

Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force  
November 7, 2017  
Irrigon, Oregon

Attendees: Edie Ball, Sheryll Bates, Kym Erevia, Julie Gisi, Mellissa Lindsay, Linda LaRue, Carla McLane, Aaron Palmquist, Karen Pettigrew, Don Russell. By Phone: Susan Christensen, Janette Eldrige.

The meeting started at 9:09 a.m. Meeting minutes from October 3, 2017 were reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Aaron, seconded by Karen; approved unanimously as written.

Strategic Plan 2050: Susan Christensen provided handouts for discussion; She provided an overview of the All-American City Award Application process and The National Civic League Community Assistance Program as potential avenues for assistance in building a strategic plan county-wide. Aaron will get a copy of the Bend 2030 plan, and the Metro 2040 plan was also mentioned. All plan samples will be brought back to the group for review, with interest in seeing what other cities perceive as future goals developing a growth model.

SCWWS: Aaron handed out a sample letter to support communities. Suggests that a third party mediate the project to get it to move forward.

Housing: Carla provided a number of handouts from a recent meeting she attended regarding the Statewide Housing Plan currently under development. Group discussed worker housing as opposed to low income assisted housing in the county. Carla encouraged group to go online and make comment; she will put together a packet to email out to group so that greater opinion can be contributed towards the statewide housing plan process. Local travel shed work needs to be completed in order to move forward with the next piece. Boardman, Pendleton and Heppner housing studies from the past will be brought to the group for review. Edie asked Carla to go before her council to speak on the buildable lands. Draft RFP and MOU in the works by Carla and Kym.

Tourism: Tabled for this meeting.

Roundtable:

Karen - Mentioned the Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC) letter regarding future billings showing franchise gains. She checked into occupancy fees and found out they are another name for franchise fees; Hermiston receives 5% franchise and 2% occupancy fee monies. Boardman and Irrigon are well below that total percentage rate. Heritage Trail group needs anyone who is interested in participating to step up. She provided an update on the status of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Corps of Engineers issue; they held a joint meeting on October 31, 2017 and finally heard what BIA proposals might actually be considering for the park land the Port of Morrow wants to use for baseball fields. The City of Boardman hired a new public works person who started November 1, 2017. Legalized Recreational Marijuana has brought in more funds than originally anticipated. The City Council doesn't feel that the city needs to modify and adopt new license types for medicinal marijuana businesses.

Linda - She assisted the City of Lone to refinance their water bond with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which in turn reduced their bonds by about 2 years and set them at a better rate. There are some water delivery issues for the new subdivision; the newer pipes are a different size from the original; they

are working on a solution with help from port and ICABO. Still have opening on city council. Still interested in the SCWWS but it's not priority until water issue is resolved.

Julie - Chamber is focusing on end-of-year events. The Boardman Community Development Association (BCDA) is focused on how to get developers from the Tri-Cities area; they are establishing a committee with a goal of marketing the interest in developers from outlying areas. Chamber is going to be hosting business training seminars; the first is a full day seminar that is Human Resource Management focused using the Marijuana House Bill as subject matter in the morning, followed by motivation for employee retention focus in the afternoon. The cost is \$350 per agency (for as many employees as an agency wants to send) for chamber members, \$250 for half day for chamber members. Non-Chamber member pay additional \$50 respectively.

Don - The county has posted internally for the Public Works Director position. The interview panel has pared down the list of applicants for the Public Administrators position based on recent online interviews; they will be following up this week with the selected applicants for next phase of interviews.

Susan - Working with a private company who is putting together a proposal for consulting work that would tie back into technologies that may involve some agencies in Morrow County. CEDS update to begin in early 2018, outreach won't start until spring timeframe. Carla indicated to Susan that she could use this meeting venue for that outreach when it is ready.

Sheryl - Request for Information (RFI) for workforce and infrastructure grants. The Port of Morrow (POM) had surveyor look at property, this surveyor will be giving update at the next Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) meeting. Community Counseling Solutions is hosting a free concert guest starring Christopher Duffley in Heppner on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Heppner High School gymnasium. There will be concessions available.

Melissa - She is sitting on a group responsible for reviewing the housing rehabilitation applications. There is currently one application awarded in Lexington and three in Heppner. There is a lack of contractors who will give bids for these projects.

Edie - Transportation System Plan (TSP) kickoff meeting was successful; follow-up meeting with advisory committee will take place the end of November; hoping for grant for South County Waste Water Solutions (SCWWS).

Aaron - The City of Irrigon is forward-looking; they are currently putting in a reader board for the library and City Hall that will be full color using Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) money. The sign will also be used for emergency response notification that can be accessed remotely. Will be expanding sidewalks in the near future with recent funding received. Updating city facility and sewer plans. Citizens are not receptive to the Shell liquor store expansion concept; Devin Oil has an interest but have not applied yet. The City of Irrigon is working on getting a Chinese restaurant in Irrigon in the future.

Kym - Provided an update on the recent Columbia River Heritage Trail meeting; several agencies showed great interest in moving forward with this project.

Carla - The Planning Department is remaining busy. Planning Commission is working on finalizing their meeting calendar for 2018. The Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force (MCCEDTF) meeting will be in Lexington next; the 2018 meeting dates are listed on the agenda.

Agenda build: Buildable lands, Tourism, Housing

Adjourned at 11:55 a.m.