



September 10, 2002

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TO: Oregon Progress Board

FROM: Jeffrey Tryens  
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SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

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### Highlights

- 2002 Oregon Population Survey wrapping up data collection phase.
- Board staff to participate in Oregon Business Council regional meetings to shape new business plans.
- 45 state agencies submit performance measures for early review.
- *Ten Ideas* report designed to spur debate on new approaches to improving agency performance and accountability.

### Administration

#### Board and Staff

Summer interns Katie DeWilde and Fernando Rojas have headed back to school. Both made significant contributions during their brief tenures. Jeff is hopeful that at least one intern will be on-board soon for the fall semester.

#### Budget

While nothing is final regarding the legislature's latest attempt to rebalance the state budget, Jeff is preparing for another round of general fund revenue reductions. Because the Board had its own legislative appropriation last session, it would be subject to the Governor's across the board cut that was announced two weeks ago. An additional \$39,000 in cuts or additional revenues will have to be found. No additional staff reductions are anticipated.

## **Program**

(Goals and objectives listed below are from the Board's 2001 - 03 work plan adopted in September.)

### **Goal 1: Maintain and Enhance *Oregon Shines* as the State's Strategic Vision**

#### **Objective 1.1: Improve the quality and accessibility of benchmarks.**

##### **Project 1.1A - Biennial Benchmark Performance Report**

Jeff will discuss plans for the biennial report at the September Progress Board meeting. Board members will be asked to set target for the hunger, recidivism and emergency preparedness benchmarks and, possibly, consider additional changes to environmental benchmark definitions. (Three articles on hunger are included in Board packet.)

##### **Project 1.1B & 1.1C - 2002 Oregon Population Survey**

Northwest Research Group, Inc., the consultant conducting the 2002 "Pop Survey," has wrapped up most of the fieldwork for the survey. Remaining calls are aimed at filling out the numbers for the race and ethnicity augment. Board members should expect a presentation on the results by the consultant at the November Progress Board meeting.

##### **Project 1.1D & 1.1E - Race & Ethnicity Report and Health Data**

Staff is working to complete the biennial benchmark report on race and ethnicity for an October release. Lacking a data analyst, Jeff and Rita are having a great time learning the ins and outs of gathering data from the U.S. Census and state agency partners.

The race and ethnicity health data group has not met since the last executive director's report

##### **Project 1.1F - 2002 Ready-to-Learn Survey**

Nothing new to report.

##### **Project 1.1G - SOER Data and Targets**

Oregon State University (OSU) School of Forestry Dean Hal Salwasser is working up a report to the Board on recommended changes in the Board flora and fauna related benchmarks. Hal is hoping to have the report in time for the Board's September meeting.

#### **Objective 1.2: Develop action agendas for selected benchmarks.**

##### **Project 1.2A - Action Agendas**

Willamette University's Tom Hibbard and Jerry Gray have developed a first cut at an analysis of labor force changes during the 1990s. This project, first approved by the Board nearly a year ago, is designed to answer the question "How has Oregon done in creating 'the best educated and trained workforce in the U.S.?'?" Board member Duke Shepard has agreed to work with Jeff on this project.

#### **Objective 1.3: Improve Oregon's ability to measure sustainability.**

##### **Project 1.3A - Sustainability Index**

Ed Whitelaw and Diane Snyder met with author Adam Zimmerman to discuss concerns the Board had about the sustainability index that was presented at the July meeting. All agreed that indices, by their very nature, are prone to oversimplify complex issues and can paint vastly different pictures of an issue based on the amount of weight indicators are given relative to one another. Adam will

provide staff with the spreadsheets he used to create the indices to allow for further refinement of the index approach in the future.

Oregon's new Sustainability Board will hold its first meeting in September. Jeff will contact Board chair Greg Wolf about sharing the index project work with Sustainability Board members.

### **Other**

Jeff and Rita will participate in the Oregon Business Council's regional meetings to develop a new Oregon Business Plan. They are preparing the data on the four Ps that Duncan Wyse discussed at the last Progress Board meeting – People, Place, Productivity and Pioneering Innovation. Data on these issues will set the stage at the regional meetings on where Oregon business leaders think the state needs to go from here.

The Oregon Business Council, partnering with the Oregon AFL-CIO, will conduct the Oregon Values and Beliefs survey this fall, as well. This project will provide the Progress Board with valuable information on what Oregonians care about and how those values have changed since the last survey in 1992.

## **Goal 2: Mobilize Partners to Help Achieve Benchmark Targets**

### **Objective 2.1: Increase state agency use of benchmarks.**

#### **Project 2.1.A - Performance Guidelines**

In conjunction with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Performance Measure Review Work Group, Rita and Jeff continue to review and critique state agency performance measures. A total of 45 agencies submitted their measures for early (before budget submission) review. Most are still in process, taking advantage of the early feedback. Measures from about 60 agencies were not received prior to their budget submission. The subcommittee will review and comment on those in upcoming weeks.

#### **Projects 2.1B & 2.1C - Agency Performance Frameworks**

##### **Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) project:**

This project is complete.

##### **Economic and Community Development Department:**

This project is complete. Jeff is encouraging the Department to assess how effectively the regional investment boards are carrying out the Department's new requirements to identify and report on quantifiable results.

#### **Project 2.1C - Performance Training for Agencies**

On August 14, Rita provided a three-hour training on performance measurement to managers from the Department of Education. Jeff also provided guidance for the state's workforce development group regarding an employer investment indicator.

