

Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force

Meeting Notes for January 5, 2016

Bartholomew Building

Heppner, Oregon

Attendees: Tillman Carr, Kim Carter, Kim Cutsforth, Carla McLane, Aaron Palmquist, Karen Pettigrew, Don Russell and Jerry Sorte.

The meeting started about 10:15 a.m. Carla shared that the December meeting notes were not available and will be provided at the February meeting.

Community Reports:

Aaron: A couple of businesses are looking to site in Irrigon; should be more information in a couple three months. Updating/revising development code. Water and waste water treatment issues.

Karen: Abatement continues on a house in Boardman. NOWA has been in conversation with the city for some time. December 10 the full community participated in a effort to perfect a portion of the city's water right. CREZ met on December 11 granting all three areas \$100,000 in new housing money. Also passed through bond funds and paid the fire truck payment. Received Block grant for migrant head start; frustrations with federal grant process.

Kim (Heppner): Fire Hall work continues. Waste water plan finally completed after only five years! But then EPA came back with comment. Could lead to impacts, but the city is working to counter the EPA comment. Stay tuned. Lots of planning activity including a new office for Community Counseling Solutions.

Kim (Ione): Still planning a trip to look at Orenco waste water treatment facility. Housing vacancies – 13 empty houses currently.

Don: Discussed the federal process under the National Environmental Policy Act and the current BLM imposed work to get from their 'environmentally preferred route' to an 'agency preferred route.'

Jerry: Welcome!

Tillman: Phil Nachbar has left. Staff reorganization has taken place. Tillman is working to put feet on the streets and is looking for federal funds to put staff back in Ontario and John Day. There is a desire to purchase to old Pendleton Police Station for GEODC offices and a business incubator facility.

Carla: Planning Commission has been quiet this past year. The updated Economic Element will go before the Planning Commission for its first public hearing later in January. Work is also going forward on a code update incorporating our variances, non-conforming uses and special uses.

Business Incubators: Kim shared that the WCVEDG is looking to move their office space to a main street building.to provide better access, and it may also offer business incubator space. There was an interesting discussion about how we all hear 'economic development' but all think of it from a different perspective. It started as a discussion of the role of a city, a chamber or an economic development agency. It was stated that economic development is a three legged stool that requires good schools, good medical care (hospital), and internet (and other) access. Good housing was also identified as an important component. Swimming pools are also identified as an important item as well!!

Various Updates: Population Coordination – not much has happened. Special Transportation – the Loop meets this afternoon in Lexington. November meeting notes and scope of work will be

shared. Anticipate for work product in January. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan – at FEMA. February 10 will be end of their 45 day review process. Still keeping to adoption in February or March. Hoping for minor fixes. NWSTF Boardman Final EIS – has been released and is in a 30 day waiting period ending January 19.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2 at 10:00 a.m. at the Irrigon City Hall.

Future Meeting Agenda Build: Commercial Space Inventory; Commercial Recruitment Measures; Population Coordination; ACOE MOU; Willow Creek Dam Tour; Comprehensive Plan, Development Code and Transportation System Plan updates; Special Transportation Updates; and Joint Management Agreements.