



# Harney County Economic Development

Minutes  
Community Response Team  
Wednesday January 2, 2019

**Attendees:**

Angie Lamborn-HC Senior Center	Tory Schmidt-Sage Design Works
Tonya Fox-TEC and WorkSource	Jeff Schmidt-Sage Design Works
Jan Oswald-Gourmet and Gadgets	Jean Keady-Family Eyecare
Lynn McClintock-High Desert Parks and Rec.	Forrest Keady-Central Hotel
Kirby Letham-City of Hines	Rick Paul-Community Member
Lola Johnson-HC Chamber of Commerce	Scott Fairley-Business Oregon
Kirby Letham-City of Hines	Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling
Andy Swingle-Selco Credit Union	LaNeva Gilliam-Main Street Group
Pete Runnels-Harney County Judge	Zelly-Community Member
Patty Dorroh- Harney County Court	Greg Smith-Harney County Economic Development
Mark Owens-Harney County Court	Denise Rose-Harney County Economic Development
Curt Blackburn-Jett Blackburn Real Estate	Fred Flippence-Harney Electric Cooperative

- 1. Greg Smith** welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the table.
- 2. Old Business:** December meeting minutes were reviewed. It was moved and seconded to approve minutes. All voted in favor.
- 3. New Business:**

**A. Regular Reports**

**Harney County Court, Pete Runnels-** The Brownfield evaluation process is moving forward with cooperation from the cities for ordinance recommendations. RFP and scope of work documents are out for flood zone evaluation work. Certification of the levee is also moving forward, with the intent that if flood waters can be mitigated before they reach town a request can go in to reevaluate the flood zone maps. RFP responses for this work are due back in March.

**City of Burns, Dauna Wensenk** – written report provided (see attached) the city had a conflicting planning meeting.

**Burns Paiute Tribe, Tracy Kennedy-**Judge Runnels reported that the Tribe has hired Sally Bartlett from Grant County as the new General Manager. She has a background as the Grant County Economic Development Director.

**Business Oregon, Scott Fairley** –Business Oregon continues to move along on some smaller projects in Harney County. Scott encouraged anyone with questions about programs to contact him.

**City of Hines, Kirby Letham** – The water system is in the beginning stages of implementation and they are waiting for estimates and parts to install the new water tower. Dollar Tree is still on track to open in February. The next City of Hines Planning Commission meeting is February 4, 2019. The city is also working with town home development and laundromat business owners. The ATV ordinance has passed in Hines but has requirements for times and safety standards.

**Housing, Curt Blackburn** - Curt gave a brief overview of the incentive programs available for developers and the process to follow. These are similar to the incentives being offered in John Day. He has discussed how these are working with their City Manager, Nick Green.

**Small Business, Jen Keady** – A list of buildings on Broadway was distributed with property owner names and estimates of their status (retiring, potential to sell). The Main Street Taskforce will be starting with this data first as they work with the Main Street state program. They will continue to develop and to provide more of this type of information.

**Infrastructure, Pete Runnels** – see report from county court for Brownfield and broadband status updates.

**Workforce, Brenda Smith**- Brenda was not in attendance, but Greg reminded the group about the Opportunity Knocks Workshop, for anyone considering opening a business in the county. February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 at the Community Center meeting room.

**Harney County Economic Development, Greg Smith** –the office has met with 3-4 businesses and potential new businesses, many on main street. Greg provided updates on his legislative schedule and committee assignments.

Goals for the upcoming year will be:

1. Enhance the classes available to the community
2. Financing for a minimum of 4 businesses
3. More training for Denise
4. Work with County Court to get priorities.

## **B. Focus Group:**

Discussion was held concerning the state legislative “ask” and what specifically businesses need or are asking for in relation to broadband capacity. General agreement was that the February meeting should be a deeper discussion of the topic and include representatives from LS Networks, CenturyLink, MiWave and potentially Hunter Communications. Another option for funding was combined water mitigation efforts. A discussion of the current political climate in the state was also held.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM. The next meeting will be February 6, 2019 at 5:30 PM.