

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

Meeting Notes for November 1, 2016

Lexington Town Hall

Lexington, Oregon

### **Attendees:**

Sheryll Bates, Kim Cutsforth, Janette Eldrige, Kymberli Erevia (Boardman Chamber), Scott Fairly, Randy Jones (DEQ, Regional Solution Center, LaGrande), Linda LaRue, Melissa Lindsay, Carla McLane, Skip Matthews, Judy Moore (GEODC), Aaron Palmquist, Karen Pettigrew, Leann Rea, and Don Russell.

The meeting started at approximately 9:07 a.m. Meeting minutes for June 7 moved by Leann and seconded by Linda – approved. August 2 moved by Leann and seconded by Kim Cutsforth – approved.

**South County Waste Water Options:** Heppner is just beginning their process for waste water resolutions – just completed waste water treatment facility plan; DEQ representative confident that permit would go through, but it did not because of EPA comments on discharge and nitrate volumes based on algorithm rather than real time data; as of last week RFP for engineering studies let – should be back by the first; flood plain issues cause concern; looking at effecting residents that will not benefit from proposed changes; did not qualify for grants for study, but received low interest loan from DEQ; Lexington is beginning - there was a survey sent out with a water bill in the paste, but the need isn't considered to be as critical for replacement or repair compared to lone at this time; lone is continuing their process; discussion regarding lot size relative to water line placement; currently dealing with local citizen mentality regarding cost; vacant lots primarily due to system failures and inability for legacy owners to resell; Linda has planned to visit three different communities utilizing Orenco prior to the company being introduced to lone; split enthusiasm regarding new system in lone; discussion regarding tanking process and solid waste dissipation; looking at phased approach based on known failure and terrain; education piece in the past included a septic contractor discussing requirements to maintain a septic system, particularly the perceived absence of cost over time as well as property values effects – bring this back to community as part of education in support of updating system; Randy stated that the needs in Lexington and lone are a mixed bag; full municipal system isn't idealistic, particularly the connection of the two; there are lots with system failure causing a large lot vacancy rate leading to package system costs being skewed; lot size changes may lead to solution end of September the State of Oregon legislation moved that DEQ partner with company called Craft 3 to come up with a design, permitting, ongoing maintenance and upgrade costs becoming affordable; Randy will send information to Carla for distribution; statewide solution consideration based on success in the State of Washington with the same company and approach; there are a lot of resources available through DEQ, including revolving fund, circuit and permit writers involved in providing education to locals; include hazardous waste perspective and initiate inter-community wide introduction and cover as many sub-topics possible at one time; proposing open house venue in the spring; Carla will help to get Janette up to speed for Lexington; look at developing education piece and replicate; partnership between DEQ and Craft 3 may be more beneficial to the north end of Morrow County.

### **Community Reports:**

Carla: Gave a Boardman to Hemingway update.

Don: North county facility improvements currently being explored, space and money are key components; hiring architect to consider space requirements to include future growth projections.

Randy: PGE Boardman - conversion to biomass – two torrefaction units operating in Boardman (unit at Boardman Chip plant and Reclaim); manufacturing torrefied biomass for test burn.

Kymberli: Chamber community awards planning underway; Julie Gisi named the new Executive Director for Boardman Chamber of Commerce.

Judy: Federal reporting work completed end of October; online course for mortgage lending being done by Judy for NW Regional Housing Program (UGH).

Karen: Water master plan update underway; BIA on 10/21 agreed to lease the river property, CTUIR is opposed; Boardman didn't get the Small City DOT allotment; Hotel interest in Boardman, enterprise zone expansion complete; apartment developer and city looking at potential incentives; seeking new clerk.

Skip/Kim: Basking in afterglow of Fire Hall project; park improvement being considered near the swimming pool to include a restroom; Fire Hall open house is pending – looking at 11/12 or 11/19; TSP update grant received – work mostly next fall; previous city allotment used to pave Chase to cemetery with county and cemetery assistance; didn't receive special allotment this year.

Aaron: Finishing the refinancing this week lowering interest and shortening term, saving over \$2 mil over the life of bond(s); code enforcement – abating 18 properties; property enhancement continues; Chamber is planning a 60 year anniversary celebration in February; April Volk-a-thon (walk event) coming to include a 5k and 10k.

Scott: WBGWMA Regional Solutions project moving through process; interim EOU center – Anna Harris; Advisory Committee meeting to be held on November 11 via phone conference; Gilliam County undertaking a R.S Housing project.

**Housing as Economic Development:** Skipped until next month; work with Judy and Susan at GEODC.

**Regional Travel Shed Planning Process:** Carla shared about next meeting on November 10, inviting all to attend; Umatilla County thinks [we] should all just let Kayak do this work.

**Business Initiative/Incentives:** Boardman – Nick's Cell Phone Service new business; beauty shop owner retiring, this is a great opportunity; Smiley's (formerly Leonard's) is doing updates to the location.

**Items for the Good of the Order:** No items.

**Agenda Build:** Orenco, housing, RS-LUB GWMA, LVR Permit.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6 at 9:00 a.m. in Boardman at the Boardman City Hall.

Adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

**Future Meeting Dates:** Jan 3, Feb 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, Aug 1, Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7 and Dec 5 2017.