

## **Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force**

Meeting Notes for October 3, 2017

Bartholomew Building

Heppner, Oregon

Attendees: Edie Ball, Sheryll Bates, Kim Carter, Susan Christensen, Kim Cutsforth, Janette Eldrige, Kym Erevia, Julie Gisi, Randy Jones, Melissa Lindsay, Carla McLane, Heidi Nelson, Dustin Padberg, Aaron Palmquist.

The meeting started at 9:08 a.m. Meeting minutes for September 21, 2017, were reviewed and approved as written.

**Marijuana Opt-Out Update:** The Morrow County Board of Commissioners (BOC) will read by title the adoption ordinance for the 4 new license types on October 11, followed on October 25, 2017, the second reading and adoption. After 90-days the ordinance will become effective on February 1, 2018.

**Housing as Economic Development:** Initial draft of Request for Proposals (RFP) for lands inventory was discussed. The refined RFP and an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) will be sent out to cities with a goal for IGA signing and contribution commitment of November 1-15, 2017 timeframe. Transportation management program has been refunded, but it's competitive, which means regions will get about \$200k which most likely will be assigned to planning work. Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) is working on Request For Information (RFI) for Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for workforce housing initiative funding for Heppner.

**RDI:** Several people from the county attended the event but there was nothing that was tangible that could drive our communities to hire RDI for future projects. Discussed community building strategy using innovative concepts for improving the team building within our areas. "Regards to Rural" will be held May 18-20, 2018 in Vancouver.

**Tourism:**

**Parks Master Plan** - Being updated by sub-committee; once it's adopted by the BOC there will be some overlay zone work and updates to OHV compound area for greater tourism attraction and traveler support systems.

**Century Bikeway** - Submitted comments to ODOE for B2H line for mitigation of impacts to the bikeway; comment period is closed.

**Heritage Trail** - Kickoff meeting on October 19, 2017 will address stakeholder group, which will lead to a steering committee appointed by BOC. Need to finalize route and get landowner agreements in place. Convert concept to implementation plan, which then integrates into the county TSP. Ultimate goal is to have a friends group assume lead and take over management of the trail.

**Bike Tour** - Went well in Heppner with interest in making the event grow for avid riders. Businesses profited and have interest in supporting the growth. Additional services need to be incorporated to the route, and fees for entry will be increased according to the riders' recommendations.

**Roundtable:**

**Melissa** - Attended agritourism dinner at Blackwood Farm, which was a fantastic event that will prosper. County is almost done finalizing agreement for the Wheatridge project with NextEra.

**Julie** - Chamber is focusing on career day this month, there will be presentations from Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) workforce and robotics. Boardman Community Development Association

(BCDA) is out of funds with several applications pending. BCDA has awarded 147 grants to-date, with 18-20 new constructions and 60 new residents since 2015, as well as a number of house flips.

Janette - Still working on water system project and getting ready for spring for the relining process.

Edie - Having kickoff meeting on October 16, 2017 at noon with a curbside chat at 3:00 p.m. for Transportation Systems Plan (TSP) project start-up of the plan update. Engineer is taking charge of the TSP project based on Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) plan, but it isn't the right fit for Heppner. Talking about submitting a grant application for the feasibility study for possibly shared lagoon systems with Lone, which is due on October 13, 2017 through Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD).

Kim Carter - Finalizing the UGB expansion, meeting is on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm with the council for adoption. USDA bond was out into a debt pool and was able to sell the debt, freeing up reserve, shortening the overall life of the loan.

Aaron - Looking forward to House Bill 2017 and how it will affect the city, working with ODOT on how that might work for funding stream. Application for small city allotment due date is coming, this means there is potential for funding every three years now. Will be soliciting for small businesses to come to Irrigon; the council has informally considered the prospect and is supportive.

Susan - GEODC will be starting the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan update for a 7-county area. There is some eclipse follow up that includes funds for totality pathway to U of O for resilience plan surveys.

Kim Cutsforth - County received proposal for the north end facility plan that includes county facilities that are not sufficient. Will start review of applicants on October 29, 2017 for the County Administrator vacancy. The Howard Bryant Foundation opened the two bids received for the park at the pool; Silver Creek looks like the apparent low bidder. An award of \$94,000 in grants has been received for this project, which has to be completed by March 30, 2018.

Randy - Regional Advisory Committee has been tasked to establish regional economic priorities, with anticipation that the goals will remain going forward. Will be coming up with criteria for allocating dollars that come from region for projects according to priorities. A team made be tasked to provide planning and technical assistance for the South County Waste Water project.

Carla – Planning Department is re-engaging with the Planning Commission for next to-do projects. Parks Master Plan piece is keeping staff busy. Need to finalize joint management agreements and bring back to the city staff to discuss, Kym will be working on this project.

Next meeting in Irrigon. November 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Irrigon City Hall.

Agenda Build: Strategic Vision 2050, housing, buildable lands, tourism, and other economic categories as needed.

Adjourned at 11:41 am.