



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes Community Response Team Wednesday March 6, 2019

Attendees:

Susan Snyder-OTEC	Luke Hemphill-L&M Investments
Tonya Fox-TEC and WorkSource	Forrest Keady-The Historic Central Hotel
Amber Wares-Symmetry Care	Jen Keady-Family Eyecare
Rick Paul-Community Member	Gary Jackson-Laborers International Union
Dennis Davis-Community Member	Megan Hunter-Burns High School
Lola Johnson-HC Chamber of Commerce	Matthew Hawley-Crane and Silvies Charter Schools
Judy Erwin- Burns City Council	Pete Runnels-Harney County Judge
Scott Fairley-Business Oregon	Rhonda Karges-Burns BLM
LaNeva Gilliam-Main Street Group	Jen Hoke-Harney District Hospital
Larry Gilliam-Community Member	Curt Blackburn-Jett Blackburn Real Estate
Tracy Kennedy-Burns Paiute Tribe	Terri Hellbusch-Eastern OR Workforce Board
Denise Rose-Harney County Economic Dev.	Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling
Angela Lamborn-HC Senior and Community Svcs.	Kathy Rementeria-DHS
Diane Slater-Community Member	Zelly-Community Member

- Denise Rose** welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. Brief introductions were made around the room. One addition to the agenda was requested by Rick Paul, a follow up discussion of the broadband meeting held last month.
- Old Business:** February meeting minutes were sent by email with the March agenda. It was moved by Judy and seconded by Forrest to approve minutes. All voted in favor.
- New Business:**

A. Regular Reports:

Harney County Court, Pete Runnels- It's budget time at the county right now so they are busy working through that process. Community in Action meeting was held recently, and the Judge attended. Mark is in Washington DC working on water issues and Patty is on personal leave.

Burns Paiute Tribe, Tracy Kennedy-The building next door to the chamber has been designated as Castle Rock Cultural Center as the Castle Rock area has spiritual significance for the Burns Paiute Tribe. They are working with Sage DesignWorks to develop a logo. An engineering assessment is in process and they will begin work on the interior first. The hemp processing plant at Old Camp is expected to employ around 30 people, which includes the Foley Field grow operation. They will need to purchase product for extraction in the first year as they intend to open in June.

City of Burns, Dauna Wensenk (by written report) – A draft of the Historic Preservation ordinance has been presented to council for review. An update was given on the grant and funding processes for the airport fuel tanks and well upgrades. They were encouraged to apply for COAR fund in the next cycle. Abatement work is continuing on Riverside Drive and the cemetery committee is planning for more trees. Dauna also announced her resignation as City Manager effective August 31, 2019.

City of Hines, Judy Erwin for Kirby Lathem – the laundromat building by the Hines Post Office is going to open in June. Bosch's Big Bear Lodge will also have a June opening. The pellet mill will start production in the late spring. The planning commission and city council are working to re-zone some of the old mill property as it needs to be residential.

Business Oregon, Scott Fairley – Water infrastructure efforts continue for Harney County. His efforts are focusing on using flex moneys to encourage out of state sales.

Harney County Economic Development, Denise Rose – (Update letter from Greg was read as he was unable to attend this month.) Client numbers continue to climb, and the office meets with 10-12 existing clients on a regular basis. CRT and Opportunity Knocks meetings were recapped. Website updates are ongoing, and the office continues to support several community efforts.

Housing Committee, Curt Blackburn – winter is slow going but they have been assisting GEODC in their efforts to conduct a housing inventory. There is no data base available with the necessary information and Susan Christensen and Curt's office have been hand compiling statistics on housing in Burns and Hines. The committee is finding that tax incentive programs require blight to be in place before assistance efforts can move forward. While there are no doubt areas in the county that fit the description of blight, they are having trouble proving it and will reach out to a consulting firm who can help identify and designate blight need.

Workforce – Forrest Keady introduced Terri Hellbusch as the newest member of the Eastern Oregon Workforce Board. A construction combine will be held in Ontario for learning and sharing skills, a flyer was provided. Training is available for CTE teachers.

Small Business Development, Jen and Forrest Keady – The Main Street group meets regularly, usually on Sunday and everyone is welcome. They are working with several new business owners to help mentor them as they develop, open and operate new businesses. The group spearheaded a work day to get the trees on Broadway trimmed and get the Christmas lights taken down. The Tree Service volunteered time and equipment and a group of local volunteers helped with the cleanup of limbs and trash. President of the Main Street Task Force, Myndi Hemphill presented to the City of Burns Council meeting on the following topics: the LID fund and better utilizing the money to benefit businesses, vacant buildings, especially derelict buildings and presented information about a workshop.

Infrastructure, Judge Pete Runnels – A broadband coverage map was generated by county GIS proposing phases for fiber installation. The map was sent to the participants at the last meeting for cost estimates. CenturyLink responded early and their technicians have compared the map with their roll out plans and found them to be almost identical. CenturyLink plans to begin work this year in Burns and Hines. The airport is included in the first phase.

B. Focus Groups: Career Technical Education and Student Internships

Burns High School, Megan Hunter – Getting CTE programs set up at the high school is a learning experience for her. She has been working with Jerry Peacock, who facilitated the school district strategic planning process last year. The school is currently offering the following courses:

Medical Field: CNA prep and First Aid

Ag Programs: animal and plant science, ag welding, small engine repair

Woodworking: some community outreach efforts, as the program builds sheds to sell. Their goal is to expand and add construction business management classes.

Current efforts include:

- Working to establish better working relationships with local businesses
- Designate and implement dual credit classes, when appropriate, to provide college credit while in high school. The school will be covering tuition costs.
- Recent and upcoming updates to the physical buildings at the high school include fresh paint, some new furniture and a complete inventory/evaluation and refresh for the library.

Laborers' International Union of North America, Gary Jackson Business Rep. – He recapped some of the recent legislative funding that will be available to about ¾ of the state to support Career Technical Education programs, commenting this topic is getting a lot of attention. Their efforts will include:

- Working with rural high schools to implement and grow their technical education programs.
- Getting the word out about apprenticeship programs that are available through the member organizations.
- Facilitate community benefits agreements with local contractors to increase the competitiveness of their bids, which also encourages use of apprenticeship programs.
- Encourage use of union workers to assure maximum benefit. Gary led a discussion about union vs. non-union plumbers. He discussed benefits for going through any state building trades program.
- He will connect with Burns High School and Crane High School after the meeting.

Crane School District and Silvies Charter School, Matthew Hawley – Crane School District sponsors Silvies and one other charter school in Bend and they are able to generate about a million dollars beyond their budget, for student programs. They have chosen to return much of this revenue to career technical education. The district started by surveying the student body for their interests and he provided a recap of their findings. Construction skills and welding were the top needs. Highlights of the programs, to be implemented in the 2019-20 school year include:

- Purchased teaching units from Paxton-Patterson, (being used in Hermiston schools) to teach specific skills with hands on and computerized instruction. Units cover a variety of skills including plumbing, electrical, cabinet making and finish work, and many others.
- Teachers will work more as a facilitator in these classes and the district is working collaboratively with Silvies to allow those students to take the units they are interested in.
- After the first trial year, the school district will look into a CTE building to house additional units.
- Potential to open the unit based instruction up to adults and graduates for a fee is being considered.
- Plans also include establishing a tiny house building project. This could incorporate welding a chassis, and most construction skills on a smaller scale.
- Eventually, the district would like to collaborate with Burns District #3.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. The next meeting will be April 3, 2019 at 5:30 PM.