



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes
Community Response Team
Wednesday June 5, 2019

Attendees:

Les Penning-Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative	Myndi Hemphill-L&M Investments
Steve Quick-Harney County School District	Rick Paul-Community Member
George Heinz-Community Member	Zelly-Community Member
Lynn McClintock-High Desert Parks & Rec.	Fred Flippence-Harney Electric Cooperative
Dennis Davis-Community Member	Brenda Smith-High Desert Partnership
Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling	Susan Christensen-GEODC
Judy Erwin- Burns City Council	Barbara Cannady-Community Member
Pete Runnels – Harney County Court	Jen Hoke-Harney District Hospital
Patty Dorroh – Harney County Court	Dana Young-Treasure Valley Community College
Rhonda Karges-Burns BLM	Abby Lee- Treasure Valley Community College
Denise Rose-Harney County Economic Dev.	

- Denise Rose** welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. Brief introductions were made around the table.
- Old Business:** May meeting minutes were sent by email with the June agenda. It was moved and seconded to approve minutes. All voted in favor.
- New Business:**

A. Regular Reports:

Harney County Court-Judge Runnels repoted that they met last week with Business Oregon and gave a RARE student program update and disucussed potential funding. They are also making cuts but the cities and the county hope to partially fund the cost of an intern through Ford Foundation funding. The final budget meeting was short and a balanced county budgt was presented.

Commissioner Dorroh-reported that the recent Construction Contractors Board training held in Burns was a success with about 20 in attendance. Feedback was good and attendees felt it brought value to their business. Library focus groups will be contacting local citizens to help with their Strategic Planning process. Dates will be June 26, 27.

City of Burns Dauna Wensenk-no report

Business Oregon, Scott Fairley –no report

City of Hines, Kirby Letham-no report

Treasure Valley Community College, President Dana Young-Dr. Young was in Burns to meet with Judge Runnels and discuss the outreach services currently being provided through TVCC. She extended her greetings and would like an opportunity to come back and connect with the CRT group more fully. The college is fully committed to providing the services Harney County needs in higher education. **Abby Lee, Public Information Officer**-also echoed the desire to reinforce connections to the community and her hope to be more active in Harney County. Brenda Smith added that she appreciates the quality of instructors they are seeing out of the Natural Resources programs, who assist in some of the High Desert Partnership efforts.

Housing Committee, Curt Blackburn, Jen Hoke—No committee report but Patty Dorroh mentioned that the Housing Roadmap is complete and has been submitted. Initial feedback from DLCD was good and she feels it will be a useful tool for the cities as they move forward in planning.

Workforce, Brenda Smith – Brenda discussed several grants, originally available through Rural Opportunity Initiative are back in the state budget for funding. She will follow up with our local project, which originally anticipated a phase 2.

Small Business Development, Myndi Hemphill-A Mainstreet grant was received for \$200,000 to be used for infrastructure on three buildings on Broadway. The grant came from the State Office of Restoration and will be used to upgrade and install HVAC in three storefront locations. Currently, two are rented to Alden Leatherworks, and J Hill Images/Sage Design. The third is in process of being remodeled. Also, Haney Taco has opened at the Central Hotel back lot. They are publishing their hours on Facebook and various other media. The MainStreet group meetings are open to anyone and they will work to make the dates and times more public.

Infrastructure, Judge Pete Runnels – Brownfield grant awardees were supposed to have been notified this week. They have not heard anything yet. He gave a brief overview of the TVCC discussion regarding outreach service to the county. President Young agreed that they have had some budget concerns but will work the county to develop more youth internship or CTE programs. When asked about the recently cut GED position, the TVCC representative did not have additional details.

Harney County Economic Development, Denise Rose – Two new clients came in this month and ongoing active clients still number 6-8. The website design/build class had 8 attendees and since it was the first time SBDC in TVCC tried this format, there will be a few adjustments. The numbers are increasing with each month in the SBA led Small Business classes. The next class is June 18th, Marketing 101. The group agreed that due to the adjacency to the Fourth of July holiday, the July CRT meeting will be cancelled. Also, the August CRT will be Tuesday the 6th.

B. Focus Reports:

Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation, Susan Christensen- Susan led a general discussion aimed at providing required SWOT information from each Eastern Oregon county they serve. She asked what the group thought about incorporating the plan developed last year by CRT into her report. General agreement was that this made sense in order to not duplicate work. Susan asked for updates and background discussion on each of the four focus points.

General Announcements/Questions: Rhonda Karges asked if anyone had an update on the solar farm construction mentioned last fall. Judge Runnels said their plan is to begin building at two locations this month in hopes that tax revenue will be available by next year. One is off Highway 20 W by Campbells house and the other is near Chickahominy.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM. The next meeting will be August 6, 2019 at 5:30 PM.