

**AGENDA**  
**Rogue Valley Council of Governments**  
**Board of Directors**

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**Date:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023

**Time:** 12:00 noon

**Location:** RVCOG Lewis Conference Room – 155 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Central Point

**OR**

**Zoom** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89115473421?pwd=ak5aMUIlWW1DSVFES3U0WituL0NMQT09>

Meeting ID: 891 1547 3421 / Passcode: 145909

(408) 638-0968 US (San Jose) / (253) 215-8782 US (Tacoma)

1. **Call to Order / Attendance**.....Chair
2. **Introductions and Comments from Members / Public**.....Chair
3. **Presentations**
  - A. Stream Smart program update – Greg Stabach, RVCOG Natural Resources Program Director, Amie Siedlecki, RVCOG Natural Resources Coordinator
4. **Action Items** ..... Executive Director
  - A. Nominations to fill openings on the Executive Committee
5. **Consent Agenda** .....Chair
  - A. Approve Meeting Minutes from June 23, 2023
6. **Reports**..... Executive Director
  - A. Executive Director’s Report
7. **Regional Update / Open Air**..... All
8. **Other Business**.....Chair
9. **Agenda Build**..... All
  - A. Southern Oregon Historical Society Presentation scheduled for September meeting.
10. **Next Meeting**.....Chair

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

**Adjournment**

<p><b>Questions? Please contact RVCOG at 541-664-6674. If assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please notify us at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to assist staff in providing reasonable accommodation.</b></p>
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31ST ANNUAL

# ROGUE RIVER CLEAN-UP

2023 EVENT SUMMARY

**Another successful clean-up and weed pull event along the Rogue River from Hog Creek to Almeda is in the books!**

Number of volunteers that participated on May 20th: 155

Amount of trash recovered: 10 cubic yards (1/4 of a large dumpster)

Number of invasive plants removed: >1,000

Number of acres treated for invasive plants: 32

For more details about the event, including a list of sponsors, visit:

[www.stream-smart.com/rogue-river-clean-ups/](http://www.stream-smart.com/rogue-river-clean-ups/)

or click on the QR code in the lower right-hand corner.

**Thanks to all of our volunteers, partners, and sponsors for the support!**



# BEAR CREEK STEWARDSHIP DAY

**Volunteer!**  
Saturday  
September 16th  
9am–12pm

**BEAR CREEK  
STEWARDS** 

Join us in Central Point, Medford,  
Phoenix, Talent, or Ashland.

*Find the event closest to you at*

**[bearcreekstewards.org](http://bearcreekstewards.org)**

# DÍA DE LA ADMINISTRACIÓN DE BEAR CREEK

¡Voluntario!

Sábado  
16 de septiembre  
9am–12pm

**BEAR CREEK  
STEWARDS** 

Únase a nosotros en Central Point,  
Medford, Phoenix, Talent o Ashland.

*Encuentra el evento más cercano a ti en*

**[bearcreekstewards.org](http://bearcreekstewards.org)**





**Rogue Valley Council of Governments**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Lewis Conference Room/Zoom Webinar*

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Minutes from the meeting held June 28, 2023

**VOTING MEMBERS**

**Present:**

*President Jody Hathaway (ECSSO)*

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Carl Tappert (RVSS)*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Colleen Padilla (SOREDI)*

*Councilor Kelley Johnson (Central Point)*

*Board Member Eric Dziura (JCLD)*

*Board Member Bill Mansfield (RVTD)*

*Mayor Kathy Sell (Eagle Point)*

*Board Member Justin Bates (JCFLD 3)*

Councilor Bill Rigney (Gold Hill)

Councilor Valerie Lovelace (Grants Pass)

Commissioner Colleen Roberts (Jackson County)

Councilor Andrea Thompson (Jacksonville)

Councilor Jim Snyder (Phoenix)

Board Member Julie Raefield (RCC)

Mayor Pam VanArsdale (Rogue River)

