

Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force
Meeting Notes for May 3, 2016
Route 74
Ione, Oregon

Attendees: Sheryll Bates, Kim Cutsforth, Jeanette Eldrige, Linda LaRue, Melissa Lindsay, Carla McLane, Aaron Palmquist, and Emily Waite.

The meeting started at 11:05 a.m. Aaron Palmquist moved approval of the April 5, 2016 meeting notes, seconded by Kim Cutsforth. Motion passed.

Community Reports:

Linda: Budget hearing tonight. Still planning a visit to observe an Orenco sewer system. Experiencing some constraints with water to Emert II. Discussed engineers and concerns. Also working on an animal density ordinance.

Melissa: Waiting for May 17. A bit nervous.

Sheryll: WCVEDG: Community Enhancement grants received. Chamber: Moved in to new space.

Emily: Boardman Community Development Association is doing a Business Enhancement Grant. Events: SAGE Center movie weekend; Cinco de Mayo; River Grill Mother's Day Brunch May 12 Rec Center Groundbreaking; Pajama's and pancake Friday May 13.

Jeanette: Fireproof Safe purchased with a grant; budget hearings tonight.

Aaron: Budget done; Bringing code enforcement back in house; housing money all spent; some money saving options happening with DEQ on the waste water treatment loan; CREZ enhancement funds being planned for.

Kim: Fire hall under construction! Community Counselling Services siting their administrative building in Heppner. Long discussion concerning waste water treatment options. Budget shortfalls have delayed budget adoption.

Carla: Budget approved, including a new part-time employee for the planning department; provided a short land use actions update – economic element, airport zoning changes, and farm worker housing at Threemile Canyon Farms.

GEODC: Interim Director Susan Christensen.

PSU Population Research Center Coordinated Population Forecast: Carla reminded folks to comment on the draft forecast prior to 5:00 p.m. on May 15. The forecast is predominately based upon historic trends, relying mostly on births and deaths. Net migration plays a role, but our work increasing housing is not something that would normally be incorporated. The discussion about how to implement this new information will need to take place after the forecast is formally adopted by the state the end of June.

Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plan: Draft plan review with the consultant team is scheduled for this afternoon. The focus will be on the strategies. If all goes well I am hopeful the STF/Loop will recommend adoption by the County Court. That adoption would then take place in the next 45 to 60 days.

Regional Travel Shed Planning: The first meeting for this project took place last week. The end result, as viewed by the Planning Department, is a framework working towards a transit plan for Morrow County. A full route system may be many years away, but finding ways to connect with Kayak, or offer limited route options, may be viable in the near future.

Boardman to Hemingway *preliminary* Agency Preferred Route: The Morrow County Court is holding an Open House tomorrow night, with notice provided to all route landowners, to solicit

information concerning the various routes, working to determine a preliminary agency preferred route. The newest route option, the one furthest to the south, is a result of comment and input from Umatilla County indicating first the only route acceptable is the Interstate 84 option, then moving to support of a route significantly to the south. When that southern route appeared as an option Morrow County suggested some changes to move the option further away from irrigated agriculture and residences.

Housing Development and Opportunities: Carla provided the “Framework for a Healthy Community” document from Scott Fairley. Discussion ensued about the document, what its implications might be, and how it might be used. Folks wanted to know if there was funding available to achieve ‘health community’ status, at which point Carla acknowledged she’d lost control of the meeting. More serious conversation continued around support for housing other than government supported affordable housing, particularly funding for ‘healthy community’ assets. The group also had a discussion about housing options, including tiny houses.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7 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.