



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes Community Response Team Tuesday August 6, 2019

Attendees:

Patty Dorroh- Harney County Commissioner	Kathy Rementeria-DHS, Volunteer Services
Representative Lynn Findley-Oregon District 60	Rick Paul-Community Member
George Heinz-CiNA	Jerry Staley-BioDynamics of Oregon
Lynn McClintock-High Desert Parks & Rec.	Amber Wares-Symmetry Care
Kirby Letham-City of Hines Administrator	Tonya Fox-TEC
Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling	Arik Swindlehurst-Worksource Oregon
Judy Erwin- Burns City Council	Jamie Attleberger-Community Member
David Sneddon-City of Burns Manager	Jen Hoke-Harney District Hospital
Curt Blackburn-Jett Blackburn Real Estate	Diane Slater-Serendipity Books and Gifts
Mason Watson-Hines Pine Mill House B&B	Scott Nielson-Your Small Town
Johnny Mims-Community Member	Paul Sweany-Your Small Town
Greg Smith- HC Economic Development Director	Galena Drobit-Your Small Town
Denise Rose-HC Economic Development	Eddie Alves-Treasure Valley Community College

- Greg Smith** welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. Brief introductions were made around the table.
- Old Business:** June meeting minutes were provided via the website with email reminders. By general agreement, there were no changes or additions to the minutes.
- New Business:**

A. Regular Reports:

City of Burns-Judy Erwin, City Counselor introduced the new **City of Burns Manager-David Sneddon**. He mentioned the city has contracted with Granite Construction for paving projects within the city and they are in the learning stages with airport waterflow and well capacity.

City of Hines, Kirby Letham- Roe Davis paving project is complete and there are more paving projects planned. West Ridge Development is moving forward on schedule and planned to be complete in late fall. The laundromat had a brief delay trying to get a sheetrock contractor on site, but they are on track again and very close to opening. The water system surveyers are active in the community and Kirby alerted residents that they may see workers in their neighborhood easements and alleys. Kirby learned at a recent SEACT (South East Area Commission on Transportation) meeting that an experimental foam based product was applied to a road in the Drewsy area instead of the hot oil. Kirby then introduced Jerry Staley of Biodynamics of Oegon, the new Hines pellet mill.

Jerry commented that they are not on schedule at this time due to an issue with DEQ and inspections. They had planned to be operational by the first of October.

Harney County Court, Commissioner Patty Dorroh- The Workforce Housing Roadmap is complete and Commissioner Dorroh will be presenting the results to the cities over the next month. She hopes to share the report at an upcoming CRT meeting as well. The Eastern Oregon Workforce Board is in a strategic planning process. She attended the Eastern Oregon Economic Development Summit in Hermiston recently (as did several others from Harney County) and she made some good connections and gained valuable information.

Housing Committee, Curt Blackburn, Jen Hoke—Curt has received marketing reports which will provide direction in setting up incentive programs for housing developers. Some of his information came from City of Ontario and a discussion was held regarding the change of rental market rules. Representative Findley clarified that this new law is for cities with a population over 10,000 so would not apply to Burns and Hines.

Workforce—No Report

Small Business Development-No Report

Infrastructure-No Report

Harney County Economic Development, Greg Smith –SBDC activities update was given. The county and the economic development office will coordinate to continue providing services here locally, while meeting Small Business Administration and SBDC Network standards.

B. Focus Reports:

Paul Sweany, Scott Nielson and Galena Drobit attending to present information on a new company they are creating called Your Small Town. The concept is to broaden the job market for rural areas by creating a data base of online and work from home jobs, then making this available for those who want to find a rural area to live in. The inspiration was based on growing interest in rural areas for lifestyle and standard of living, especially among younger generations. They gave a Power Point presentation and distributed printed information. The group is based in John Day and Portland.

Representative Lynn Findley gave a comprehensive update on legislation considered at the recent session in Salem. He reviewed his unusually large number of committee assignments, the challenge in serving over 65,000 residents spread over Eastern Oregon in District 60 and noted the Regional Solutions Group, here to serve. Of specific interest to Harney County were the following:

- A Biomass bill, allowing the in-place system to be tax exempt.
- Exclusion for PERS retirees in the health care field to continue working part time in high need/skilled positions.
- Updated 911 funding which has been static for years. An addition to phone billing over the next two years will provide \$175,000 annually to Harney County services.

- Other work included the establishment of a broadband office at the state level, place based water planning in multiple areas, clean diesel for the Tri-County metropolitan areas with exemptions for agriculture operations and most rural areas, Oregon Drivers License on demand, and the Joint Student Success or Gross Receipts for schools bill.

Representative Findley then discussed his method and philosophy for evaluating bills and how he determines the best approach for his district and the state. The Representative then took questions and led a discussion with Director Greg Smith about impacts to Harney County.

Greg Smith introduced two new business owners in the community, Mason Watson of Hines Pine Mill House B&B and Conference Center and Diane Slater of Serendipity Books and Gifts. Both extended greetings and shared insight on getting their operations started.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM. The September meeting to be determined.

