

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

Minutes from the meeting being held September 24, 2025

VOTING MEMBERS

Present:

1st Vice President John Quinn (RVSS)
2nd Vice President Pam VanArsdale (Rogue River)
Councilor Kelley Johnson (Central Point)
Mayor Kathy Sell (Eagle Point)
Councilor Andrea Thompson (Jacksonville)
Councilor Mike Smeltz (Butte Falls)
Mayor Ronald Palmer (Gold Hill)
Commissioner Colleen Roberts (Jackson County)

Board Member Marta Tarantsey (JCLD)
Board Member Trevor Morris (JSWCD)
Councilor Zac Smith (Medford)
Board Member Jonathan Bilden (RCC)
Mayor Lena Richardson (Shady Cove)
Board Member Blair Sundell (SORED)
Board Member Marc Overbeck (SOU)
Councilor Eleanor Ponomareff (Talent)

Absent:

President Jody Hathaway (ECSSO)
Board Member Bill Mansfield (RVTD)
Councilor Eric Hansen (Ashland)
Mayor Jesse Dugas (Cave Junction)

Councilor Victoria Marshall (Grants Pass)
Fire Chief Mike Hussey (JCFD 3)
Josephine County Representative
Mayor Al Muelhoefer (Phoenix)

Italics = Executive Committee

Non-Voting Members:

RVCOG Staff:

Ann Marie Alfrey, Executive Director
Sebastian Viteri, Finance Director
Adrian Modjeski, HR & Admin Services Director

Jon Pfefferle, Nutrition Program Director
Kerstin Sachse, Administrative Coordinator

1. Call to Order/Attendance

1st Vice President John Quinn called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

2. Introductions and Comments from Members/Public

Brief introductions of new members were made.

3. Presentation

Rogue Valley Food System Network, Alison Hensley Sexauer, Executive Director and Sheila Foster, Economic Development Director.

4. Action Items

A. Resolution #2025-05, Update of Authorized signers on Agency Bank Accounts

MOTION: 1st Vice President John Quinn moved to approve the Resolution #2025-05. Board Member Zac Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Permission to apply for City of Medford's General Fund Grant Program for Food & Friends Meals on Wheels and Senior Meals Program

MOTION: 1st Vice President John Quinn moved to approve the Action Item. 2nd Vice President Pam VanArsdale seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously

5. Consent Agenda

A. Meeting Minutes from August 27, 2025

MOTION: 1st Vice President John Quinn moved to approve the meeting minutes from August 27, 2025, as written. Board Member Marta Tarantsey seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a majority with Marc Overbeck abstaining from the vote due to not being present at the meeting.

6. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

Food & Friends Kitchen

The purchase of the former Public Works Facility is going through the process with the City of Central Point. A Phase I Environmental Review might be necessary due to prior use. We are currently working in a 90-day due diligence window. The agreement is on the agenda for the council for tomorrow. ORW is contracted to create as-built drawings for building changes for the kitchen and TRIO Community Meals is working on designing the kitchen in regards of the equipment. A request to stay at ACCESS until June 30, 2026, was confirmed. ACCESS still has the option of a 6-month cancellation notice.

SB3395

RVCOG is continuing with building code updates. DLCD is expected to communicate new updates to codes soon. The SOREDI Workforce Housing Survey is planned by SOREDI with funding from Jackson Care Connect. The results are planned to be shared with RVCOG once available and should help to identify current barriers. Some of the funding was used to launch a grant program to provide accessibility home modifications and repairs centered around low-income individuals.

Non-member Dues

For non-members it was agreed to add 10% to the loaded rate charge. It was confirmed that other COGs use the same model. Additional expenses and travel expenses would be charged separately if necessary.

Audit

Preliminary Financials are available. Last Fiscal Year is still in the review process. The Audit is scheduled for late October.

