



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes
Community Response Team
Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Attendees:

Colby Marshall- Blackburn Real Estate	Brenda Smith-High Desert Partnership
Curt Blackburn- Blackburn Real Estate	Lola Johnson-HC Chamber of Commerce
Amber Wares-Symmetry Care	Misti Porter-TVCC Outreach
Kristen Shelman-Harney County Court	Steve Quick-HC School District #3
Zelly-Community Member	Jennifer Taynton-High Desert Partnership
Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling	Kirby Letham-City of Hines
Fred Flippence-Harney Electric Cooperative	Andrea Letham-Small Business Development Center
Rick Paul-Community Member	Judy Erwin-City of Burns
Denise Rose-HC Economic Development	Mario Petrilli-Community Member

1. **Denise Rose** welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. General introductions were made around the table.
2. **Old Business:** February meeting minutes were provided via the website with email reminders. By general agreement there were no changes or additions to the minutes.
3. **New Business:**

A. Regular Reports:

City of Burns-Judy Erwin The Council is moving forward with the recruiting process for City Manager and has contracted with Proffman Recruiting. They plan to conduct final interviews by mid-May. The State Fire Inspector has toured the Burns Town Apartments and some of the recommended clean up has taken place. Paving projects are progressing, with work planned for the south end of town, including Imperial and Liberty street areas.

City of Hines, Kirby Letham Council is seeking letters of interest to fill a vacancy; interested parties may submit a letter with their qualifications to the City Hall. The Planning Committee is reviewing the recent county housing roadmap with the potential to add to the comprehensive plan. The DEQ meeting to hear public comment about the BioDynamics pellet mill was overall very positive. Water project is moving along, shovels will be in the ground in May. There will also be more ODOT roadwork in the city, thanks to Small City Allotment funds.

Harney County Court, Kristen Shelman- The newest County Commissioner introduced herself to the group and talked briefly about her background. She has been meeting with various groups and individuals in the county since her appointment and is open to talk with anyone who has questions or comments. She will be continuing the conversations with Judge Runnels and Commissioner Dorroh around the topics of housing, broadband speeds and other quality of life issues identified in the work being done by CRT and the Economic Development office.

Burns Paiute Tribe, Tracy Kennedy – Tracy was unable to attend, no report.

Harney County Economic Development, Denise Rose– the office met with one new client this month and generated follow up emails and calls to those who haven't been in contact for at least 90 days. We continue to turn our focus to infrastructure and community development needs identified in the CRT planning processes.

Housing Committee, Kirby Letham, Curt Blackburn and Denise Rose – the recent contractors information gathering meeting was discussed and notes from that meeting were provided. Valuable feedback gave the group some solid numbers including average cost per square foot, and amount of incentive package that would entice them. The committee had been working with \$10-20K incentive figure, but the contractor group felt it needed to be closer to \$40-50K. They also indicated that a larger firm who could provide economy of scale might be a better option for our area and they all agreed they would be interested in subcontracting. Curt has some resources for contacting developers. Judy Erwin would like to be added to this committee. The committee is ready to decide next steps and will meet later in March.

Workforce Committee, Brenda Smith, Misti Porter –a meeting was held to map out the business survey process with Rick Paul, Denise Rose and the committee chairs. Overall evaluation of existing programs was compiled, and the focus was narrowed down to three tasks connecting businesses with Biz Harney and the youth entrepreneur program. Notes were provided from the meeting. Several had good input for the group regarding the programs their businesses have operated, including Harney Electric. Other input from Kristen Shelman was to contact Matt Hawley from Crane/Silvies Schools about their CTE programs. Discussion was held regarding Junior Achievement programs and if they still existed.

Infrastructure Committee, Steve Quick, Harney County School District #3 – The Superintendent handed out a comprehensive Q/A and set of plans regarding the proposed bond for school repairs, maintenance and expansion construction that will be on the May ballot. There were a number of questions with informative answers and support was expressed from many in the group.

Small Business Support Committee, no report

B. Focus Reports: General reports of Community Interest

SBDC, Andrea Letham is the new TVCC Small Business Development Center Coordinator for Harney County. She was introduced and gave her background and an overview of her program. She

hopes to be setting up an office soon and encouraged any small business who needs support and resources to contact her.

Chamber of Commerce, Lola Johnson announced that Wilderness Wireless will be bringing fiber downtown after they have installed on the roof of the Community Center. The plan is to make service available for businesses and customers to use, as well as have a sound system for background music while shopping.

Mario Petrilli introduced himself and talked about his consulting work in radio and television and how he helps facilitate sales of operations. He gave statistics about the local radio stations and current ownership. They are interested in selling three stations, including one in WA for \$90,000. Mario expressed an interest in serving on the Infrastructure Committee and contact information will be provided to Judge Runnels.

Harney Electric Co-op, Fred Flippence – announced that new electric vehicle chargers are now available in McDermott, Orvada and OTEC has one here at the Community Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.

