



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes
Community Revitalization Team
Wednesday, June 1, 2022
5:30 PM- 7:00 PM
484 N. Broadway, Burns OR

Attendees: In person

Zoom

Kirby Letham-City of Hines	Feather Sams-Huesties-Business Oregon
Rick Paul-Community Member	Logan Hunt-Burns Paiute Tribe
Andrea Letham-SBDC, HDP -Biz Harney	Bob Cargill-OTEC
Guy McKay-WorkSource Oregon	Bill Hart-Community Member
Tucker Billman-OTEC	Zoom:
Denise Rose-HC Economic Development	Clayton Crowhurst-NW Housing Alternatives

- 1. Introductions:** Denise Rose opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
- 2. Old Business:** the minutes were provided on the website for the May meeting. There were no changes or comments.
- 3. New business:**
 - A. Regular Reports**
City of Burns, Dan Brown – no report, out of town.

County Court, Judge Pete Runnels- no report, out of town.

Burns Paiute Tribe, Logan Hunt- read a report submitted by Interim General Manager Jordon Bennett. They are experiencing similar issues to the cities of Burns and Hines in housing shortages, which make staffing and hiring a challenge. Jordon’s goal as interim is to stabilize staffing level. The five-year strategic planning process is nearing completion, likely in the next two months. The final document will be shared with the community. The tribe has hired a Business Development Specialist who will assist tribal administration and council in the direction, selection and operation of any future business opportunities.

City of Hines, Kirby Letham- they will see the end of the water project this summer. The software for tracking and billing usage will be done first as the meters are once again functional. The system will be live by September and residents will be receiving metered billing. Part of the TLT revenue will be used to create a bird viewing station by the sewer lagoons. Local birder groups are very excited to partner with the city to have a pull over area and viewing platform. It is budget season, and the city has budgeted for a fourth law enforcement officer. An application for a COPS grant, if accepted could subsidize the position for 3-5 years, so they needed to get that item in the budget.

Harney County Economic Development, Denise Rose- two loans processing now. Both looking very good, allowing two business to change hands and remain open. Working with Tucker and OTEC for the manufactured home replacement program. Talking to real estate professionals, this could

improve the quality of housing stock in the county areas especially. Discussion held regarding the summer CRT meetings. Do we have action to convene the full meeting? Kirby suggested cancelling the July meeting for sure, Tucker has an announcement for later this summer but could be an email. General agreement was probably August as well but will poll the group later this summer.

B. Other Community Updates:

Business Oregon, Feather Sams-Huesties -reported that HB 2345 has allowed funding to rural jurisdictions who need grant writing assistance. This service can be accessed through GEODC. The State of Oregon Economic Recovery Plan is now available on the state website. The key points of urgent need include:

1. Workforce Housing
2. Childcare
3. Workforce Attraction
4. Access to Capital

The Center for Innovation Excellence grant is now available for planning processes. \$125,000 available. Also, she reminded businesses who need to be certified under COBID for bidding state or federal contracts to contact that office at Business Oregon.

TVCC SBDC and Biz Harney, Andrea Letham-gave a background of support services through SBDC. Biz Harney as an HDP collaborative focuses on creating an entrepreneurial pipeline for business owners. Overview of Co-Starters and the success rates for business owners who take the class. There is also a Generators class for youth. She mentioned the upcoming Tribal Youth Entrepreneur event for ages 9-14 and a Youth Summit coming in late September. Biomass project also coming together, and she gave detail about the potential expansion sites for the heating system partnership.

OTEC, Tucker Billman and Bob Cargill- overview of the excellent scholarship programs OTEC offers, to get youth the education they need and want but keep them here. Especially those entering trade industries. Partnership with EOUC has been very beneficial as they seek to share cost for scholarships. Bob talked about the Dolly Parton reading program and their success in placing books with over 3000 kids to date. OTEC is hosting an Economic Development Summit to focus on the real problems being solved in their service area and share solutions, resources. The event will be August 29 at Anthony Lakes and should provide good networking opportunities. OTEC annual meeting has added a new board member.

Clayton Crowhurst- asked for more information from OTEC on the incentives for multifamily vs. single family. He and Tucker will connect offline.

Guy McKay, WorkSource Oregon-introduced himself as the new local representative and gave some personal background.

Committee Reports as needed: no reports from Infrastructure, Small Business and Workforce Committees or Housing.

C. Focus Work: Tour of First Home: 244 S. Saginaw, Hines Adjourned 6:30 PM