Councilor Kathy Nuckles (Shady Cove)

**Absent:**

Councilor Bob Kaplan (Ashland)

Councilor Jean Ann Miles (Cave Junction)

Butte Falls Representative

Commissioner John West (Josephine County)

Board Member Jeanne Stallman (SOU)

Board Member Jill Smedstad (JSWCD)

Councilor Eric Stark (Medford)

Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood (Talent)

*Italics = Executive Committee*

**Non-Voting Members:**

Ian Horlacher (ODOT)

**RVCOG Staff:**

Ann Marie Alfrey, Executive Director

Connie Wilkerson, SDS Program Director

Kerstin Sachse, Administrative Specialist

**1. Call to Order/Attendance**

President Jody Hathaway called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**2. Introductions and Comments from Members/Public**

President Hathaway introduced and welcomed Kerstin Sachse as the new Administrative Specialist.

President Hathaway also mentioned that this is Board Member Eric Dziura's last meeting with his term ending the end of June. Ms. Alfrey presented a plaque to him and thanked Mr. Dziura for his service and support as a RVCOG Board Member and Member of the Executive Committee. Mr. Dziura reminded everyone that all staff of JCLD are eager to help and support the community.

**3. Action Items**

**A. Resolution 2023-04: Update of Authorized Signers on Agency Bank Accounts**

Ms. Alfrey presents Resolution 2023-04 and explained with this Resolution, signers on the Agency Bank Accounts will be tied to the title of the RVCOG staff instead of the name of the person, so if personnel change, the transition is easier. The bank will still need the personal information for each signer.

**MOTION:** Councilor Lovelace moved to approve Resolution 2023-04. Mayor Sell seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**4. Consent Agenda**

**A. *Meeting Minutes from May 24, 2023***

**MOTION:** Mayor VanArsdale moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Rigney seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **5. Presentation**

President Hathaway started off the meeting and presented a concern regarding the expansion of ECSO's radio equipment on Soda Mtn. The expansion of the current radio infrastructure which is crucial to the ECSO system is presenting itself with some obstacles. It is on BLM land, but it is also located within the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. Any changes on this site must go through Siskiyou National Monument and they are opposed to any changes. Furthermore, they would like the mountain top to revert to its natural habitat, which is not possible, since the presence has been established since 1986. Other opposing groups are Siskiyou Wilderness, which is not willing to meet, and in the past, Friends of Ashland. Mayor Kathy Sell commented that just because it is located within the Siskiyou National Monument, it does not mean it is a lush forest. The site is bare rock and has no vegetation.

Currently ECSO resides in a building owned by Jefferson Public Radio, which is open to other companies and not secure. This proposal will reduce the current footprint and will be aesthetically more pleasing. It also will combine ECSO, ODF, OSP and ODOT into one secured building. This project will increase communications between Fire Departments and Law agencies in the event of any emergency and will increase public safety. It also will expand communications into the Greensprings area, Pinehurst, Howard Prairie, Hyatt Lake resorts, and down I-5 into California.

The goal is to start building in the Spring of 2024. BLM is currently conducting a resource management plan update, and time is of the essence. BLM opened public comment and is accepting letters until August 9, 2023. An in-person hearing is scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 7pm at Abraham Lincoln Elementary, and a virtual hearing is scheduled on July 10<sup>th</sup>. President Hathaway is asking for letters of support from individuals, citizens, and on behalf of the represented agencies in support of that expansion. President Hathaway mentions a lot of Jackson County Commissioners, Fire Departments and Police Departments already issued letters in support. A lot of citizens of Greensprings, the environmental group 'Friends of Greensprings' and the Greensprings Fire Chief are also in favor of this project. With the Greensprings FD being the responsible agency for this area, it has been challenging not to be able to communicate with them. Please refer to the attached handout for more detailed information and pictures of the site.

