

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Study Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: Nov. 29, 2011 Time: 3:00 PM Length: approx. 15 min

Presentation Title: Briefing on Willamette Valley Resilience Summit

Department: Transportation & Development

Presenters: Susan Ziolko and Eben Polk, Sustainability

POLICY QUESTION: Not Applicable

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

For more than two years staff has participated in workshops and meetings with other lower Willamette Valley communities to discuss how climate change may impact our jurisdictions in the areas of health and human services, economic development, and natural resources. It is now important that the Board assess the proposed recommendations which address efficient methods to mitigate these impacts. The Board would review the work that has been done to date, and go on to provide direction for any further work.

Elected officials are invited to the first Annual Willamette Valley Regional Resilience Summit on December 12th from 10 am to 2:15 pm at Willamette University. (Attachment A: Invitation and Agenda)

Regional Resilience ‘Study’ Phase—2009 & 2010

The path to this summit began in 2009 and 2010 when The Resource Innovation Group’s Climate Leadership Initiative, affiliated with the University of Oregon, sponsored a number of forums at various locations around the Lower Willamette region, with participation from staff in several counties: Benton, Clackamas, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington and Yamhill. Approximately 250 experts and staff from the region were assembled.

The purposes of the forums were to:

- Assess regional climate change projections (by Oregon Climate Change Research Institute at OSU);
- Identify likely impacts to natural and human systems (e.g. forests, farms, watersheds, transportation, emergency management, public health); and
- Recommend strategies to prepare for these impacts.

One of these forums was held in Clackamas County and was attended by then-Commissioner Bob Austin and by staff in several departments (including Community Health, Emergency Management, Sustainability, Planning, and Parks). The findings gathered at these forums were published in January 2011 in a report from The Resource Innovation Group (TRIG), called 'Building Climate Resiliency in the Lower Willamette Region of Western Oregon.' (Attachment B: Summary for Decision Makers).

A central theme of the findings is that the Lower Willamette Valley shares vulnerabilities in natural, built, and human systems, which could be further tested by economic stressors, future growth, and climate trends. Recommendations to reduce risks were consistent across much of the area, indicating opportunities to scale up and collaborate to attract technical and financial resources.

Exploring a Resilience Compact—2011

Building on this groundwork, The Resource Innovation Group (TRIG) is proposing a Willamette Valley Resilience Compact among city and county governments to coordinate and enhance efforts to build the resilience of the Valley's economy, existing natural hazards, anticipated impacts from a changing climate, public health, and food, water, and energy supply. An integrated, cooperative approach led by local governments that engages state and federal agencies, stakeholders from the private sector, and non-governmental organizations will strengthen community and regional resilience, and promote a more secure future for the entire Willamette Valley.

In 2011, TRIG has led an effort to define the scope of a proposed Willamette Valley Resilience Compact. A multi-jurisdiction scoping meeting was held on March 31st at Willamette University. (The Resource Innovation Group is now affiliated with Willamette University.) The March 31st scoping session identified opportunities for collaboration in building resiliency. (Attachment C: Participant List for Resilience Compact Scoping)

Since the March 31st scoping session, the following efforts were undertaken:

- Local governments encouraged TRIG staff to summarize existing multi-jurisdictional collaborations in the Lower Willamette Valley to look for linkages, avoid potential redundancies, and identify potential models or examples. TRIG summarized these.
- TRIG staff briefed local government staff on the model found in a four-county resilience compact covering 5.5 million residents in Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties in Florida.
- TRIG staff and local governments collectively prepared a Draft of a Willamette Valley Resilience Compact, for consideration and discussion by local leaders and staff at the upcoming Summit. (Attachment D: Draft Compact)
- TRIG staff proposed guidelines for the organization and processes of a Resilience Compact. (Attachment E: Guidelines)

The draft Compact essentially calls for a strategy to reduce shared risks and promote long-term prosperity. It is noteworthy in several ways. It recognizes that significant economic benefits may accrue to communities that address long-term economic, growth, and climate risks holistically. It recognizes that collaborations across the lower Willamette Valley could create opportunities to make our communities more sustainable and our economy more resilient.

The draft Compact calls for regional cooperation to enhance the ability to adapt to changing economic and climate conditions. It calls for identification of legislative issues of regional importance and, where appropriate, formulation of common positions. It calls for the joint development of a Resilience Strategy which would, for example, identify shared priorities and actions to safeguard (and more efficiently utilize) regional water, food, and energy supplies.

Possible benefits of participation include: more effective advocacy through joint policy positions, improved efficiency and sharing of best practices, the attainment of scale for more effective state and federal agency engagement, more competitive positioning for funding through grants, the leveraging of resources, and development of a shared vision and model for other regions.

The **Willamette Valley Regional Resilience Summit** on December 12th is an opportunity for local governments to discuss the case for a regional collaboration.

Further points for context:

- **Attending the Summit:** Several other local governments are expected to attend and demonstrate a commitment to developing a compact including: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon City, Clackamas County, Hillsboro, Metro, Albany, and Benton County.
- **Cost:** No fees are proposed to participate. TRIG is looking for outside funding to provide logistical and administrative support on an ongoing basis.
- **Commitment:** The summit agenda includes an opportunity for local elected officials to express a commitment to move forward.
- **Participation:** On an 'as willing and available' basis.
- **TRIG:** They are now affiliated with Willamette University's Center for Sustainable Communities and are a member of NOAA's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program for the Pacific Northwest.
- **Time Commitment:** While the Compact is developed (late-2011 through early-2012), jurisdictions are requested to provide an average of one hour per week of staff time. Time commitments for the Steering Committee and Working Groups would be defined as they form in 2012. Projects may enhance local initiatives, meaning minimal additional staff time allocated solely to Compact work.

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

Will one or more Commissioners represent Clackamas County at the upcoming Willamette Valley Resilience Summit and in further shaping the development of a Willamette Valley Resilience Compact?

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

- 1) Identify one Commissioner and an 'alternate' to represent Clackamas County in the Willamette Valley Resilience initiative.
- 2) Decline to have an elected representative and direct staff to participate on behalf of the County.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that one or more Commissioners accept a role as liaison to the December 12 Resilience Summit and in an ongoing capacity as needed in shaping and participating in a potential Resilience Compact.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval M. Barbara Cartmill #122/11

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Eben Polk @ 503-742-4470