

Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force

Meeting Notes for June 7, 2016

Irrigon City Hall

Irrigon, Oregon

Attendees: Sheryll Bates, Kim Carter, Jeanette Eldrige, Melissa Lindsay, Carla McLane, Judy Moore, Aaron Palmquist, Karen Pettigrew, Leann Rea, Don Russell and Emily Waite.

The meeting started at 10:05 a.m. Introductions around the table. Aaron asked that we add to the agenda a discussion on Initiative Petition 28. No meeting minutes were available for review and approval.

Community Reports:

Leann: Landscaping is underway at the Bartholomew Building; Hiring of the new Finance Director is proceeding.

Aaron: NEACT meeting later this week – Irrigon's Division Street project being strongly considered; Highway 730 sidewalk project moving forward; housing projects meeting challenges with DEQ re septic inputs to wastewater treatment process.

Janette: Budget almost done.

Sheryll: WCVEDG: housing needs continue – looking for ways to build duplexes or other options. CHAMBER: moved into new space; agritourism work continues.

Don: Morrow County joined the unfunded mandates lawsuit; CREZ Board met last Friday – housing was discussed with another meeting for funding July 15; Rental housing is also needed – conversation starting.

Emily: Housing conversations are also happening at the Chamber; music in the parks gets underway; Love's is open with the official ribbon cutting next Wednesday; Fourth of July planning is underway.

Kim Carter: Budget is wrapping up.

Judy: Interim Executive Director Susan Christianson is on board; search underway for Executive Director; Rex Baker and Judy Moore have both returned to the staff.

Karen: Budget wrapping up tonight; interviewing for another public works staff member.

Carla: Energy projects continue to take center stage. Wheatridge wind energy facility public hearing was held; staff continue work on Farm and Forest Use Model Code development for consideration by the Planning Commission.

PSU Population Research Center Coordinated Population Forecast: Continuing discussion will continue between the county and cities. Anticipate a lunch conversation in August.

Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plan: This Plan is nearly done, anticipating acceptance by the LOOP today with adoption by the County Court over the next 45 days or so.

Regional Travel Shed Planning: Works continues. Carla shared her vision that this work could culminate in a framework for a transit plan for Morrow County and west Umatilla County. You could think of north Morrow County and west Umatilla County as a complete community, with Boardman being the industrial area and Hermiston being the commercial area with the smaller communities being neighborhoods offering housing and limited commercial services.

Boardman to Hemingway: Gone dark again. Work continues in a pre-decisional capacity. Final EIS anticipated in late summer (but I am sure that date will slip).

Business Incubators: Sheryll provided a quick update on the veterinary clinic in Lexington. There is still a desire by Dick Temple to retire, but there is also a need to retain a veterinary clinic in Morrow County. There have been meetings previously, but the conversation has been suspended at this time pending the Temple's having a better idea of what they want to do, when they want to do it, and how they want to move forward.

Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC) has in their current CEDS the development of various business incubators and/or accelerators, specifically one for wine and another for unmanned aerial vehicles. One aspect of the accelerator site will be a learning channel on the web offering learning and training opportunities. The group is the Eastern Oregon Business Innovation Network; Art Hill is a principle along with others and GEODC. Judy provided considerable information about incubator and accelerator facilities and development around Oregon.

Agenda Build: The next couple of meetings were discussed specific to topics and agencies to be invited. Ideas included: Army Corp, Department of State Lands, GEODC, south county waste water, LUB GWMA and water quantity, DEQ air toxins.

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

Adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

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.