



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes Community Response Team Wednesday, August 1, 2018

Attendees:

Rep. Lynn Findley-District 60	Bill Rosholt-Eastern Oregon Workforce Board
Rick Paul-Community Member	Ed Sussman-WorkSource Oregon
Pete Runnels-HC Judge	Arik Swindlehurst-WorkSource Oregon
Patty Dorroh-HC Commissioner	Andy Swingle-Community Member
Mark Owens-HC Commissioner	Jen Hoke-Harney District Hospital
Angela Lamborn-Senior and Community Services	Dan Hoke-Community Member
Jordan Sheeley-High Desert Partnership	Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling
Lynn McClintock-High Desert Parks and Rec.	Dauna Wensenk-City of Burns
Martha Corrigan-Symmetry Care	Brenda Smith-High Desert Partnership
Judy Erwin-City of Hines	Lola Johnson-HC Chamber of Commerce
Zelly-Community Member	Rhonda Karges-Bureau of Land Management
Jim Campbell-Community Member	Melodi Molt-Community Member
Amber Wares-Symmetry Care	Greg Smith-HC Economic Development
Marjorie Thelen-Gallery 15	Denise Rose-HC Economic Development
Sandra Ghormley-Oregon Trail Electric Coop.	Phil Scheuers-HC Economic Development
Jen Keady-Family Eye Care	John Braese-HC Economic Development
Forrest Keady-Historic Central Hotel	

1. **Greg Smith** welcomed the group and called the meeting to order.
2. **Old Business:** July meeting minutes were provided with the August agenda sent via email. It was moved and seconded to approve minutes. All voted in favor. A discussion of the September meeting date was held and by general consensus it was agreed to move the meeting to September 13th, due to potential County Fair conflicts.
3. **New Business:** State Representative Lynn Findley brought greetings from Salem and noted that they will be talking about carbon emissions and tax revenue among other topics in the Legislative Days this fall. He encouraged contact from Harney County residents as there will be some good discussions.

A. Regular Reports

City of Burns, Dauna Wensenk – The cleanup and abatement processes are still active, and letters are going out. Oregon Department of Transportation is asking for input on changing Highway 20 from four lanes to three from the corner of Monroe and Broadway to Hines. They have considered the community request for a crosswalk by Safeway on Court and suggested by changing to two traffic lanes and one turning lane a crosswalk would be possible. A pedestrian island needs to be added in the middle of the road. ODOT is suggesting this be incorporated in the sidewalk projects coming up. The Burns City Council has some misgivings about the change but has suggested that ODOT hold community meetings to get residents input.

Harney County Court, Pete Runnels/Mark Owens/Patty Dorroh – Judge Runnels reported on the Knox restoration project which is 2/3 in Grant County and 1/3 in Harney. The county court is also working with ODFW Red Band trout project and the Farm Bureau in a land use effort.

Commissioner Owens reported on the progress of the FEMA modeling to exclude areas of Harney County from flood designation under a 100-year event. The adjustment could help mitigate current issues. **Commissioner Dorroh** reported on her appointment to the Construction Contractors Board and encouraged any contractors who have issues with the board or processes to contact her. The Workforce Board report will be presented later by Bill Rosholt. The Housing Inventory RFP had gone out for bid, any input is welcome on any of these topics.

Burns Paiute Tribe – no report

City of Hines Judy Erwin-Dollar Tree has broken ground, Boomers Restaurant hopes to open by fair week and another business is still looking for locations to build.

Business Oregon, Scott Fairley – no report

Harney County Economic Development, Greg Smith – An entrepreneur process is developing with Small Business Development classes in the community. Plans are to have the second Building Your Business class available after Labor Day. Also, planned is a Get Ready to Hire Your First Employee class. Greg mentioned that ODOT sidewalk to school's grant is now available. He also promoted the Historic Central Hotel as he had a chance to stay there recently. The governor's Marketplace event is coming to Burns on September 13th and Greg encouraged attendance.

Other Reports:

Easter Oregon Workforce Board-Bill Rosholt- The board was formed in 2015, meets four times a year and has two members from Harney County serving, Patty Dorroh and Forest Keady. The structure was formed to serve adult, youth and dislocated workers through the federally funded Training and Employment office. One of their functions is to determine sector strategy. The first effort was manufacturing, and the board assembled a group to identify shared problems and helped take that message to agencies who could address the issues. There are many different groups working on related efforts and he encouraged active participation with our local board members, so they can respond to needs.

Progress reports on work topics:

- Angela Lambourn announced the receipt of funding for the workforce housing project in Hines. They have 2/3 financed and the plan has been adjusted to 20 units; 9 two bedroom and 11 one-bedroom homes. Home First Development will manage the construction project, and which is due to open in January 2020. **(Housing)**
- The broadband project is launched. Postcards asking for survey participation will be mailed to all residential addresses and PO boxes in late August. The Rural Skill Builders Workshop will be held at the old Lincoln Jr. High building on 9/21 and the Governors Marketplace will be here at the Community Center on 9/13. **(Infrastructure)**

B. WorkForce Report:

- The committee report was presented by Brenda Smith and talked about apprenticeships and internships as well as the youth development going on through the High Desert Partnership process. There are several crossover groups in the community who are looking at the same broad issues. Baker Technical Institute will have their simulator truck at the Harney County Fair.
- TVCC President Dana Young joined by phone to share plans for customized training for individual businesses, tailored to their needs. and discussed building workforce.
- WorkSource Oregon Director Ed Sussman added the following the points:
 - a. He appreciated WorkSource being included in the SWOT process, and mentioned that the best solution is likely a conversation to align skills taught with needs in business.
 - b. On the Job training subsidies are available through the Training and Employment office, partnered with local WorkSource Oregon representatives..
 - c. Contractors and Apprenticeship programs are generally run through Bureau of Labor and Industry. Region 6, Ontario area has been able to provide training as requested to some businesses, so there is an example to follow.
 - d. Tax incentives and credits are available for hiring specific populations (veterans, disabled, SNAPP /TNFF recipients, and those with a criminal record). Bonded companies may need a waiting period for the some of these populations.
 - e. A general discussion was held about internship programs that may be available and concluded that strong leadership benefits business and employees.

Outcomes and Recommendations:

- Demand is high for skilled employees.
- HC Economic Development will partner with local WorkSource Oregon staff to go door to door to talk to business owners about programs. **Greg Smith, Denise Rose and Arik Swindlehurst, possibly Tonya Fox.**
- Open House for contractors and those who don't necessarily have a storefront or office location – **WorkSource and HC Economic Development**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will be September 13th and the Infrastructure committee will report.