



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes
Community Revitalization Team
Wednesday, October 7, 2020
5:30 PM- 7:00 PM
484 N. Broadway and Via Zoom

Attendees:

Pete Runnels-Harney County Judge	Andrea Letham-TVCC SBDC
Fred Flippence-Harney Electric Cooperative	Irene Gonzalez-Small Business Administration
Tim Beaubien-Community Member	Misti Porter-TVCC Outreach
Allison Field-Business Oregon	Steve Quick-HC School District #3
Lea Gettle-Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative	Edna Ryzebol-Business Property Owner
Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling	Kirby Letham-City of Hines
Gretchen Bates-Community Member	Alisa Pyszka – Bridge Economic Development
Tory Stinnett-Grant Co. Economic Development	Judy Erwin-City of Burns
Doris Davison-Country Washboard	Forrest Keady-The Palace/Historic Central Hotel
Shawna Bonaby-future community member	Jen Keady-Historic Central Hotel/Family Eyecare
Keith Ziobran-Cardno	Ben Cate-High Desert Partnership
Mary Wisner-Cardno	Jason Kesling-HC Soil & Water Conservation District
Vince Battaglia - Cardno	Greg Smith-Harney County Economic Development
Denise Rose-Harney County Economic Development	

1. **Director Greg Smith** welcomed the group, called the meeting to order and identified those calling in by phone.
2. **Old Business:** The September meeting minutes were sent out by link to the website, and there were no comments or changes suggested.
3. **New Business:**

A. Regular Reports:

Harney County Court, Pete Runnels -the County Court is watching the first quarter budget and the county financial situation is improving, they are continuing to build up funds. The Cardno Brownfield project has started. There will be a DEQ waste Disposal event on October 31st, allowing free disposal of a variety of hazardous material.

City of Burns, Judy Erwin –About \$10,000 in Corona Relief Funds (CRF) have been granted to Burns businesses, to date. The street projects on S. Liberty and S. McGowen will be starting this month. The Memorial Field project is just beginning, they are getting advice from real estate professionals and other expertise.

City of Hines, Kirby Letham – The water project is becoming a full-time job for the city to manage. Kirby and Jerry are both spending a lot of time addressing issues and keeping communication current for residents. The system will install new meters on about 70% of the lines, new fire hydrants will also be installed, and the system will have a GIS mapping capability to streamline the water management job. The City of Hines has received CRF money as well and is gathering ideas for how to best help Hines businesses.

Burns Paiute Tribe, Logan Hunt - no report

Harney County Economic Development, Greg Smith – The intern program has launched along with the extended office hours. The office will be open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in addition to the regular days of Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The interns are gathering contact information by phone to compile a resource of businesses in the county.

B. Additional Reports:

Harney County School District #3, Superintendent Steve Quick – The schools are open with students on an A and B model schedule. Only about 10% of Oregon schools are allowing students to be physically in the building. Quick reminded the group about the facilities improvement bond, he asked for everyone to get the word out.

Harney County SBDC, Andrea Letham- Andrea introduced Shop Harney, the new E Gift card launching in the business community. It allows anyone to purchase a virtual card, that can be used at a participating business, in Harney County. Physical cards can also be printed at The Chamber of Commerce. She has been helping businesses access the Round 4, Business Oregon grant funds, which is available to businesses who show at least a 25% loss, even if they have received PPP or EIDL funds.

GEODC, Bree Cubrilovic-was welcomed as a new RARE intern. She will be working on getting Business Oregon Relief information distributed and on a regional economic resiliency plan under COVID.

C. Regular Committee Reports:

Housing – A housing incentive program is being proposed at the state level to allow a 5-year tax break on improvements. The concept is for both new homes and major remodels. Also, both cities have waived system development fees for a period of time, on new home starts.

Small Business Support- still seeking leadership in this group

Workforce – Denise gave a brief overview of the new Harney Internship program partnering Burns High School with High Desert Partnership and businesses. It is a pilot project this school year, but the hope is for funding to continue the program.

Infrastructure – the Judge reminded voters of the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) on the ballot this November. The funds will help support the fairgrounds, among other county entities.

D. Focus Project:

Harney County Brownfield Coalition Community Meeting: Keith Ziobron from Cardno and Alisa Pyszka from Bridge Economic Development discussed the work they are doing in Harney County related to business properties with real or perceived contamination. Keith introduced Vince and Mary who have been working on a county wide inventory of potential properties while in town this week. The Cardno team will be working closely with County Court and Economic Development over the three-year contract to identify, evaluate and potentially clean up properties that are on the market or planned for development. A Power Point was presented with an overview of successful brownfield programs, funded by similar grants. Alisa then talked about her role in helping envision future uses of the local properties. Audience input and questions were taken at the end of the presentation.

General Announcements: the November and December meetings will likely be combined as in the past.

Greg Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM.