

Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force

Meeting Notes for February 7, 2017

Irrigon City Hall

Irrigon, Oregon

Attendees:

Sheryll Bates, Kim Cutsforth, Jim Doherty, Janette Eldrige, Kymberli Erevia, Scott Farley, Julie Gisi, Randy Jones, Melissa Lindsay, Carla McLane, Judy Moore, Aaron Palmquist, Karen Pettigrew, Don Russell.

The meeting started at approximately 9:05 a.m. Meeting minutes for January 3, 2016 reviewed with one minor date change by Don Russell and Sheryll seconded. Approved as noted.

Community reports:

Carla: Update group on loss of peer Grant Young.

Scott: Legislative budget committee will meet Feb 17 at Hermiston High School; Governor Brown's office recommended budget for regional priority project with new rules to dictate allocation; if Governor's budget gets approved each region will get money for economic; met with PGE regarding biomass; natural resource policy advisor meeting went well; EOU helping create tools to assess housing market needs in Eastern Oregon; Oregon Solutions to reduce nitrates in Umatilla Basin by proposing a science policy forum in the Spring.

Randy: ODEQ had team meeting yesterday and had participating member of DOE; based on conversation end of 2016 to get DEQ out to set up workshop for south county cities regarding sewer options, asked MCCEDTF group to be included in the process.

Melissa: New county website rolled out giving quick access to board packets; BOC is instituting an open-door policy; budget is being looked at to assure that committees are supported; applications for positions on all committees will be posted for open involvement and new membership; Finance Dept. will update quarterly; looking towards posted budget in full disclosure in the near future.

Sheryll: WCVEDG; no longer funding the housing program; looking at lands for clean-up still in Heppner;

Chamber is having Representative Greg Smith on the 17th at the senior center; Chamber Annual Town & Country awards coming up; St pats in planning for 17-18 March; got funding from MCURD for Harlem Ambassadors for drug awareness event which is free of charge on April 27th.

Kim: Started Engineering study with CES Technologies, they should have some ideas available for the city soon; the city has nuisance abatement issues they are working on, City wrote a new IGA to retain unpaid fines, which allows them the option to impose lien. Foreclosure can start at any point, particularly if the liens are greater than the fines imposed; transition of projects well under way giving new city person opportunity to do outreach; Kim will stay involved in this group

Don: BOC has reallocated committee involvement to get BOC to meetings where there hasn't been involvement in the past; many committees never had terms, they are going to try to establish them moving forward.

Karen: Boardman put out bid for collector bank restoration, got appeal from tribe and SHPO; back at looking to put hotel in Boardman.

Judy: GEODC is close to rolling out their new website; applied for wildhorse grant to help with new software to meet accounting requirements; wrote a community development block grant for Pendleton which was granted for \$400 k; Capitol hill wants to do away with EDA grant funding for planning to GEODC; save the date for GEODC annual meeting in Burns March 10th; board composition has changed, SBA dictates the board composition for this committee to reduce to 9 member.

Aaron: Still having issues with wells; still battling LUB GWMA, fed rule restricts back sliding ppm nitrate to 7 instead of 10; trying to modify a NEO will go for block grant through DEQ. City will consider making city responsible for trash collection, this gives lien capacity and keeping nuisance abated, user fees for building are going well.

Julie: chamber just had economic development luncheon in January; Board retreat resulted in revamping chamber restructure; annual awards this Friday 6-11pm, tickets available; annual frostbite tournament April 1; Oregon State Chamber regional meeting in Hermiston April 21; Chamber board will address the loss of BENT positions.

Janette: Bruce Larkin will meet with city regarding the lining of the water storage., may need some financing assistance. Have ODOT coming to next council meeting to review speed in Lexington. Speed survey.

Jim: Spoke at the Boardman chamber lunch; Morrow County 132nd birthday for Boardman on Feb 16, trying to modernize everything to meet demand; Comprehensive Plan under review; Morrow County turn to chair NEACT; 13 energy projects waiting in the wings for the county.

Kym: All NHMP resolutions submitted to FEMA, waiting to get acknowledged, looking at the spring for semi-annual meeting.

Carla: Greg Walden meeting this Friday at 2:15 p.m. POM, not seen published agenda; doing planning update at county court tomorrow. Planners Network Meeting in LaGrande April 26&27, encourage local planning commissioners to attend.

Housing as Economic Development: Portland State population numbers play in to discussion held last month, still need to address housing and use framework already in law, new population estimates will need to be incorporated in comprehensive plans; Heppner looking at development code friendly changes; Evaluation of code provisions, UGB and definition of current land ownership for farmers not willing to develop, need to make those properties known as not being available for growth. Simple maps down detail limited.

Marijuana a Year Later: Irrigon City Council discussed BMCC student appeal to open a smoke shop, Irrigon is standing firmly opposed; Heppner had 74% firm no so counsel decided to opt out; revenues for taxing does not go to cities, and not population based, which is lower than tobacco; LOC working to move to tobacco-like taxation rather than based on number of businesses in town; new Heppner counsel thinks money is being left on the table; currently tax money is for retail not grow, may be a rewrite in legislature for topic currently looking to open grows on resource land as well as residential, counties are pushing back statewide; farm use activities on rural private residential lands believes this means crops are open to marijuana unless county opted out on all options, pull back from options may change perspective for all crops.

Items for the Good of the Order: Cascade Policy Institute article and update of paper regarding budget crisis in OR, \$1.7 billion shortfall impacts locally; costs for developers and lack of true expedition of permitting not feasible for new growth; not satisfied with the population estimates methodology, particularly the "certification of estimate", does not truly encompass the local growth rates, especially for schools in the review, Carla will take item before county court tomorrow, and Carla will also take concerns to Portland State, and will consider meeting location in north end if they can come address the group.

Next Meeting: March 7. Location TBD (Based on PSU attendance).

Adjourned: 12:08 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates: March 7, May 2, June 6, Aug 1, Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5.