



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes
Community Response Team
Thursday September 13, 2018

Attendees:

Fred Flippence-Harney County Electric Coop	Jen Hoke-Harney District Hospital
George Heinz-Restoration Collaborative, CiNA	Lisa Moody-TVCC Outreach
Tonya Fox-Training and Employment	Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling
Lynn McClintock-High Desert Parks and Rec.	Allison Field-Grant County Economic Development
Nick Green-John Day City Manager	Jan Oswald-Gourmet and Gadgets
Judy Erwin-City of Hines	Kate Marsh-Gallery 15
Zelly-Community Member	Rhonda Karges-Bureau of Land Management
Rick Paul-Community Member	Myndi Hemphill-L&M Investments
Pete Runnels-HC Judge	Curt Blackburn-Blackburn Real Estate
Marjorie Thelen-Gallery 15	Greg Smith-HC Economic Development
Les Penning-Oregon Trail Electric Coop.	Denise Rose-HC Economic Development
Jen Keady-Family Eye Care	
Forrest Keady-Historic Central Hotel	

1. **Greg Smith** welcomed the group and called the meeting to order.
2. **Old Business:** August 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 Burns, Dauna Wensenk –Dauna provided an emailed report and noted that abatement and nuisance processes continue for a property on East Adams. Work on developing a Water Master Plan is continuing and a grant for \$20,000 was received from Business Oregon. Joint city letters are going out to property owners on the Silvies River to request permission for Army Corp of Engineers to enter private property to assess levee construction. The Burns City Council hopes to hold a workshop this fall to discuss ways to support economic development.

City of Hines Judy Erwin-Dollar Tree has started construction and hope to be open for the Christmas season, Boomers Restaurant is open for business and will announce its grand opening celebration date at a later time. The Fed Ex building on Lottery Lane is near completion. Three new homes are under construction and two additional sites are in the process of rezoning for residential construction. Three manufactured homes will be placed on East Hanley, one will be owner-occupied and two will be rentals. A storm-damaged home will be replaced and a repossessed property is set to

go to auction soon. The apartment complex on Westridge has completed the survey and geologic sampling; groundbreaking will be in the spring. The old Edward Hines Mill office has been purchased by a couple who plan to remodel and restore the building for a bed and breakfast business; they received a grant of \$5000 from the City of Hines for plumbing and electrical updates. Wisewood Energy has purchased the former LP buildings and is cleaning up the site, hoping to begin construction in the next month or two on a pellet manufacturing operation.

Harney County Court, Pete Runnels-The County Court is working with the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program to permit three sites for solar power generation. The businesses could mean \$400,000 in additional tax revenue for the county. Sites are across from the Experiment Station, near Chickahominy and on Starvation Ridge. The court is discussing allowing late summer field burning for late season crops.

Burns Paiute Tribe – no report, but Tracy Kennedy, the new Tribal Economic Development Director will be attending future meetings to give an update

Business Oregon, Scott Fairley – no report

Harney County Economic Development, Greg Smith – The Governors Marketplace event was earlier today and was very well attended. Greg reminded the group that 33% of spending in the state is public sector. The Rural Skill Builders workshop is next week on September 21st and everyone is encouraged to attend. Also, the Website Tune-Up Workshop will be on September 27th. Our job in Harney County Economic Development is to keep the door open for businesses as they seek resources and to help bring those resources to the table. To that end, two clients are renovating buildings for occupancy and we are planning small business classes for this fall and winter.

Other Reports:

Progress reports on work topics:

- Nick Green, City Manager from John Day gave a comprehensive overview of their efforts in Grant County to deal with population decline which in turn impacts housing starts and economic health. They have been working to establish a tiered tax structure that will encourage new housing starts and still provide revenue for the city. They have had a number of developers interested in co-investing using the urban renewal process. Nick suggested we need to address “Rural Renewal” vs. Urban Renewal at the state level. Their program is outlined on the John Day city website. **(Housing)**
- An announcement was made that a new Art Center will be located in the vacant building on the corner of Washington and Broadway. Also, the Harney County Cultural Coalition grant program has funding available. **(Small Business)**
- A general announcement came from Lisa Moody at the TVCC Outreach Center. She plans to start a High School Entrepreneur class at the end of the month.

B. General Infrastructure Report:

Judge Runnels gave an overview of infrastructure tasks and progress to date.

- The broadband survey has gone out and there has been a lot of activity. Many phone calls and suggestions have come in outside of the formal process
- Brownfield project Request for Quotes has had multiple inquiries and the court hopes the evaluation, funding solicitations and clean-up work will be completed in October 2019.
- The Housing Inventory project contract was let to Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation and they plan to have work completed by May 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM. The next meeting will be October 3rd and the Small Business Support and Development committee will report.

