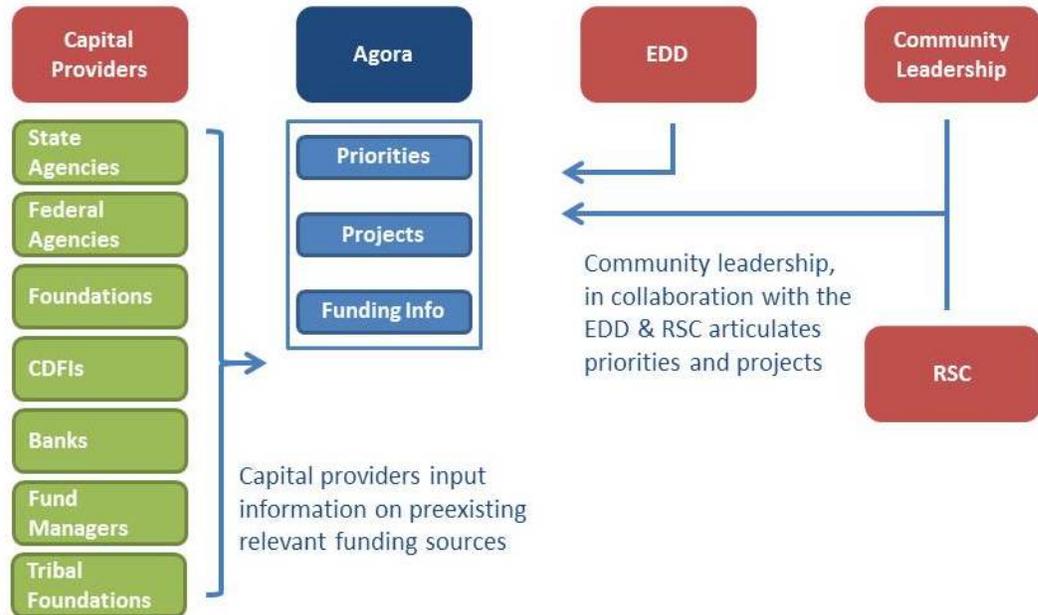
Connie Green
Tillamook Bay
Community College

Van Moe
Private Sector

Peter Roscoe
Private Sector

Col-Pac Selected to Roll-Out AGORA Internet-Based Funding Platform in NW Oregon

The AGORA platform coordinates and organizes information among capital providers, the economic development district (EDD), community leadership, and the Oregon Governor's Regional Solutions Teams:



2015 Oregon Coastal Economic Summit Set for August 26–27



Oregon Coastal Caucus

Sponsored by the Oregon Legislative Coastal Caucus, the 4th Annual Oregon Coastal Economic Summit will take place at the Spirit Mountain Casino in Grande Ronde. The attendance of more than 400 key stakeholders, including decision makers from federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as the numerous educators and representatives from the private sector, promises to make this Summit a vital think tank for the exploration of new ideas and new approaches to problems and challenges that face our communities.

[Registration for Oregon Coastal Economic Summit](#)

[Hotel Accommodations](#)

Travel Oregon to Offer Travel Tourism Training Sessions

These FREE seminars offer an overview of Oregon's travel and tourism industry and are designed to help visitor-related organizations and businesses take advantage of the many opportunities offered by Travel Oregon. A statewide webinar on July 13 as well as live sessions in the Gorge, Coast (**Lincoln City on November 3rd**), Central and Southern Oregon will round out the Travel Oregon 101 schedule for 2015. [Learn more about Travel Oregon 101 and register for a session.](#)

Oregon Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Financing Workshops

Move your infrastructure project forward and sustain your system for the future.

Thursday, July 30, 2015
Oregon Coast Community College
400 SE College Way
Newport, OR 97366

Who Should Attend: The workshops are focused on small water and wastewater systems; however, all are welcome to participate. Elected officials, mayors, and board members are particularly encouraged to attend, along with managers, city recorders, administrative staff, public works staff, and operators.

Workshop Topics: This annual event will feature the latest on funding programs and resources for water and wastewater projects; a live "One Stop" community project funding meeting; opportunities to meet agency representatives to discuss your plans and projects; and sessions on sustainable and effective utility management, asset management, project development, rates, and public education.

For more information contact Chris Marko, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) at 503/228-1780, cell: 503/459-7769, orcmarko@rcac.org.

Funding Opportunities

REAP

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Guaranteed Loans and Grants is a national program with more than \$200 million in funding available this fiscal year (through September 30, 2015). Eligible projects include renewable energy systems, such as solar, biomass, and wind, as well as energy efficiency improvements, including building and industrial projects.

Eligible borrowers include rural small businesses and agricultural producers (agricultural producers are exempt from the rural area location requirement). The program is currently accepting applications. Contact John Holman, (503) 414-3369 or john.holman@or.usda.gov.

Value Added Producer Grant

Funding is available to support beginning, veteran, and socially-disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to expand businesses.

Value Added Producer Grants can be used to develop new product lines from raw agricultural products or additional uses for already developed product lines.

Those interested are encouraged to contact Oregon's VAPG Coordinator, Mandie Ellenwood, at mandie.ellenwood@or.usda.gov or (541) 673-0136 ext. 110 or Don Hollis at don.hollis@or.usda.gov or (541) 278-8049 x129 prior to beginning work on an application for more details about the requirements and process.

Deadline to submit paper applications is July 7th. Paper applications must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. in the State Office:

USDA Rural Development
Business Programs, ATTN: VAPG Coordinator
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd
Suite 801
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 414-3395

For more information visit the VAPG program website.

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

National Parks Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is accepting applications through August 1 for help with a wide range of community-led projects.

National Park Service staff can help local leaders:

- ✚ Develop close-to-home parks and greenways
- ✚ Manage community-led visioning, planning, and design
- ✚ Facilitate public involvement
- ✚ Build sustainable partnerships
- ✚ Engage youth through outdoor recreation skill-building and conservation stewardship
- ✚ Plan for trails, landscape conservation, water trails, river restoration, green transportation, and tourism

Can we help your community? Find out by first reviewing the application process and exploring [current projects in Oregon](#).

Then call or email a [National Park Service staff member](#) near you to discuss your idea, and let them know by July 15 if you intend to submit an application by the August 1 due date.

Do you still need help deciding whether the National Park Service might help you and your community? Check out this [short video](#).

Next Col-Pac Meeting September 10th in Astoria

Col-Pac operates on the federal fiscal year, October—September, so the next board meeting will be our year end: approving a FY 2015—2016 budget, work plan schedule for the new year, and meeting our new RARE participant. **Please mark your calendars for 10:00am—12pm at Clatsop Community College.**