

E-Link

Connecting Southern Oregon's COG With Its Members

Inside...

New Electeds' Orientation	2
RVPSA Training 2011	2
Bear Creek Water Quality	3
2011 COG Board Roster	3
Guanajuato Delegation	4

RVCOG MEMBERS

- Jackson County
- Josephine County
- City of Ashland
- Town of Butte Falls
- City of Cave Junction
- City of Central Point
- City of Eagle Point
- City of Gold Hill
- City of Grants Pass
- City of Jacksonville
- City of Medford
- City of Phoenix
- City of Rogue River
- City of Shady Cove
- City of Talent
- Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon
- Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
- Rogue Community College
- Rogue Valley Sewer Services
- Rogue Valley Transportation District
- Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc.
- Southern Oregon University

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS' ORIENTATION

On the evening of February 28, 2011, RVCOG and the Governor's Office hosted an orientation for newly elected officials from Jackson and Josephine counties. After the event's successful debut in January 2009, RVCOG's Board of Directors decided to establish this event as a permanent service to our member jurisdictions.

The orientation is intended to give new officials an opportunity to meet the individuals who represent the state agencies they will most likely come in contact with during their time in public office, and to learn the more important aspects of each agency's programs.

After welcoming the 19 newly elected officials and 11 state agency representatives attending the event, RVCOG's Executive Director, Michael Cavallaro, introduced the COG's management team and provided an overview of what RVCOG is, what it does, and how it interacts with its members.

Next, Jeff Griffin of the Governor's Office described how his role as newly appointed Regional Solutions Coordinator for Southwestern Oregon is to help create jobs and solve problems that stand in the way of economic development in our region. Then, one by one, each state agency representative explained their agencies' key priorities, the ways in which they usually interact with cities and counties in our region, and any programs of assistance they have available. Agency representatives also brought business cards, brochures, and other informative flyers to share with attendees.

The [Oregon state agency presenters](#) included Art Anderson, Department of Transportation (ODOT); Ed Moore, Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD); Karen Clearwater, Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS); Larry Holzgang, Business, Innovation & Trade Division, Business Oregon; Fumi Schaadt, Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA), Business Oregon; John Becker, Air Quality, and Zach Loboy, Water Quality, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Michael Morter, Building Codes Division (BCD), Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS); Bruce Sund, Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD); and Kirk Jarvie, Department of State Lands (DSL).



Left to right: City Councilors Carolyn Bartell of Phoenix and Jim Williams of Grants Pass meet individually with *Business Oregon* reps Fumi Schaadt and Larry Holzgang.

continued on next page

NEW ELECTEDS' ORIENTATION

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Left to right: Jacksonville City Council Member Paul Hayes chats with the evening's co-hosts, Jeff Griffin and Michael Cavallaro, following the formal presentations by the state agencies.

Once the formal presentations were over, newly elected officials and state agency representatives had an opportunity to meet one-on-one to discuss particular interests or concerns.

Based on the positive feedback from both elected officials and state agency representatives, RVCOG and the Governor's Office plan to partner again in two years to offer newly elected officials an opportunity to jumpstart the learning process on the state and regional side of their responsibilities.

To all who participated, thank you!



RVPSA'S 2011 TRAINING LINEUP

The Rogue Valley Public Service Academy began the year with two technical trainings, *Supervising IT Staff for Non-IT Supervisors* and *Land Use Planning: A Primer for New City Council and Planning Commission Members*.

In February, local favorite, Bill Gallagher, returned to give valuable tips on effective assertiveness skills in *Workplace Gossip: Encouraging Good Communication Skills*. In light of comments received—"More Gallagher trainings!" and "Fabulous and informative as always!"—RVPSA has asked Bill to return for an encore presentation of his very popular training topic, *"Understanding Different Personalities in the Workplace."* This training is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2011, from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Detailed information will be distributed in the coming weeks.



Bill Gallagher (right) takes time during a break to speak one-on-one with a workshop participant.