Board Member Bill Mansfield asked if it would be appropriate for RVCOG to write a letter of support. Ms. Alfrey would like to issue a letter and asked if there is any opposition from the Board. It was agreed that RVCOG will issue a letter of support. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Padilla will also issue a letter of support from SOREDI. Ms. Alfrey will send out an email with talking points, links to the website and meeting, and pictures to all Board Members. Member Ian Horlacher (ODOT) inquired about support from ODOT being offered.

## **6. Reports**

### A. Executive Director's Report

#### RVCOG Staffing Update

RVCOG Executive Director Ann Marie Alfrey reported that two positions have been filled. Kerstin Sachse as the Administrative Specialist is already on board, and Adrian Modjeski will take over as the Human Resources and Administrative Services Director starting on July 10<sup>th</sup>. RVCOG is still working on filling the position of the Finance Director, two Service Coordinators for SDS, and one additional Associate Transportation Planner. All positions are posted on the website.

#### Food & Friends Endowment Investment Advice

Ms. Alfrey was not able to connect with Royal Stanley from Oregon Pacific Financial Advisors. She will follow up with him.

### Upcoming RVCOG Events

Ms. Alfrey shared that the upcoming events are now past since information went out prior to the meeting. Representatives from our Senior and Disability Services and Food & Friends Programs were at the Volunteer Fair 2023 and Pride '23 and reported that both events went very well.

### Financial Reports

Ms. Alfrey reported that the aged receivables are little over \$300,000, which is typical. The PDF was corrected since the monthly payment from the State of Oregon for AAA services was received after the report was generated. RVCOG is still working on training, cross training, and trying to fill gaps. Vacation season and one staff member being out on medical leave is making the situation more challenging.

## **7. Regional Update / Open Air**

City of Central Point – Councilor Kelley Johnson still working on Urban Growth Boundaries, trying to modify some Municipal Codes. They are also trying to implement the climate friendly State changes into the transportation planning. Everyone is excited about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events. Jackson County will be better to report on actual numbers of the Rogue Music Festival. Everything around the festival in regards of traffic and policing went very well and better than expected.

City of Jacksonville – Councilor Andrea Thompson spoke about Britt being in full swing with good mix of program. Jacksonville is still having difficulties hiring police officers and is currently contracting with JCSO on an hourly base to fill the gaps. Fireworks ban is in effect for 4<sup>th</sup> of July. A large fuel reduction program started today in Forest Park financed by a \$500K grant from the Office of State Fire Marshalls. Also upcoming is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Mayors Picnic.

City of Shady Cove – Councilor Kathy Nuckles reported that a budget is finally ready for council approval tomorrow. Shady Cove is seeing a dramatic increase in applications for short term rentals, which is widely opposed by citizens. The city ordinance might have to be updated regarding this matter. Councilor Nuckles reached out to the City Managers of Talent, Eagle Point and Gold Hill and has gotten very helpful information back, including what not to do. This response was very encouraging to her, and she thanked everyone for that.

Jackson County Fire District 3 – Deputy Chief Justin Bates reminded everyone that even though we had a wet Spring, Fire season is right around the corner. A recent fire up on Roxy Ann was close to the radio site. In preparation of fire season FD3 partnered with the City of Central Point and ODF for fuel reduction along the Bear Creek Greenway.

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) – Member Ian Horlacher reminded us that we are in construction season and asked for everyone to be aware of the workers. Also, the Rogue Valley was awarded a 21.6 million Dollar RAISE grant for Hwy99 between Glenwood Rd and Matt Loop. This will be a complete street approach including sidewalks, ADA ramps, bike lanes, and continues two-way left turn lanes, just to name a few. This will be coming up.

City of Gold Hill – Councilor Bill Rigney reported that there is a work session planned in regards of the homeless situation. The purpose is to gather input from the City of Medford and other agencies that are more experienced with this to know what options are available. Audits are finally caught up. On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, will be a vote by mail for the annexation of Gold Hill to RVSS. The City of Gold Hill also issued an intent to hire specific candidates for the new permanent city manager position. Mayor Palmer is asking if it would be possible to have a representative from CanDo Gold Hill on the RVCOG Board, since they are very involved in all public events. Ms. Alfrey pointed out that they would not be eligible for membership, but since these are public meetings, they are welcome to attend at any time. They could be added to the distribution list, and in case they want to report to the board, they could also request to be added to the agenda.

Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) – Board Member Bill Mansfield is delighted to announce route 17 is in effect. This is an intra city route for the City of Ashland, running between Bi-Mart and Helman Elementary School. This is the largest number of running routes in RVTD history. Even though this route is intra city, it is expected to add traffic to route 10, the main Medford to Ashland route. With the pandemic impacting ridership tremendously, numbers are finally climbing, and it is up 26% from last year.

Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Colleen Padilla kicked off her report with a staffing update. Since Terrill Roper has been promoted to loan program manager, the fifth position is now filled, and James Tablock has joined the team as the new business development manager. On Monday the SOREDI staff were able to witness the installation of three new tour boats on Crater Lake. These boats are manufactured by Katanacraft, the company that also runs Hellgate Jetboat Excursions, in Grants Pass. The boats were airlifted by helicopter onto Crater Lake, and it was spectacular to watch. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Colleen Padilla encourages taking the tour, which starts at the north end of Crater Lake.

Jackson County Library District (JCLD) – Board Member Eric Dziura reported that JCLD is also looking for a Finance Manager. The annual Library Manager evaluation is planned for later today, which concludes the events for the year. The very popular summer reading program is on the way, which usually involves hundreds or thousands of people of all ages. JCLD is partnering with the City of Medford, RVTD and RCC to help to work on the issues surrounding homelessness in the downtown area. Things seem to be improving as far as it is concerning the library. However, expenses are very high, with Medford having the biggest costs of all agencies. Estimated additional costs across all other agencies are an additional \$600,000 per year compared to pre-pandemic. Hopefully, the changes that the legislature made with Measure 110 and additional funds for housing will improve things over time. JCLD just contracted two new security guards for the Medford Library. The cost for both is \$280,000/year and hopefully with things improving it can be reduced to one security guard.

Rogue Valley Sewer Services – Board Member Carl Tappert referred to Councilor Bill Rigney’s earlier report in regards of the annexation vote for Gold Hill to join RVSS. They are already working on finances to be able to move as quickly as possible. It will still be a project running over several years to accomplish the 8-mile-long connection. The current Board of Directors is unique, with one board member being reelected for the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> term, but the remaining board members are new to this position.

City of Eagle Point – Mayor Kathy Sell reported that the newly hired Public Works Director is doing great and that they swore in the new Police Chief last night. The remaining time, everyone is focusing on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities. Currently there are 71 vendors and 45 parade participants signed up. Parade will start at 11am, the High School Stadium will be open in the evening for the fireworks show and everyone is looking forward to celebrating.

Jackson County – Commissioner Colleen Roberts reported that Fire Season is not around the corner, it is here. In mid-July, all three County Commissioners will attend the National Association of Counties Annual Conference to put in a Resolution about having perimeters around fires during fire season. Fire season makes a lot of times our area not safe and not livable and effects the economy badly. They will begin an after-action review for the Rogue Music Festival. From the operational standpoint, it was amazing, but it is not likely that it was a profitable event. Next event is the Jackson County Fair, which is expected to be financially successful. A lot of great talent will be performing, and the Fair Board will do an after-action report on both events once completed. Commissioner Roberts was very excited to be able to attend the National Rooster Crow Car Show & Parade in Rogue River and she will be attending the festivities in Eagle Point for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

City of Phoenix – Councilor Jim Snyder kicked off his report with an update on the Public Safety Building, which is coming along great. It is on schedule and on budget. It is currently in the framing stage. Also, the building Umpqua Bank moved into is currently being renovated by a company called

