

WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Tygh Valley Community Center

57594 Tygh Valley Road, Tygh Valley, OR

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Chair Joan Silver, Andrea Klaas, Mary Kramer, Dan Durow, Frank Kay, Jeff Renard, Donella Polehn and Fred Justesen

GUESTS: Annette Liebe (RSC), Rod Runyon (Wasco County), Scott Hege (Wasco County), Steve Kramer (Wasco County), Sherry Holliday, Karen Swirsky (DLCD), Tawni Bean (OBDD/IFA), Todd Hesse (DEQ), John Herlocker (Barlow Water Improvement District), Nancy Martin (Wamic Water), Mike Davis

EDC STAFF: Amanda Hoey and Sherry Bohn

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 10:00 am.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2013 MINUTES: Frank Kay moved to accept the March 2013 minutes as presented. Jeff Renard seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PINE HOLLOW RESERVOIR:

Joan Silver stated that Sherry Holiday had agreed to chair the Pine Hollow Reservoir project committee and that she was attending today's meeting to give a status update. Sherry reported that she had arranged a meeting with the various agencies, entities and private parties related to the reservoir, its uses, needs and issues. She reported that she had researched the history of the restroom cleaning contract and the boat ramp maintenance. She reported that in previous years that the budget for the restroom had been \$6000, with \$3000 supplied by the State Marine Board. That grant ended this year, but there appear to be opportunities for additional short term funding. Commissioner Steve Kramer had agreed to act as a liaison for Wasco County. Sherry was also researching Pine Hollow Fire as a potential grantee due to the fact that they are a 501 c3. There is another meeting scheduled because the restrooms need to be open soon.

Frank Kay reported that there had been a discussion about the formation of a group to serve as an incubator for economic development. The issue is that it will require \$800,000 to repair/rebuild the north ramp. He stated that is tough to raise that amount of money without a maintenance source. He stated that it is outside both the Fire and Water District's jurisdictions.

Joan Silver stated that the Wasco County Economic Development Commission recognizes the project's need and understands that Wasco County can not full fill the budgetary gap. The group expressed their thanks to Sherry Holliday for her work and effort.

LOCAL PROJECTS – Joan Silver asked that the presenting groups keep their focus towards how the represented state agencies can help with their projects.

John Herlocker reviewed the Barlow Water Improvement District project in coordination with Nancy Martin from the Wamic Water District. The project is intended to provide additional water supply to the community of Wamic and surrounding area through the Barlow Water

Improvement District's infrastructure. Joan Silver inquired if there was any way that the project could get together with the various state agencies in one stop. Tawni Bean noted the previous discussions she has held about the project and stated that she would work to bring everyone together. John Herlocker stated that they would need to proceed cautiously with the water rights. Joan Silver stated that they needed to find the correct agency(ies) to find the funding source(s). Frank Kay stated there would be other municipal issues once the water issues were dealt with. Annette Liebe stated she would work to schedule a meeting.

Mike Davis reported that he wants to help the economy of South Wasco County. He has been profiling potential businesses. Annette Liebe offered to provide Mike with an introduction to Carolyn Meece with the Oregon Business Development Department. Mike Davis stated that everyone he has spoken to has been very supportive.

EDC STAFF REPORT: Amanda Hoey presented the EDC staff report highlighting the following:

- The commission needs to schedule time to update and revise their strategic plan.
- Progress on the Agora Investment Platform is moving forward especially relating to the Needs and Issue list. There is a joint meeting of the MCEDD Board and the North Central Regional Solutions Team on April 29th. They will be discussing "quick wins."
- Opportunities to submit concept papers for technical assistance to the University of Oregon, under a partnership with EDA.

COMMISSION MEMBER REGIONAL UPDATES:

- Donella Polehn noted that cherries are in full bloom and but they will have to wait and see what the latest frost affected. It looks like harvest could begin about 10 days earlier than last year and that immigration is a huge issues regarding availability of workers. She invited everyone to The Dalles Chamber's Business After Hours at their farm on May 16th from 5:00 – 7:00.
- Dan Durow reported that The Dalles Urban Renewal board moved forward with the agreement for the hotel. He is fairly confident that the project will happen with a three star Hilton brand hotel. He also reported that the riverfront trail change in scope was done and the project is moving forward.
- Todd Hess reported that Dufur will need to update wastewater outfall.
- Jeff Renard reported on The Dalles Chamber's Charm tour.
- Fred Justesen stated that renewable energy needed to be encouraged. He stated that it can not stop at Wasco County. The local PUDs need to be proactive and the general public needs to be educated on how much it is needed. Amanda Hoey invited Fred to attend the next Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone meeting.
- Annette Liebe highlighted a report on Economic Development as a Source for Rural Communities. She will provide the report to EDC staff for distribution.
- Frank Kay announced that RiverFest was scheduled for two days over the Memorial Day weekend. He also reported that Mike Davis had been invited to the Maupin Economic Development meeting to explore opportunities in the area outside of Maupin.
- Andrea Klaas reported that they were working on trying to identify wetlands of developable land with a broad scale mitigation plan.
- Joan Silver reported that the Columbia Gorge Community College will be in the middle of their final accreditation visit next week and that the Armory Readiness Center is on

schedule and planning for a December 2013 opening. She stated that CGCC will be responsible for scheduling the usage. She reported that she is chairing the elevator project at the senior center. It is receiving a lot of community support so they should be able to qualify for some grant monies. She also stated that Dan Erickson reported that the Gorge Commission is trying to prioritize their projects. They have concerns and will be attempting to address the issue that guests and residents are “loving recreation to death.” They will also be attempting to address the urban growth boundary expansion issue.

- Amanda Hoey reported on the library fund raising effort “Room to Read” and that some GTA robotic computers were donated to the Dufur School District.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:05 PM

Submitted by Sherry Bohn, EDC Staff