Community Connector Meetings, Projects, and Events

Take Action Lincoln County (TALC) 2026 Communications & Planning

Today, Stacie and I carpooled to Siletz Community Center to meet CTSI's AJ and Andy to set up the duties and timelines for the 2026 TALC website. A huge thank you goes out to CTSI for splitting the TALC project costs with EDALC this year! It's an honor to partner on the 3rd year of this effort, which has connected multiple individuals, organizations, and businesses to support (and attend) CTSI's Annual Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow on Government Hill.

RCBC Group Funding Exploration with Kelley Nonprofit Consulting (KNC)

The RCBC learned that we made the finalist cut for the New Pluralists grant KNC applied for in December (top 45 out of over 250 applicants!). After that news, I'm working on scheduling a meeting early next week with RCBC & KNC teams to talk about the next grant writing and info gathering step.

RCBC February 18 Meeting Agenda planning

In addition to the RCBC work above, I've been emailing Max Gimbel and others to set up and send out the meeting agenda for our first 2026 RCBC meeting. Max agreed to speak to the new priority shifts at The Ford Family Foundation, and I look forward to learning more with a Q&A session with our group.

Cape Perpetua Collaborative (CPC) Annual Partners Meeting Activity: Collaborative Continuum Pilot Project Data processing

While I'm still compiling all the collaborative data shared during the Collaborative Continuum Activity, it was incredibly inspiring to see and hear the positive feedback on the concept and activity from the full room of partners. The optional pre-meeting field trip on the Yachats Trolley was also a huge hit, as was the post-meeting happy hour, hosted generously by Restaurant Ona. Thank you to Michelle Korgan and her Restaurant Ona team for contributing the space and the delicious food to reward the CPC partners for their contributions to CPC and the Land and Sea connections all along the Oregon Coast.

Click here to see the full Partners Meeting slide show (including the pilot activity introduction & details on slides 19-28).

Cape Perpetua Collaborative Land & Sea Symposium Success

Last Friday's Land & Sea Symposium, "Cape Perpetua for All," was a success on many fronts. Robert Kentta from CTSI and Jesse Beers from CTCLUSI opened up the event with action-oriented and educational Land Acknowledgements. This community-first dual presentation alone was an honor to witness in person. The capacity-maxed event attendees enjoyed abundant (and incredible) food, as well as presentations, fundraisers, and films that raised laughter, cheers, and even verklempt tears from the large audience. All evening and afterwards, the CPC and support team heard that this year's event was head and shoulders above all previous years. For those unable to join, click here for the live stream recording on YouTube. For the last two films screened (that caused wide ranges of emotional responses from the audience):

Click here for "Reclaiming the Coast: A Journey of Discovery and Belonging."
Click here for "What We Lost Along the Way"

Cheers to Talaina King for her work, not only on last week's successful and inspiring events, but also for her extraordinary first year as Executive Director of Cape Perpetua Collaborative! Cheers also to CPC's staff, board members, partner organizations, volunteers, donors, artists, businesses, and supporters, who all make CPC the Central Oregon Coast anchor for coastwide Land to Sea education, inspiration, collaboration, and celebration.

Winter Waters/Oregon Ocean Cluster Seafood Speakeasy

As a last-minute opportunity shared by CPC partner, Alanna Kieffer (of Oregon Marine Reserves, Winter Waters, and Shifting Tides), Talaina King and I traveled to Portland to attend the Blue Food's Forum Seafood Speakeasy. Not only was the carpool time a wonderful way to relive and debrief the CPC events of the previous nights, but enjoying the beverages, food, art, and networking that have up-spiraled after years of Oregon Ocean Cluster (and all previous names thereof) collaborations throughout Oregon. James Beard-nominated Chef and Siletz Member, Jack Strong worked alongside Siletz School Culinary students on live food demos. Siletz Culinary students also opened Oysters and OoNee Urchins alongside tabling chefs. The networking conversations were too numerous to list concisely here, but I'm excited that this event will catalyze new Blue Economy collaborations and conversations in 2026 and the years ahead. See event photos and re-cap here!

OCCC Bond Oversight Committee Meeting

This committee gathered Monday afternoon at the Newport campus to review the most recent project updates, including drafts of the OCATT Building, current budgets, contingency fund plans, timelines, and more. Click here for the meeting slideshow prepared by project leads, Integrity Management Solutions, LLC.

City of Newport Sustainable Destination Plan Committee Meeting and Dinner

As an enthusiastic committee member representing EDALC (and many other past careers and passions that intersect with hospitality, tourism, and experiential education), I enjoyed participating in Tuesday's in-person meeting led by project consultant, Kristin of Crosscurrent Collective. We reviewed the stakeholder feedback gathered and provided feedback on the plan draft. Paul and I also joined the City of Newport's Willow Ryon and Kristin for a dinner meeting at Sorella's so Kristin could learn more about our organization, origin stories, and passions for the many intersections between Tourism, Rural Community Building, and Economic Development.