Northstar Veterinary Specialists, which will perform emergency services for animals including surgeries. On the outskirts, the property where Boise Cascade evacuated from, a company called Pacific Walls from Central Point is planning to move in. Once finished, they will start a new production line. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Colleen Padilla commented that PacWall found the perfect spot with the property in Phoenix and will consolidate operations, including operations from Washington. With this they will be bringing more of their assets and employment to Southern Oregon. The legislature also just passed to renew the enterprise zone with some caveats, which PacWall will be able to take advantage of for the next few years. Councilor Snyder mentioned that the staff meeting for July 3<sup>rd</sup> is cancelled. Recent article in the Rogue Valley Times focused on personnel problems due to staff burnout in Talent caused by the aftermath of the Almeda Fire. The City Manager will investigate the current situation in Phoenix.

Rogue Community College (RCC) – Board Member Julie Raefield reported numbers for the June 17<sup>th</sup> commencement; 479 students, adults and youth, graduated with associate degrees, 158 students graduated with one-year or more certificate program degrees and 45 students graduated with a GED. RCC serves students from every jurisdiction present, and it is amazing to see how many students are the first ones in their family to gain college experience. Over 45% of students at RCC are adults, 25 years and older, which means that their own children were able to attend and experience this. This will influence future generations. RCC is happy to announce that they got funded by the Oregon State Legislature. A total of 17 Community Colleges have asked for 855 million dollars plus a one-time \$50m dollar grant to keep recovering from the pandemic. The awarded amount was \$800m dollars, and this will stabilize the situation. In this package an increase was included to \$100m for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, which is the number one source for financial aid for low-income students. The total amount available for student grants is now up to over \$300m dollars. Board Member Julie Raefield also reports that Senate Bill 523 passed and allows Community Colleges to begin to offer Bachelor of Science: Nursing degrees. This will eventually help with the regional nursing crisis. This effects all community colleges statewide and is a great advancement for the nursing field. RCC continues to see a growth and recovery in their enrollment. Their greatest hope is for everyone to join President Webber in his mission to increase the college-going rate for every community in the Rogue Valley, which has one of the lowest rates in the state. Having opportunities to gain skills and degrees will ultimately lead to longer and more profitable careers and will lead to healthier communities in general. It is believed that for every dollar invested in higher education there is an approximate \$6 return over the course of their lifetime. The difference between a person with a High School Diploma and a person with an AA is approximately \$360,000.00 over the course of their 41-year career life. The message they are trying to spread is that investment in education has a real-life effect. Other exciting projects are the start of a fundraising project to revive the Rogue Bowl Amphitheater on the Redwood Campus in Grants Pass to be able to host fun events like the Britt. The kickoff event ‘Revive the Bowl’ last weekend was very well attended. Also, the Redwood Campus received a federal congressionally directed spending amount to renovate an old science building into a new Allied Health building. This will allow Grants Pass to offer the same programs as they are offered in White City for Dental Assisting, CNA, and much more. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Colleen Padilla also pointed out that in the earlier mentioned enterprise zone renewal, one of the caveats was, that with certain long-term projects in the enterprise zone, it may be negotiated that the company must pay back some of the property tax losses and that these may go back to community colleges or schools.

City of Rogue River – Mayor Pam VanArsdale kicked off her report by mentioning that RCC is still looking for a Board Member and Board Member Raefield confirmed that they are currently taking applications. This position is for Zone 3, which includes Rogue River, Gold Hill, Central Point and Sam’s Valley and is an interim position for a 2-year term. The 70<sup>th</sup> Annual National Rooster Crow Contest was a great event with great weather. The City Council is continuing to update ordinances and policies. In the early 90’s a no-skate zone was established downtown. With the request of private property owners to be included in the zone, a map was created. This will be cleaned up, but there will still be skating and bicycling rules in effect. The Yard Sale Permit will be eliminated. The fee was to help people understand the rules. The cost was much higher than the benefits. There will still be rules to be followed, but it will be complaint-driven instead. Also, the City of Rogue River will finally develop a

social media policy. RRPD has their own social media presence, but now the city will have one of their own.