In addition, RVPSA's upcoming training, *Presentation Skills for Busy People*, is scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2011. Presentation skills play a key role in opening doors, influencing others and advancing your career. *Presentation Skills for Busy People* offers what many of us need to know about public speaking. Professional speaker and author, Judy Kaplan Baron, Ph.D., will provide personalized skill development, covering many facets of delivering effective presentations including how to utilize your voice most effectively, clearly organize content and deal with anxiety and nervousness. Each three-hour session is limited to 16 participants, so sign up soon for this valuable session.

Visit RVPSA on the web for more information: http://rvcog.org/mn.asp?pg=rvpsa_training.

WATER QUALITY DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED IN BEAR CREEK

A recent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) press release recognized a decrease of more than 90 percent in phosphorus pollution in Bear Creek. This is very good news for anyone in our region who values Bear Creek and its tributaries, as excessive phosphorus in waterways can have a dramatic effect on aquatic life because it causes algal blooms—and when algae decomposes, it removes the oxygen that aquatic organisms, including fish, need to survive and reproduce.

The federal, state, and local partnership that produced what the EPA described as “impressive results” has been led jointly by the Rogue Valley Council of Governments and the Bear Creek Watershed Council. According to Bill Meyers, a DEQ spokesman, the effort has “...worked miracles...” and is “...a model for other watershed-wide partnerships.” He also made specific mention of the fact that “With RVCOG’s skillful assistance, local communities now have an effective plan in place to improve water quality conditions in the Rogue.”

Some of the more important contributions to the successful watershed approach developed by the region include:

- Ongoing regional water quality monitoring
- Implementation of stormwater control practices in urbanized areas
- Best practices demonstration projects
- Rural and urban outreach and education
- Rural and urban sedimentation flow reduction

For additional information about RVCOG’s efforts at improving water quality in the region, visit http://rvcog.org/mn.asp?pg=natural_resources.

For additional information about the Bear Creek Watershed Council, visit <http://www.bearcreek-watershed.org/>.



2011 RVCOG BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROSTER



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RVCOG

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VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.rvcog.org



Founded in 1968, RVCOG is a voluntary association of local governments and special districts in southern Oregon.

OUR MISSION

We shall act as a catalyst to promote quality of life, effective and efficient services, and leadership in regional communication, cooperation, planning, and action in southern Oregon.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Michael Cavallaro
Executive Director

Don Bruland
Director of Senior and Disability Services

Craig [Name]
Natural Resources
Program Manager

Alan Hudson
Finance Manager

Evelyn Kinsella
Nutrition
Program Manager

Sandi Morton
Asst to Exec Dir /
Human Resources Manager

Berta Varble
SDS Operations Manager

GUANAJUATO DELEGATION IN TOWN TO STUDY "OREGON MODEL" FOR ELDER CARE SERVICES

Representatives from the Division of Health Sciences of the University of Guanajuato, including Mexican doctors, nurses, and public health professors, recently visited the Jackson County area to look at our elder care service system.

Mexico does not have government policies and services at the national level directed at assisting families to provide services to their elderly. The visiting representatives are interested in changing that reality, and were focused on elements of the "Oregon Model" that could be translated into the Mexican reality.



Throughout the week they visited and learned about the variety of home and community-based care settings in which seniors receive services in our area. They met with staff at the Ashland Senior Program and with RVCOG's Medford Senior Services Office Medicaid case managers. Several of them participated in a Food & Friends ride-a-long on a home-delivered meals route, and the entire group was introduced to the MealService software, which Food & Friends uses to manage the home-delivered meals program.



During the afternoon of February 24, the visitors spent time with Don Bruland (pictured left), RVCOG's Senior and Disability Services Director, and other senior staff to gain an appreciation of the history and evolution of the long-term care service system, both on a national and state level. There was also discussion around a variety of policy issues, including family social supports, health care supports, empowerment, natural supports, long-term care, acute care, and hospital-to-home transition coordination.

Mary Russell-Miller, Associate Professor with the Department of Psychology at Southern Oregon University, coordinated the week-long visit.

Guanajuato and Ashland are officially recognized Sister Cities through the internationally incorporated body, Sister Cities International. The two universities trade students and faculty and work closely together on their academic programs.

