

Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force

Meeting Notes for April 5, 2016

Boardman City Hall

Boardman, Oregon

Attendees: Kim Carter, Scott Fairley, Melissa Lindsay, Skip Matthews, Carla McLane, Aaron Palmquist, Karen Pettigrew, Hank Pieper, Don Russell and Emily Waite.

The meeting started at 10:05 a.m. Karen Pettigrew moved approval of the February 2, 2016 meeting notes, seconded by Don Russell. Motion passed.

Community Reports:

Karen: Sewer back up here in Boardman. Insurance does not cover much.

Skip: Fire Hall coming along well. Having trouble with wastewater treatment – city moving to lagoon storage. Anderson Perry is taking another crack at the problem. Sewer rates will be going up.

Aaron: Java Junkies is open!! Division Street project is looking good for funding. Will include another on demand pedestrian crossing. Work continues on various DEQ issues. CREZ community enhancement funds – a portion will be used for code enforcement cleanup projects. There will also be a beautification project.

Scott: Regional Solutions Advisory Committee met last week. Identified six priorities for this region. Regional Solutions is ramping up to support the LUB GWMA. NOWA will also be involved. There was considerable discussion concerning water in the basin and how both water quantity limitations work with, or against, water quality.

Melissa: First time here. Excited by the sharing of information.

Kim: Linda is back, but still traveling. Budget cycle has started. Sewer discussions continue. With Heppner needs related to waste water treatment it might be time to have the larger Willow Creek Valley conversation?!

Don: Budget month. County Compensation Committee recently met. They determine elected officials compensation. Don shared concerns with the counties that we are compared to in this process. Boardman to Hemingway *preliminary* agency preferred route has been released.

Emily: Tourism!! Travel Oregon will be in Eastern Oregon with the Governor's Conference on Tourism later in the month. The 7 wonders of Oregon campaign is changing to a campaign that shares "we like it here, you might too!" Locally there is a focus and workgroup tasked with identifying and supporting agri-tourism. Cinco de Mayo celebrations are slated for early May.

PSU Population Research Center Population Forecast: Comments made at the March meeting and the letter from the County Court, some of the population forecast numbers have been amended. The report is now out and comment will be accepted through May 15. This will be an agenda item in May, followed by a discussion in June about how we adopt this forecast locally.

Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plan: A primary Planning interest in this planning process is to better inform the County's Transportation System Plan. Technical Memorandums are in process with a draft plan anticipated in May.

Regional Travel Shed Planning: This is an ODOT endeavor working with Morrow and Umatilla County, as well as the CTUIR and the Walla Walla/Milton-Freewater MPO to determine possible movement from current systems (Kayak, Morrow County Special Transportation, other focus programs) to a framework for future transit opportunities (fixed routes, connections from one program to other offerings).

Boardman to Hemingway *preliminary* Agency Preferred Route: We have already talked about B2H project earlier during community reports. Introduced Hank Pieper, GIS Planning Technician, sharing his help and assistance with maps and related projects.

Housing Development and Opportunities: Things are changing here in Morrow County, mostly to date based upon financial inputs from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone. One big change has been the increase in comparables now available based on the housing sales that have happened over the past 18 months. There is also evidence from the groups implementing the project throughout the county that there are new people moving to the county because of this program. Discussion continued about the benefits of increasing population and adding housing units to the community and various taxing districts. The discussion ended talking about Healthy Communities. Scott will share some information from Oregon Housing and Community Services.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3 at 11:00 a.m. at the Route 74 in Ione.

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.