



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes Community Response Team Wednesday May 1, 2019

Attendees:

Lea Gettle-Oregon Trail Electric	Jeff Dorroh-Community Member
Tonya Fox-TEC and WorkSource	Rick Paul-Community Member
George Heinz-Community Member	Curt Blackburn-Jett Blackburn Real Estate
Lynn McClintock-High Desert Parks & Rec.	Kathy Rementeria-DHS
Dennis Davis-Community Member	Brenda Smith-High Desert Partnership
Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling	Arik Swindlehurst-WorkSource Oregon
Judy Erwin- Burns City Council	Barbara Cannady-Community Member
Scott Fairley-Business Oregon	Jen Hoke-Harney District Hospital
Shanna Bailey-Business Oregon	Kirby Letham- City of Hines Administrator
Selene Dobson-Eastern OR Stitch & Print	Lola Johnson-Harney County Chamber of Commerce
Tracy Kennedy-Burns Paiute Tribe	Lisa Norton-Training and Employment Consortium
Denise Rose-Harney County Economic Dev.	

1. **Denise Rose** welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. Brief introductions were made around the table.
2. **Old Business:** April meeting minutes were sent by email with the May agenda. It was moved by Scott Fairly and seconded by Judy Erwin to approve minutes. All voted in favor.
3. **New Business:**

A. Regular Reports:

Burns Paiute Tribe, Tracy Kennedy-Tracy gave an update on the Cultural Center downtown and encouraged everyone to look at the displays in the windows. They were able to get historic photos of tribal members enlarged and installed on the windows before the bird festival and have received many positive comments. Remodeling continues, the interior walls have been removed and the asbestos is gone. Engineering is in process and completion of the project is anticipated to be a year out. The hemp project at the Old Camp location is coming along on schedule, with planting planned for June in the Foley field. Extraction machines have been ordered and the processing plant is almost completed. Tracy notified the group that the tribal computer system was impacted by a ransom ware virus and their systems were down for 2-3 days, including phone systems, so they are still trying to get caught up on emails.

City of Burns Dauna Wensenk-Submitted by email- The proposed Historic Preservation ordinance has been sent to DLCDC for review. Notices and citations have been issued for property clean up. The sewer reserve loan should be paid off in early 2020 and the council will be discussing whether to continue to collect the \$16 fee for future needs. Posts were driven into the ground at the Pocket Park and damaged a water line. The city is asking anyone who wants to put a banner in that area to contact the city first. The deer survey has been mailed to residents in Burns. Big Ridge Construction owned by David Moss has been hired as the cemetery grounds keeper. Dauna has been busy preparing the budget and the first budget meeting is scheduled for May 15.

Harney County Court, Judge Pete Runnels- no report

Business Oregon, Scott Fairley –New financing will be available soon in the form of forgivable loans for small, key and out of state businesses to expand to Oregon. Also gap financing that is geared to create or retain jobs. The hope is they will be approved to roll out these programs in June or July. Paul Zollner, Finance Officer with Business Oregon will be here on May 30th and taking appointments.

City of Hines, Kirby Letham-The city of Hines is also in budget season, their next meeting is scheduled for May 14. Zoning proposals are being considered for 6 lots to change from commercial to residential. They are in locations that make more sense as residential. The buildings formerly used as the Hines mill offices are proposed to go from industrial zoning to commercial. Water system design is completed and the paving projects will go out for bid

Housing Committee, Curt Blackburn, Jen Hoke–Workforce housing roadmap is almost complete and will provide a plan for future development. The Technical Assistance meeting is May 7th. Overall, housing inventory is getting to be in very short supply. It's always worse for rentals this time of year and we also have no spec housing going on right now, just private home building. Jen knows of one person who is working to develop some condos. There are less bank owned properties sitting empty right now. A suggestion was made to do a utilities usage survey to identify "dead" properties, or unoccupied homes. Kirby Letham asked if the new state rent control bill will affect our region; Curt responded that it will have an impact on housing.

Workforce, Brenda Smith – Brenda met with school officials including the superintendent to build internship process interest. Youth and career content programs research are being conducted. Lori Cheek from the school board mentioned to Brenda that Morrow County has an internship program funded by the Port of Morrow and we could possibly look at their systems. Paid internships could be available through ESD. The HDP Youth Initiative is looking into hiring a workforce coordinator and they have already hired two high school students for summer work.

Small Business Development – no report

Infrastructure, Judge Pete Runnels – no report

Harney County Economic Development, Denise Rose – The website has been updated to include links to Oregon Prospector and a short demonstration was shown. Classes have launched for the summer and information was provided for the SBA monthly business development classes remaining. Two clients are in the financing process for startup and business center resources are available from Zions Bank in Fruitland.

B. Focus Reports:

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, Lea Gettle- Lea presented the cooperative business attraction tool they have been developing with Economic Gateway. Links to various resources in each county will help promote industrial development. They hope to launch in the next month or so to OTEC regions. The company they are working with offered to build out and maintain the sites for partners in the project. Partners could include, cities, county, chambers of commerce and other entities. She then introduced the virtual reality goggles that will be used to present 360 degree views of potential areas for development. Site selectors from industries will be sent a set of goggles preloaded with images of the property and adjacent areas to promote the region by video.

Business Oregon, Scott Fairly and Shanna Bailey- Scott introduced Shanna Bailey, Regional Project Manager, serving Harney County (and 9 other Eastern OR counties) who spoke about a variety of projects they are working on locally. She is involved in a process from application to close out of the project so appreciates being able to go to communities on a regular basis. They are currently working with both Hines and Burns on city water systems, with the Burns Paiute Tribe on a waste water system, and assisting with the Silvies River certification study. They are also working on a feasibility study for a water system in Crane, and funding for the Juntura cut off road. To date \$9.2 million has come into Harney County from these efforts.

General Announcements: George Heinz gave legislative updates from Salem via the web town hall held this morning. There are a number of tax reforms coming and the carbon emissions bill was heavily debated. Senator Bentz and Representative Findley also gave an update on the vaccine bill and the gross receipts bill. They will have considered about 50 amendments by the end of the session.

The July meeting may need to be discussed as the regular meeting date is the evening of July 3rd. Discussion suggested that the meeting be cancelled for that month, a decision will be made at the June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM. The next meeting will be June 5, 2019 at 5:30 PM.