



ORDC Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016
Portland, OR, and teleconference
2:30 – 3:30 PM

Attending in Person: Megan Smith, Chris Marko, Jill Rees, Ron Saranich
On the Phone: Doug Carlson, Karen Chase, Vicki Walker, Mallory Rahe

ORDC Work Plan Review

- The RD no-cost cooperative agreement extension was approved, but we were not able to add additional tasks to the original work list for the remaining funds for new events after AOC. (Note: ORDC still needs to make payment to RDI for staff time assistance, so the remaining balance will be less.) Remaining RD funds will be used for staff time and contracting to develop information/education materials as part of our rural information and advocacy mission and as report out on our previous year's work.
- Remaining costs for holding Rural Oregon Day and a Rural Resource Forum in 2017 as planned will be covered through ORDC's Forest Service funds.
- As ORDC moved toward full utilization of USDA RD and USFS funding, the group was reminded that all Executive Committee members have a role to play in identifying additional sources of funds for future ORDC activities.

AOC Debrief, Next Steps

- ORDC held a listening/input session at the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) annual meeting in November. Because it was a breakfast meeting and because of an error in AOC's agenda, turnout was lower than hoped. Most attendees were not previously familiar with ORDC.
- The top issues that participants identified as priorities for ORDC's rural information and advocacy were: housing, infrastructure, and rural economic/business development. One participant stressed the need to emphasize the importance of natural resource utilization in enhancing rural business and economic opportunities.
- The group discussed the shift in hearing that rural housing seemed to overtake rural jobs in terms of issues; Karen commented that as some rural communities see their jobs situations beginning to improve, they must emphasize the need to improve the conditions in their communities for attracting new businesses, thus the renewed emphasis on workforce housing, cultural amenities, schools, etc.
- **Action:** Jill will develop a first draft of a more comprehensive online survey of rural needs/priorities for ORDC to be finalized and distributed in January.

ORDC Staff Support

- Rose Miller, who had been providing staff support to ORDC, has found a new position and will be leaving RDI. **Action:** Megan will continue to communicate with RDI to continue our relationship with them to reimburse for another RDI staff member to provide this support. In the interim as the new individual is identified, ORDC Executive Committee members may be getting messages from Jessie Katon at RDI in this capacity.

ORDC Leadership Nominations

- In November, Chris convened a subcommittee of ORDC Executive Committee members to develop a list of possible nominees for ORDC leadership positions beginning in the new calendar year for a term of up to two years. Megan will stay on as Co-Chair, but Chris will be transitioning off as Co-Chair. The subcommittee recommend having one Chair and one Vice-Chair position rather than two Co-Chairs to allow for better succession planning and transition into the Chair position. At previous ORDC meetings, the Executive Committee had decided to also add a new position of Secretary/Treasurer.
- The subcommittee recommended the following nominees for Vice-Chair: Heidi Khokhar, Doug Carlson and Karen Chase; for Secretary/Treasurer: Mallory Rahe, Scott Ekblad, and Lisa Dawson. **Action:** Chris will follow up with each nominee to assess their availability/willingness to be on the ballot for these positions.
- Voting will take place at the January ORDC Executive Committee meeting.
- Megan announced that she has been in communication with Amber Schulz-Oliver, Executive Director of Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians, Economic Development Corp (ATNI EDC) to join the ORDC Executive Committee as a representative of Native American/tribal interests. Amber will join us at the January meeting.
- There was discussion of the need to continue to recruit new, young talent to join the Executive Committee and to prepare for transitions/succession as current members retire/transition off the committee.

Illinois Valley Forum Follow-up

- ORDC needs to finalize follow-up items for the Illinois Valley. Karen and Jill will lead this. Karen will ask if Alex Campbell can assist. **Action:** Megan will set up a meeting for this sub-group to discuss the follow-up in the coming weeks.

ORDC Letterhead Selection

- The web developer/designer provided several options for letterhead and one was selected. The group decided to use USDA RD's state office as the ORDC mailing address.

Quick Updates from Partners, Other, Next Steps Adjourn

- Chris said that Partners for Rural America (PRA) is preparing for the transition to a new administration; last time, PRA put forth a large funding request with the help of Sen. Leahy and other members of Congress, but it was not funded. This time, the strategy may be to make a more limited funding request. PRA is encouraging State Rural Development Councils (SRDCs) to develop strategies for communicating about priorities moving forward.
- The next ORDC Executive Committee meeting was scheduled for the first Tuesday of January, but this is the day after the New Year's holiday and many people will still be on vacation/some schools will still be closed. **Action:** Megan will send out a Doodle Poll to schedule the next meeting for maximum participation.