

Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force

Meeting Notes for June 6, 2017

Irrigon City Hall

Irrigon, Oregon

Attendees:

Edie Ball, Sheryll Bates, Janette Eldrige, Kymberli Erevia, Sam Heath, Randy Jones, Carla McLane, Judy Moore, Aaron Palmquist, Karen Pettigrew, Rod Taylor.

The meeting started at approximately 9:17 a.m. Meeting minutes for May 2, 2017 reviewed and approved as written.

Housing: No Request for Proposal (RFP) draft for housing study yet. Three consultants have been identified to engage in the process and there is funding available. Would require a six entity Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) with some limited financial contribution from the small communities to show vested interest. The IGA will focus on the buildable lands study only, both residential and employment lands. Anticipate July timeframe for a conceptual draft IGA that can be shared, don't need to wait for the August meeting.

Currently the veterinary business is of concern, there are no tax incentives or other enticing newcomers who have to take on substantial debt. The state will be going through to assure facilities meet local needs, so this issue needs to stay on the table. There may need to be rezoning in Lexington to commercial if there is an allowance for veterinary services.

LPSSC: Nominations need to be finalized; Karen agreed and she will split with Edie for City reps. Sam or Darren for north end Mayors; Rod agreed to represent Mayors for the south end. Carla will forward this information to Melissa Lindsay.

Tourism: During development of the Economic Element of the Comprehensive Plan update the Morrow County Planning Commission determined there were four sectors to highlight: agriculture; diversified port industries; energy production, transmission and consumption; and tourism.

Byway: Memo to Patrick Moran regarding byways discussed. May be able to spend some of the fund in the byway account to help pay for brochure printing. During last year's byway meeting Carla asked Oregon Department of Transportation to repair or replace the sign on East I-84 prior to the Heppner junction. She will reach out again to see about getting this taken care of. May discuss adding service stations to blue signs in order to entice travelers to use the byway.

Regional Solutions engages students in real world work: may be able to do inventory, propose additional interpretation sites of the route; and develop a brochure for the public. Could build scope over summer. Anticipated costs would be limited to transportation costs (\$200 - \$750 per term). Currently there is limited interpretation signage and trail markers outside of the forest corridors; this could be improved. This project could include agritourism pieces with informational signage for crops and other items. Women in Agriculture are currently putting up signs for growing, could maybe collaborate. Travel Oregon, Ford Family, etc. may have funding options. Kym will be point person for the project at the county level.

Heritage Trail: May be able to work with Regional Solutions for comparable work to be done along with the byway concept plan. Interpretation inventory needs to be completed, including identifying refurbishment requirements. The website is static but still exists. Easements with Army Corps needs to be established in order to see that the majority of the trail can be improved. The advisory committee needs to be re-engaged, and a friends group establishment was discussed but not completed. Outreach coordinator could work with college to do this, including transition from concept to implementation plan. Carla will work with Sheryll for funding possibilities.

Other Opportunities: Eclipse may be considered for impact purposes to the county, economic advantage and temporary emergency provisions can be implemented. Century bike route may also be an opportunity in the future. Bird Watching opportunity would open up access for funding brochures and provide another tourism possibility. Possibly work through the byways groups, but the Heritage Trail would be able to expand on this benefit as well. Carla would be willing to put the request to Alice in order to facilitate a collaboration conversation to join byways work. She will take a look at the Travel Oregon website for meeting information. Travel Oregon can be brought in to host a workshop for customer services engagement understanding.

Roundtable: Aaron - July 29th watermelon festival will include color run for grid kids fund raiser. Potential water restriction for summer, looking at other water sources in the new fiscal period. Applied for RTP grant to improve Heritage Trail, still waiting for response. Council adopted code language for commercial and industrial businesses in residential zone. Still working on well situation, the water output is poor because draw-down challenges the system.

Karen – The Boardman Police School Resource Officer (SRO) program is working very well. Public Works painting and fixing the city circle lights. There was a major incident at the splash pad, but it's fixed and turned back on again. Painting the water tower, a nice logo will be added. The clinic may have found a CEO and a doctor. The recreation center ribbon cutting is July 1st with tours and open for business on the 2nd. Another lane will be added to Olson road with a sidewalk to meet requirements. Eclipse may act as exercise to see if the community is prepared for a disaster. Booking rates at the marina are lower than usual.

Sheryll - WCVEDG still working on a check on homes that need improved through south county for potential investors to consider. Family plumbing and electrical business is doing very well.

Judy - Karen Kindle will be the fair housing training provider in EO part time. Hosting a workshop on June 26 at the Pendleton Airport for manufacturer employer hiring challenges. Contracting with the City of Pendleton for grant administrator for housing rehabilitation for low to moderate income homeowners.

Randy - Connecting Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) dots to help Amazon data centers. Arlington has a prospective new customer. John Day is innovative, strategic planning for city that should be looked at with long range perspective, includes waste water treatment with inverted green houses.

Rod - Getting ready for 4th of July, have new playground equipment going in at the park that was delayed due to weather. Working with Morrow County Grain Growers (MCGG) to complete expansion. Possibly adding a card lock type gas pump in lone. Getting outskirts repaved on the backside of the city, this will be a phased project.

Edie - Budget has been completed going to council on Monday. Transportation System Plan (TSP) is at the Department of Transportation to be reviewed for signature, with a July/August start-up. Ready for Eclipse with Chamber taking lead. Fair in August. Looking at backup generator in case of disaster.

Janette - Well #4 has issues, and waste water questions are going to Anderson Perry for resolution. Received a WCVEDG grant for beautification in the parks, looking at forming a committee to complete the project. Maintenance person is taking water projects over and the well lining project is moving forward. The newest council member resigned.

Carla- County updating the Farm and Forest Use code provisions with consultant help. Working with Lone on Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion. Lone will annex some properties. Transportation System Plan (TSP) project list has been updated and approved, working on adoption through the Board. Military Economic Advisory Committee (MEAC) working on better facilitation between agencies for land and air use, will be going before BOC to reappoint the committee members, projects will include interpretive signage at the south end of the bombing range. Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) change of members looking to be appointed by BOC. Mitigation Workshop June 21-22 in The Dalles; Kym will provide outcome to group.

Agenda build: August meeting in Lone. Buildable lands; tourism framework including work with regional solutions; remove LPSSC.

Adjourned at: 12:09 pm