

Military Economic Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
March 16, 2017 9:00 AM

Present: Kathleen Cathey, Sen. Wyden's Office; Michelle Colby, Gilliam County; Debbie Lankford, Columbia Basin Electric; Larry Lindsay, Port of Morrow; Carla McLane, Morrow County Planning; Jake Madison, Madison Ranches; Jeff Maffuccio, Idaho Power; Steve Meyers, Umatilla Electric; Don Russell, Morrow County; Marika Sitz, Oregon Water Coalition; Kellen Tardaewether, ODOE; Bob Waldher, Umatilla County Planning; Max Woods, ODOE. By Phone: Patricia lolavera, Dept. of Navy.

Meeting began just after 9:00 a.m. Introductions were made, meeting notes were handed out for review.

Mission and Membership: Carla provided some background concerning the beginnings of the MAAC with a focus regarding how we thought or hoped to deal with renewable energy, and how the group has learned that there is no simple legal land use answer. She continued to share how the group has spent a fair amount of time in recent months talking about utilities and the impacts they have. Also discussed how the current Range Air Installation Compatibility Use Zone (RAICUZ) Study, began last year, can be beneficial to the County, the City of Boardman, and local landowners moving forward. There was a lengthy discussion into how membership should be considered going forward with agreement to add Columbia Basin Electric as a balance to Umatilla Electric; add representatives of the renewable development community, both wind and solar, looking at impact; assure that there is representation of both the Navy and the Oregon National Guard; engage both Umatilla and Gilliam Counties; discuss how Boardman can be better represented given Barry Beyeler's potential conflict as a member of the Energy Facility Siting Council; consider how to engage the Bonneville Power Administration (engaging Crystal Ball as opposed to Anders Johnson); and working to better engage Scott Fairley from the Governor's Office and other state agencies as needed. It was recognized that the Oregon Department of Energy has been a great addition with regular attendance. It was agreed to continue work on energy projects and those projects impacts, long-range planning (land use and other), and other achievable objectives. The Morrow County Board of Commissioners will be making appointments of this Committee once a proposal is forwarded to them. There most likely will not be 'terms' associated with the committee, but reappointment will need to be considered on a regular basis possibly every two years.

RAICUZ: Pat shared that the RAICUZ is just about to draft completion. Late summer or early fall is targeted to provide the document to the local community for consideration. There is no requirement that the County or any city adopt it or act upon it, but both the County and the City of Boardman may want to consider completing a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) based upon the RAICUZ.

Energy project updates: A variety of energy projects were discussed: B2H: still waiting for the Record of Decision which is now not expected until mid- to late-April. Wheatridge: anticipating a Hearings Officer determination. Boardman Solar: application is in review and field studies are beginning. Carty: still in review of comments. The Energy Facility Siting Council is initiating a discussion regarding impact to public health and safety with regard to wind facilities.

Outstanding: White paper needs to be completed or repurposed. Redhawk MOA is still in final EIS development process. Washington Ground Squirrel evaluation still needs to be reviewed by the new Board of Commissioners.

Good of the order: Discussed the FAA requirement for red blinking lights and option to have them blink only when needed. Commissioner Russell is working on this reaching out to developers, the FAA and the ODA. Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association (ORECA) grass roots initiative was offered to assist with legislation support for local issues. UEC shared that they are happy with Umatilla County ruling for their solar project. Discussed combining the November and December meetings, possibly holding it the first week of December, to which the group was amenable.

Next meeting will be held on April 20th at 9:00 a.m. at the SAGE Center in Boardman, Oregon.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kymberli Erevia