7. Regional Update / Open Air

City of Medford – Councilor Zac Smith started his report with the information about the Transportation Safety Action Plan Open House at Rogue X on October 2nd. New guided park tours with the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director are a walk and talk event. A Night of Heros Family Dance will be held at Rogue X. The City Council approved more funding for local programs and facilities. Since 2020 over \$5.7 million were awarded including support for youth, seniors, Downtown Medford, and Fire Station 15. The construction of Fire Station 15 is underway. Crews are currently housed in temporary facilities, but there is no service interruption. The Jackson Park Revitalization Grant was approved. This is a state funded grant that will be used for upgrades including a splash pad. The Multi-Cultural Fair will be held on Saturday at Pear Blossom Park.

Southern Oregon Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI) – Executive Director Blair Sundell briefly introduced himself and added that the survey for employers in regards of the workforce housing will be available later this year.

Jackson County Library District (JCLD) – Board Member Marta Tarantsey informed everyone that Back to School is wrapping up in September. October's message for the library is 'Get registered to vote'. An online survey and four town halls throughout the region are being used to prepare the launch of the next strategic plan. Approval is targeted for June 2026.

Two organizations in Jackson and Josephine County received significant funding from the Child Care Infrastructure Fund. Third funding round will be opening soon. Resubmission is encouraged. TA grant funding for housing infrastructure planning is available. No applications were received during the last round. The Business Oregon website has more information available.

City of Shady Cove – Mayor Lena Richardson reported that they are still working on transitions within the council and they are hopeful to have a full council soon.

City of Eagle Point – Mayor Kathy Sell started her report with the information that the city council approved the annexation of an 89-acre parcel. The development of three new pickleball courts were approved and the contracts were signed.

City of Rogue River – Mayor Ron Palmer shared that Senator Ron Wyden helped to receive a \$6 million grant to support the RVSS pipeline. Senator Noah Robinson visited and met with Lily Morgan to discuss infrastructure. The Brown Bag event is coming up, which is always a great place for collaboration with other Mayors. Alek Skarlatos is planning on visiting next month.

Jackson County – Commissioner Colleen Roberts had nothing to report.

Town of Butte Falls – Board Member Mike Smeltz shared that the SEEDS project for the community forest is moving forward, and contract positions were approved. Within this grant some positions in Butte Falls were able to be elevated from 0.5 FTE to 0.75 FTE. With the change of weather, hopefully the burning of the fuel reduction piles can be scheduled soon. A possible railroad excursion in collaboration with SO Railroad is still being developed. The town has negotiated an improved contract package for the police department, and this will hopefully help retain current employees.

City of Rogue River – Mayor Pam VanArsdale started her report with the information that the Reservoir project is scheduled to go out for bid in October. The School District and LaClinica have built a new facility together and is offering medical and behavioral health services to all children in the Rogue River School District. This building also houses an additional Head Start facility. This enables them to offer an infant program next to their regular preschool program.

City of Talent – Councilor Eleanor Ponomareff shared that city council has approved the request for qualifications for the Gateway site and the project is moving forward. This project will include some workforce housing and some small-scale commercial opportunities. The Harvest Festival is coming up on October 4th.

Southern Oregon University (SOU) – Board Member Marc Overbeck started his report with the information that the Campus Masterplan is moving forward and the first week of school is on its way. The City of Ashland continues to support the senior living facility on the campus of SOU. The Board of Trustees approved the Resilience Plan. Public universities have changed over the years and are an important factor to secure valuable education for students. States with better higher education have better economic vitality. Budget cuts are being worked on to be more sustainable in the future.

Rogue Valley Sewer Services (RVSS) – 1st Vice President John Quinn reported that RVSS is signing contracts for a solar system for their shop facility. Some solar options are being used for pump stations from the Gold Hill annexation. The UV system for the water treatment plant in Shady Cove is doing great. Mayor Ron Palmer is joining the RVSS Board starting in October.

8. Other Business

No other business was noted.

9. Agenda Build

RVCOG Lifelong Housing presentation is scheduled for October or December meeting.

10. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for noon on Wednesday, October 22, 2025.

Adjournment:

1st Vice President John Quinn adjourned the meeting at 1:24 pm.