



# Harney County Economic Development

Minutes  
Community Response Team  
Wednesday November 7, 2018

**Attendees:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Dennis Davis-Community Member                | Jen Hoke-Harney District Hospital             |
| George Heinz-Restoration Collaborative, CiNA | Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling            |
| Tracy Kennedy-Burns Paiute Tribe             | Deanna Thrall-Symmetry Care                   |
| Lynn McClintock-High Desert Parks and Rec.   | Scott Fairley-Business Oregon                 |
| Martha Corrigan-Symmetry Care                | Charley Tracy-OTEC                            |
| Judy Erwin-City of Hines                     | Tony Hackett-Downright Drilling               |
| Dauna Wensenk-City of Burns                  | Patty Dorroh- Harney County Court             |
| Ashley Tiller-Symmetry Care                  | Angela Lamborn-HC Senior & Community          |
| Pete Runnels-HC Judge                        | Chantel Sheets-DHS-SSP                        |
| Kathy Rementeria-DHS                         | Jorden Sheeley-High Desert Partnership        |
| Aaron Gagnon-USFS                            | Zelly-Community Member                        |
| Jen Keady-Family Eye Care                    | Jim Campbell-Community Member                 |
| Denise Rose-HC Economic Development          | Greg Smith-Harney County Economic Development |

1. **Greg Smith** welcomed the group and called the meeting to order.
2. **Old Business:** October meeting minutes were provided via email. It was moved and seconded to approve minutes. All voted in favor.
3. **New Business:**

**A. Regular Reports**

**City of Hines, Judy Erwin-**the older water tower will be taken offline for repairs. A new business has purchased the lot next to the Hines Post Office and plans to build a laundromat and with several spaces for small business rentals.

**Harney County Court, Pete Runnels-** The Brownfield evaluation contract was signed with Cardno. The work will begin by identifying business sites and looking at three properties already identified. The county court agreed to start the Certified Local Government application process and the county received many compliments on the efficiency of the recent election process.

**Burns Paiute Tribe, Tracy Kennedy-**Tracy is the Tribal Economic Development Coordinator and she noted that she is currently working under a three-year grant. The initial efforts from her office will include addressing the downtown building owned by the tribe. Currently vacant, the Tribal Council is hoping to use the space as a tourism and cultural presence on the main street. Goals

include making the building sound and modifying the interior to meet a variety of needs. They plan to have this project completed by April 2020. The tribe has closed on the purchase of the armory building in Burns, which they hope to turn into a wellness center.

**City of Burns, Dauna Wensenk** –The Washington Park restroom project has been permitted and will proceed when weather permits. The airport repair project is complete and fuel tank and engineering grants are in. Abatement on Adams has been taken care of. Grants are being sought for both fire and police departments for safety and protective equipment.

**Business Oregon, Scott Fairley** –He is working on several financing processes and offered appointment times for the next day with Paul Zollner, the Business Financial Officer for our region.

**Harney County Economic Development, Greg Smith** – The director outlined the Department of Revenue process being pursued in order to assist High Desert Bio Mass. Judge Runnels added comments describing the potential growth of this service. Greg also reminded the group to look for the business advice column in the Burns Times-Herald each month. The solicitation letters continue to go out at the end of the month. **Greg asked the group to take some time at the December meeting to brainstorm and identify one priority project for the county to request funding in the next biennium. Please bring ideas to the next meeting.** He also outlined the process for serving Harney County while he is in legislative session next year. The intention is to be present in the county twice a month and to arrange technology for video conferencing in order to have client face to face time.

## **B. Other Reports:**

**BizHarney:** Jordan Sheely reported that the entrepreneurial ecosystem map is almost complete, and they are getting ready for an outreach meeting in February.

### **Progress reports on work topics:**

Patty Dorroh announced that the Housing Roadmap presentation by Susan Christensen of GEODC would be at the December meeting. **(Housing)**

Jen Keady reported that the small business committee was focusing on revitalizing the main street group. They will begin by setting up a more formal structure. They have several subcommittees which will be reporting to the CRT in the future. **(Small Business Support)**

A discussion was held regarding the progress made with the committees and how to keep the momentum going. General agreement was that the chairs could set up meetings with Denise to develop a game plan and reminder system that works for their group. January CRT meeting was suggested for setting metrics and timelines. The general consensus was that this is how the group should proceed.

### C. Small Business Financing presentations

1. Director Greg Smith outlined the state entities who support SBDC in Harney County:



2. Scott Fairley provided material about the financing programs through Business Oregon. They offer both community and business development so are able to help cities and county projects too. Highlighted programs included:

- Government contracting assistance program
- A checklist of how to start a business in Oregon
- Consulting services to businesses who are at a sticking point and need help “getting over a hump”

3. Greg Smith discussed private financing options, but also mentioned:

- Greater Eastern Oregon Development Center who provide intermediary re-lending to cities and businesses, generally up to 75% of the project. They can refinance debt and offer inventory financing, but the applicant needs to partner with a bank or have been turned down for financing.
- Easter Oregon Business Development Fund-no strings loans from the Port of Morrow to support businesses in their region. They loan to cities, electric cooperatives, businesses, schools, and health entities.

#### **Other Comments for the Benefit of the Community**

- As a follow up to the discussion about committees, it was agreed that these comments should be moved the report-out section of the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM. The next meeting will be December 5, 2018 at 5:30 PM.