



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes Community Response Team Wednesday April 3, 2019

Attendees:

Dauna Wensenk-Burns City Manager	Myndi Hemphill-L&M Investments
Tonya Fox-TEC and WorkSource	Forrest Keady-The Historic Central Hotel
George Heinz-Community Member	Jen Keady-Family Eyecare
Lynn McClintock-High Desert Parks & Rec.	Kathy Rementeria-DHS
Dennis Davis-Community Member	Zelly-Community Member
Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling	Rhonda Karges-Burns BLM
Judy Erwin- Burns City Council	Pete Runnels-Harney County Judge
LaNeva Gilliam-Main Street Group	Jen Hoke-Harney District Hospital
Larry Gilliam-Community Member	Kirby Letham- City of Hines Administrator
Denise Rose-Harney County Economic Dev.	

- 1. Denise Rose** welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. Due to the size of the crowd, it was agreed that introductions were not necessary. Additions to the agenda included an offer from George Heinz to update the group on the recent Town Hall web event.
- 2. Old Business:** March meeting minutes were sent by email with the April agenda. It was moved by Jen and seconded by Judy to approve minutes. All voted in favor, with one correction to the date noted by Pete Runnels later in the meeting.
- 3. New Business:**

A. Regular Reports:

Harney County Court, Judge Pete Runnels- The county court and employees have been busy providing testimony on a variety of issues in Salem including a 911 bill, water issues (Mark) and county fair funding (Jordan Bennett). The court is working on a 2nd Ammendent ordinance and the first budget meeting will be held next week. The Judge discussed the county budget short fall. This will impact the plans for broadband project implementation. The county is working with the cities to apply for a RARE (Resource Assistance for Rural Environments) Intern. The intern could evaluate the current permitting and licensing processes as well as other infrastructure projects.

Commissioner Patty Dorroh – an email from Patty detailed the Eastern Oregon Workforce project funding and a request for projects not to exceed \$48,000. Proposed projects must be completed by June 30, 2019.

City of Burns, Dauna Wensenk – Street project bids are under review. The contracted Cemetery sexton has resigned, and they will be opening a process for bids. ODOT has decided to hold off on the proposed change from 4 to 3 lanes beginning on the corner of Broadway and Monroe. A special workshop will be held Thursday and the details are posted.

City of Hines, Kirby Letham – New business buzz includes: laundromat going in next to the Hines Post Office is on schedule. The Old Hickory company has purchased the highway frontage property currently occupied by Randy Wilson Real Estate. They plan to sell sheds and possibly add manufacturing at some point. West Ridge development is planning to break ground in the next few weeks, they are finalizing sub-contractor bids. They have hired the same contractor who build Dollar Tree. Road repairs will be evaluated for summer work. Roe Davis and West Hanly are both in need of serious repair work. The city is updating their website to freshen their online presence and make the City of Hines more accessible while also alleviating some of the workload on administrative staff. They plan to have online payments and access to public information.

Business Oregon, Scott Fairley –No report available.

Burns Paiute Tribe, Tracy Kennedy-No report available

Housing Committee, Jen Hoke – There was not much to report this month in Curt's absence. The housing inventory is not yet complete. Kirby Letham asked if he might get input from the group about a specially designated development for tiny homes. He has been researching a similar community in Blackfoot ID and talking to them about ordinances to prevent camper and mobile type units. They have been successful by assuring codes, zoning and ordinances reflect their needs. Only stick built homes on a foundation are allowed, but lots size has been reduced to accommodate more homes and decrease yard upkeep. He also talked to Green Leaf who put in small, pre-built homes (such as those in N. Dakota during the oil rush). They are already working in Oregon, so the question about Idaho vs. Oregon regulations may be addressed by their process. General discussion was held, and suggestions included checking into Relevant Buildings who convert shipping containers to dwellings. Myndi Hemphill added that they have been researching housing developments and it is imperative to include good green spaces, even if shared to maintain the value of the development and homes, as well as contribute to the general health of the community.

Workforce – Follow up discussion was held about the Eastern Oregon Workforce Board funding. Group suggestions included requesting the \$23,500 needed to fund the RARE intern. Forrest Keady offered, as a Board member to call Bill and see if this was an appropriate use of the funds and will report back to Kirby and Dawna. Other ideas included holding a Rural Development Initiative, Part 2 Event, but the timing may not work.

Small Business Development, Jen and Forrest Keady, Myndi Hemphill – The Mainstreet Taskforce is still active and meeting regularly. CLG applications are in process for both cities and the county. The group is encouraging municipalities to enforce derelict building ordinances and nuisance clean up on properties in business core areas and adjacent neighborhoods. Inspections and plan review for construction and rehab remain a challenge. The state is experiencing an 8-12-week delay looking at plans, even with the local office working cooperatively with them. Jen announced

that the library is seeking grant funding to improve the walkway and landscape areas on the Alvord side of the building. They will be seeking community support too.

Infrastructure, Judge Pete Runnels – The visit from Cardno representatives to look at Brownfield areas is scheduled for April 11. They are still waiting to hear about the grants to fund the work. Broadband effort is working on something very similar to fiber to the business. Hunter Communications continues to remain in contact and is still very interested in expanding to the county. Oregon Fiber Network has also expressed an interest.

Harney County Economic Development, Denise Rose – We have met with several new clients this month and provided ongoing assistance to approximately 6-8 active clients. Classes are scheduled for the year and a flyer was provided for the SBA sponsored classes to be taught by Irene Gonzalez. The first class is April 23rd. A website design and build class will be presented by Katherine Cleland through TVCC. The two-part class will be held via Zoom on May 9 and May 30 with homework to be completed in between.

B. Focus Reports:

Remote Town Hall, George Heinz - He attended the web based town hall with Senator Cliff Bentz and Representative Lynn Findley last week. He reported the bill allowing tax exempt status for the biomass system passed. There is a proposed bill to tax gross receipts on all consumables and he also understood that a bill to outlaw any diesel engines manufactured before 2007 will likely be defeated. This will be a monthly event and an audio feed is recorded. George encouraged everyone to attend.

BLM, Rhonda Karges – She commented that the land outside the two cities can also be a contributor to economic development efforts. Public lands bring in a lot of tourist dollars as well as natural resource based businesses focusing on recreation and tourism in nature. The local agencies are very interested in partnering to bring more development to the county. She offered a power point presentation on the topic to the group. Recreation contact for the BLM is Mandy DeCoo.

Discussion moved to the format of the CRT meetings and whether the small working groups were effective and getting enough participation to accomplish goals. General agreement was that focus area report-out at the beginning was a good approach. There was also conversation about the name Community Resonse Team, and many felt it was confusing and would like to change it. Members were encouraged to bring suggestions and thoughts to the May meeting.

General Announcements: a concert will be held Sunday May 5th with the premier performance of The Maheur Symphony. Scrap metal reclamation plants are starting to go up in the United States and this may benefit recycling efforts and be worth investigating.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. The next meeting will be May 1, 2019 at 5:30 PM.