

Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force
September 5, 2017
Boardman Recreation Center

Attendees: Edie Ball, Sherryl Bates, Kim Cutsforth, Janette Eldrige, Melisa Drugge, Kym Erevia, Melissa Lindsay, Carla McLane, Aaron Palmquist, Karen Pettigrew, Don Russell, Rod Taylor, Steve Vincent.

Meeting started at 9:05 a.m. August meeting notes were reviewed and approved as presented.

Marijuana Opt-Out Update: Discussion regarding some concern about conflicting review of legislative opt-out ordinance verbiage.

Housing as Economic Development: No update.

RDI Rural Skill Builder: Reviewed handout; working on community building through support of local projects, including training workshops for entities needing assistance. Discussed inviting RDI to one of the MCCEDTF meetings in the future. Will put this topic back on the Agenda for October with a better idea of what the group is looking for in terms of objective for the meeting. There is concern about the costs associated with RDI presentations.

Tourism: The Morrow County Parks Committee continues to work on the Parks Master Plan, the draft will be ready for review at their next meeting. After adoption there will be land use follow up.

Roundtable: Kim – Bryant Foundation is building a 1 ½ acre park in Heppner, and extending the area around the pool with electricity and public restroom. Also funded a landscaping project and football team equipment. Maintains a moderate fund level, and have received +\$100k in grant funds for next year, which will be awarded to municipalities and non-profits for projects.

Melissa – Advertising out for County Administrator position. Paper was incorrect with regard to County Accountant position hire. This position will be rolled into the Finance Director position.

Aaron - The State Transportation Plan will be addressing the inter-modal bike/ped route. Irrigon received \$3 mil for transportation related projects with no limitations, and various projects projected to be completed by 2020. Plan to begin the Heritage Trail update through the marina park soon. Working on city sewer plan update. Anticipating an increase in state funding for the roads. Looking at business development based on a survey seeking preferred options. Also building music in the park area within the community and planning farmers market for next season.

Karen - Planning Commission had the apartment complex topic on the agenda with a lot of public interest concerned with increased traffic on Columbia and pedestrian traffic management. OSU Extension district request will be taken before the City Council meeting to discuss the resolution with intent to approve contingent on County Board of Commissioners decision. Discussion about the pharmacy changing hands, Murrays planning to purchase the GSMC site, but the clinic is pushing back because this could potentially delete the federally subsidized pharmaceutical discount. Water Master Plan project will be going out to bid as a single package in the next week or so.

Steve/Avista – Avista will be acquired by Hydro One, a Canadian company. Privately held utilities have been reduced to 50, with this company being #46 in size. Share holder governance has been developed

so that the overhead company does not micro-manage. This will not affect the processes locally; the change-over will not be completed until the end of next year.

Sheryll – Eclipse wrap-up for South Morrow will occur; there were no big issues during the event. The bikeway event will be happening in the next couple weeks, but there is concern with air quality due to the fires. WCEDG allowing enough funding for about five housing upgrades within the community, focusing on FHA funding applicable projects.

Edie - Working on update of SIP, Heppner also received \$3 mil in funding for roads.

Don – Discussed how the AOC determined the SIP funding mechanism, noting that the county will get about \$700k additional funding each year. County is in process of making final decision for writing agreement with Wheatridge. County is looking at the benefit package for employees. Hired Kim Cutsforth as the Interim administrator while recruiting process is taking place.

Rod – 4th of July event went well, with the new playground having been finished just prior. Hired JUB Engineering Group to take care of water issue with funding coming from ICABO. The UGB process is finished with the exception of the ordinance finalization.

Janette – Working on the park, with another park in the queue. Have a bid out for street works. Have a new counselor, Bobbie Gordon, who has been on board for a month now. Still working on the water tower project.

Carla – Starting to account for the work that the planning department does in a format that provides statistical data for a 10-year trend.

Melisa – On the infrastructure side there is a need to analyze funding due to lessor funds available compared to previous years, may migrate to streamlined application process online. Business development getting ready to do annual workforce assessments in collaboration with the POM.

Next meeting October 3, 2017 in lone at Route 74.

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.