City of Grants Pass – Councilor Valerie Lovelace reported that Grants Pass is making policy changes and adjustments to their codes that are in connection with the homeless situation. Currently Grants Pass is under a court injunction that goes back to a class action suit from the unhoused. Grants Pass lost the lawsuit and appealed and is currently under a court injunction that allows people to rest in parks. Since the appeal was not unanimous, it gives them the opportunity to ask the court system to open it up to eleven judges. The last communication was in November/December of 2022. The timeline given was January/February of 2023, but no new information is available at this point. This is keeping their hands tied and Grants Pass is trying to work within the injunction. However, the citizens of Grants Pass are eager to access their parks safely. After having the murder of one homeless person by another, Riverside Park was closed. After Boatnik, the park was kept closed until new ordinances were in place for acceptable and unacceptable behavior, as well as buffer zones around playgrounds and splash pads. On the East side of Riverside Park, where the playground and splash pad are located, no tents or structures are allowed, however they are allowed on the west side. In all other parks buffer zones were created. Current buffer zones are 50ft around playgrounds and splash pads and 20ft from sidewalks, walkways and around buildings. Councilor Lovelace is concerned about the public safety funding. The current amounts are \$4.13 city-wide and a levy in the amount of \$1.79. This has not increased since 2010. All efforts to create a Fire District or increasing funds have been repeatedly blocked by the voters and this creates a problem in trying to provide adequate services. The city cannot continue if things are not changing. The Police Department is losing officers with all the ongoing funding cuts and is dependent on the levy. Just to retain the police officers, the levy would have to be increased from \$1.79 to \$3.60. The City of Grants Pass will start off with a fee on the water bill, as well as a levy, and are asking for input from other communities that have a public safety fee or parks maintenance fee in place. It is expected that people will not be happy with one or the other. Information from other communities will help Grants Pass to sell this measure to the public. Especially with the current situation with the unhoused population, you do not want to lose your police force. Recently Grants Pass lost two Firefighters to Medford due to the instability of the department. With the difficulties to recruit new police officers or firefighters, Grants Pass is truly in a crisis, and it must be communicated to the public, that if they want services, income must be created. Councilor Snyder shares that the City of Phoenix does have a \$2 and a \$3 fee on the water bill to support public safety and that they are working great. Councilor Lovelace reports that just 9% of the property in Josephine County is taxable and that poses a lot of difficulties to be able to raise the necessary funds. Councilor Lovelace ends with the positive information that the celebrations for the community on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July are still in place with fireworks, music, and food trucks. Also, there has been interest in the Flying Lark that was built by Travis Boersma at the Fairgrounds and hopefully there will be an announcement soon to inform everyone what is going to happen with the building.

#### **8. Other Business**

There was no other business noted.

#### **9. Agenda Build**

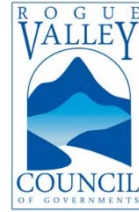
No recommendations were offered.

#### **10. Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting is scheduled at noon on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, with no meeting in July.

#### **Adjournment:**

President Hathaway adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m.



## Board Meeting Agenda – Executive Director’s Report

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**Meeting Date:** August 23, 2023      **Staff Contact:** Ann Marie Alfrey  
**Department:** Administration

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### **RVCOG Staffing Update**

While we did successfully add two fantastic members to our admin team, we are still short a Finance Director, and have had a finance staff member out on leave since the end of June. Financial services have been a challenge, especially with the fiscal year closing on June 30<sup>th</sup>. With this in mind, there are not only no financial reports to be presented due to transactions that still need to be posted, but there is also nothing further to report from the Executive Director’s desk. The Board’s understanding is appreciated.

Our current openings can be found on our website at <https://rvcog.org/how-do-i/apply-for-a-job/>. The following positions are open:

- Finance Director, Administration
- Service Coordinator, Senior and Disability Services
- Assistant or Associate Transportation Planner, Planning