



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes
Community Response Team
Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Attendees:

Patty Dorroh- Harney County Commissioner	Fred Flippence-Harney Electric Cooperative
Pete Runnels-Harney County Judge	Les Penning-Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative
Kirby Letham-City of Hines Administrator	Gary Jackson-LiUNA! Local 737
Jen Hoke-Harney District Hospital	Brenda Smith-High Desert Partnership
Judy Erwin- Burns City Council	Misti Porter-TVCC Outreach
Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling	Eddie Alves- Treasure Valley Community College
Jamie Attleberger-Harney District Hospital	Anna Gahley-High Desert Partnership
Arik Swindlehurst-WorkSource Oregon	Rick Paul-Community Member
Scott Fairley-Business Oregon	Curt Blackburn-Blackburn Real Estate
Barb Cannady-Community Member	Marilyn Wilber-Spark Collaborative
Diane Slater-Serendipity Books	Denise Rose-HC Economic Development

- Denise Rose** welcomed the group and called the meeting to order.
- Old Business:** August 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 Hines, Kirby Letham- the laundromat is very close to opening. The pellet mill is navigating the DEQ process with help from several local and state entities. The Hines Park sprinkler project has been bid out and they hope to complete the main part of the park this fall with the remaining sections next spring. The city approved an RV park for transient sites next to the Hines Mobile Home Park. They plan to supply spots for campers/trailers/RV and accommodations for those traveling with horses.

Harney County Court, Judge Runnels- The solar companies in town are beginning installation. There are three locations, one just west of town, one on Doverspike property and one past Chicahominy. The RV lots in both towns including the fairgrounds are filled with construction workers as they have had trouble finding short term housing. The County Court has appointed Karen Zabala as the interim tax assessor, pending the departure of Ted Tiller. She will need to run in the next election. A smoke free-vape free zone ordinance is being considered for the area around the courthouse and neighboring health facilities. County Court meetings are being video recorded and will be available on the county website.

City of Burns-Judy Erwin, City Councilor-US Highway 20/395 pedestrian project is complete. Lights will be going in on West Monroe. Some of the street paving work is complete, other areas are still ongoing. A review of City Manager applications has been conducted. Leaf dumpsters are planned for November.

Business Oregon, Scott Fairly-Business Oregon has been very busy in Harney County with several projects for businesses and municipalities. They will also assist in funding the county land certification process for property on West Monroe.

Housing Committee, Curt Blackburn-the group is working to compile all the housing information and data gathered recently in the county, including roadmap goals and action steps. They hope to develop a timeline to work from.

Workforce Committee, Brenda Smith—things are moving forward with the focus still on youth entrepreneurship. The Rural Opportunity project grant has completed Phase 1, and Business Oregon funding is in line to continue to assist. High Desert Partnership has added a new board member, Anna Gahley and she will be leading this process. Their goal with the new group of youth entrepreneurs is to have a business startup by January 1st. They are looking for full community involvement and help from those interested in mentoring.

Small Business Development Committee, Myndi Hemphill-a grant was received to send one of the Main Street Task Force group to a Main Street Conference this week. An update was given on the occupancy of the business buildings on Broadway and Monroe Streets.

Infrastructure Committee, Pete Runnels-the broadband network is moving forward. Most of the structure came from the February CRT meeting and work done since then. Business Oregon is assisting with funding and the agreements for pole sharing are in place with the local electric companies. The private partner, MiWave intends to add two new jobs and eventually a retail store. The general agreement is that businesses need better, more reliable service and residential services will come as part of that process. They plan to “stay the course.”

Harney County Economic Development, Denise Rose— numbers of client visits have gone up since early September and the new relationship with SBDC was outlined. The office will be assisting the county in the Certified Land process and is partnering with HDP in the Youth Entrepreneurship program. RDI event flyers for next week were provided, as well as a Digital Marketing and E-Commerce event next Monday at the Tribal Gathering Place.

B. Focus Reports:

See attached

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM. The possibility of combining the November and December meetings was tabled for Greg's input.