#### **Project 2.1D - 2003 Benchmark Blue Book**

Nothing new.

## **Project 2.1E and 2.1F - Legislative Requests**

Nothing new.

## **Objective 2.2: Broaden benchmark usage by partners.**

### **Project 2.2A - 2002 County Data Book**

The newest update of the *2002 County Data Book* was recently posted at:

<http://www.econ.state.or.us/opb/01CoData/01CoData.htm>.

### **Project 2.2B - SB555 Reports (Local Comprehensive, Coordinated Planning for Children and Families):**

Nothing new to report.

### **Project 2.2C - Oregon State of the Environment Report 2000 Outreach**

Nothing new to report.

### **Project 2.2D - Library Consortium Project**

The informal steering committee for this project met with project manager and University of Oregon Reference Librarian Jim Stave to review progress to date. By the end of the year, a website should be up and running that will point to web-based data on local data that is generated at the state or federal level. The sites will be organizing into topic areas and accompanied by a brief synopsis. Jim is applying for an additional grant to move toward developing new sources of information that are not already on the web.

### **Project 2.2E - Local Partner Requests**

Jeff met with members of the Oregon Commission on Voluntary Action and Service to help them better understand the Volunteerism Benchmark and to discuss how that could better hold themselves accountable for planning to achieve the 2005 Benchmark target. Also, Jeff will meet with staff and directors of the newly formed Oregon Technology Alliance to discuss how that group could better use the Oregon Shines' recommendations to support its cause.

Jeff provided training on performance measurement to the staff of the Portland Development Commission, Housing Department and the N/NE Economic Development Alliance, Housing Focus Group, both in Portland.

Local partners, representing the Lane County Board of Commissioners and the North/Northeast Economic Development Alliance, Inc., will participate on a panel at the September Progress Board meeting. They will share their perspectives with the Board regarding support for local benchmark projects.

### **Project 2.2F - Oregon Solutions Network Requests**

Nothing new to report

### **Project 2.2G - SB555 Technical Assistance**

The Oregon Commission on Children and Families is employing former Progress Board consultant Mady Kimmich to train key state staff people in helping counties deal with the issues of measuring progress towards benchmarks and other county priorities. Rita is working with an ad hoc group at the

Department of Human Services to ensure consistent logic model expectations of counties across the many programs of this sprawling agency.

**Other**

Publication of Fernando Rojas' *Ten Ideas for Improving Oregon State Government Performance and Accountability* should provide useful fodder for policymakers interested in long-term solutions to fixing the state's on-going budget crisis.

**Goal 3: Build More Public Awareness of Oregon Shines and Benchmarks**

**Objective 3.1 Increase public knowledge of Oregon Shines and benchmarks.**

**Project 3.1A - Periodic Reports**

**Press events:**

No press events.

**Media coverage during the past two months:**

No Board coverage.

**Project 3.1B - County Data and Benchmark Trend Presentations**

Benton County Board of Commissioners, Corvallis.

**Project 3.1C - Website Upgrade**

An updated version of the *2002 County Data Book* was posted the first week of September. The Benchmark Master is re-posted periodically to reflect new data points, wording and targets.

Website hits:

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
April	6,301	**
May	7,988	16,044
June	6,539	9,061
August	6,494	6,733

\*\*Due to an Employment Department computer "glitch" website hits for April 2001 are not available.

**Objective 3.2: Provide advice and guidance to others.**

**Project 3.2A – Health Outcomes Study**

The Milbank Memorial Fund distributed copies of the new report on health outcomes by Howard Leichter and Jeff to health policymakers and analysts in Oregon and around the nation. The report on Milbank's website, as well. Jeff plans to publicly announce the availability of the report later this month.

**Project 3.2B – Assist Visiting Delegations**

Jeff and Rita presented to two sessions of the US-China Sustainable Land Use Training on July 30 and August 12. Rita provided an orientation to visitors from the University of Rome on July 31 and from Poland on September 9.

**Project 3.2C – Cooperate with Oregon Shines’ Researchers**

Nothing new.

**Other**

During the past two months, staff made the following presentations:

2002 Change Agent Training and Leadership Strategies (CATaLySt) program, Portland; Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action & Service, Portland; Ford Scholars Summer Conference, Sunriver.

Staff also participated in the following other meetings; Progress Board Executive Board, Portland; State Lands Division, Performance Measure; Performance Measure Review Committee; Governor’s Drug & Violent Crime Advisory Board; SB555 Steering Committee; Data for Local Communities Advisory Group; Oregon Business Plan, People Policy Team, Portland; International Scholars Program on Sustainability, Eugene; Performance Measure Review Committee; Results-Orientated Management & Accountability; Performance Measure Review Committee; Oregon Business Council Board of Directors, Portland; SB555 Steering Committee.

**Goal 4: Provide high quality services to all stakeholders.**

**Objective 4.1 Communicate regularly with stakeholders regarding quality.**

**Project 4.1A: Participate in customer satisfaction survey**

The Oregon Economic and Community Development Department has agreed to include the Progress Board in its 2002 customer satisfaction survey. Thanks to Deputy Director Sherry Sheng for making this happen.

**Project 4.1B: Survey Legislators and Staff**

No change.

**Project 4.1C: Survey Meeting Participants**

Rita will review the evaluations by state agency trainees at the September Progress Board meeting.

Enclosures