

Marion County Economic Development Advisory Board

July 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes

555 Court St NE, 5th Floor Salem, OR

Members Present: Bill Burich, Kevin Cameron, Bill Cummins, Chad Freeman, Terri Frohnmayer, Lesa Goff, Bob Hill, Jay Kemble, Nate Levin, Angie Morris, AJ Nash, Jim Rasmussen, Evann Remington, Dave Tibbets, and Renata Wakely.

Staff and Guests Present: Sarah Cavazos, Tamra Goettsch, and Brandon Reich.

Call to Order: 3:30pm

Agenda Item: Welcome, Introductions & Announcements

Information/Discussion: Morris welcomed attendees, asked the group for introductions; requested the record reflect that a quorum was present. Morris noted that there had been a change to add Agriculture in Marion County to the agenda. Morris shared changes to the meeting calendar for the months of October and November due to an extended meeting in October to accommodate grant reviews, and date change for November due to Veteran's Day. Morris shared with the group that she is honored to be serving as the Chair of the board and is looking forward to the coming year. Morris shared that Mitchell Gee is no longer assigned to our region; the hope is to be introduced to his replacement at next month's meeting so we can discuss the potential for appointment. Morris shared that she would be gone for the August and October meetings but Bob Hill, Vice-Chair, has agreed to officiate the meetings in her absence.

Action: *None.*

Agenda Item: June Minutes

Information/Discussion: The minutes should reflect the actual location. Bob Hill was present at the June meeting, the minutes needs to be updated to reflect his attendance.

Action: *A motion was brought forth by Cummins to approve the June minutes; a second was made by Hill. The motion was voted for and approved unanimously.*

Agenda Item: Youth Workforce Training Opportunity

Information/Discussion: COG works with Yamhill County and is familiar with their internship program which may be a model that we might want to look at bringing to Marion County. Jody with McMinnville Works provided a one-page summary of the training. She is willing to come to the August meeting to provide more information about their training if the group is interested. The board would like to have this presentation but wants to make sure that we're not replicating services. Check with Incite, Boys & Girls Club (T3), and Halo on availability to attend the August 12th meeting for a discussion on McMinnville Works Workshop to discuss where there is overlap and opportunity. The next steps may be to bring businesses together who can give perspective on the desire for the program and address hurdles that businesses have to creating internships. It may be useful to get input from schools and colleges on their current internship and mentorship efforts. If there is an interest in bringing the project to Marion County, COG may be able to help with the costs of this forum with support and sponsorship by EDAB.

Action: None

Agenda Item: Community Services Update

Information/Discussion: Goettsch attended a meeting with the Ford Family Foundation to explore how the Foundation can help Marion County develop leadership within rural communities. The conversation may lead to opportunity for regional projects and local investments. Goettsch also attended a meeting about "The 25 Fields" which involves designated farmland in the Keizer/Brooks area and turning them into sports fields. There are some concerns about location. They are partnering with Oregon State University to use as a research property on agriculture testing. The sports complex vision is unique and would allow this area to compete for tournaments. There have been some political challenges. In order to support it, it needs to be a win-win between agriculture and tourism. Perhaps EDAB could be a conduit to move this project forward.

Santiam Canyon projects need continual follow-up. Meetings have had good attendance and they are looking at revenue opportunities. There is construction project in Gates. Kevin toured parks on the Santiam and Little North Fork area. There are concerns with public safety. Saint Paul area is having water system issues that need updating. They may seek a community grant to conduct a study.

Community Services Department is moving to the 3rd floor in Courthouse Square the second week of July.

Action: None.

Agenda Item: Agriculture in Marion County

Information/Discussion: Brandon handed out a packet with potential ideas for long-range projects for agriculture. Marion County is the number one agriculture county for value products in the state. The group discussed the value of having an agriculture study take place involving needs, activity, opportunities, and ways to promote agriculture. Outcomes can include not only what exists, but the creation of a strategic plan. The Farm Bureau, OSU Extension and Agriculture Association may be interested in partnering. More data is needed as we plan for the future of this industry. Perhaps having a facilitated conversation would get to that end. Warehouse distribution, zoning and incentive issues were discussed to attract businesses to Marion County for economic development.

Action: None

Agenda Item: Community Projects Grants

Information/Discussion: The RFA was released June 30, 2015, applications are due August 31, 2015. In September, we will preview applicants. Full review and discussion will be at October's meeting. Staff will be holding technical workshops throughout the county. This topic will be discussed more in depth next month.

Action: None

Agenda Item: Business Development Grants

Information/Discussion: Two contracts have been executed with a few changes made in deliverables and disbursement schedules. All contracts are moving forward.

Action: None

Agenda Item: Closing Comments

The Executive Committee will be meeting monthly prior to the EDAB meetings to set future agendas. If the group wants anything on the agenda, notify anyone on the committee.

Potential discussions for future meetings:

- Available land for large warehouse distribution
- Readiness for turn key
- Quick response team to assemble packages and funding opportunities
- Land use flexibility

Meeting adjourned: 5:05pm