

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

Present: Bob Guertin, Oregon Wind Farms; Larry Lindsay, Port of Morrow; Carla McLane, Morrow County Planning; Jake Madison, Madison Ranches; Jeff Maffuccio, Idaho Power; Kevin Meenaghan, U.S. Navy; Steve Meyers, Umatilla Electric; Dave Phillips, HDR Engineering; Marika Sitz, Oregon Water Coalition; Karen Wagner, Sen. Merkley's Office; Thomas Wolff, Columbia Basin Electric. By Phone: Kellen Tardaewether, ODOE; Max Woods, ODOE.

The meeting started at 9 a.m. Introductions were made, and comment made that meeting notes will begin on a regular basis going forward. Note that January meeting did not take place due to weather.

REPI: Meeting began with discussion regarding the REPI. Had first REPI transaction success, will send out public notice. Brian and Laura Sullivan property owners from Gilliam County. REPI explained for those who weren't familiar. Goal is conservation along with protection of military assets.

MEAC: Focus of group transitioning from Airspace impact to the area to an economic impact on the ground surrounding lands adjacent to the Bombing Range and airspace utilization. Looking for accountability as we go forward, as focus has recently been Boardman to Hemingway project. EIS and ROD in finalization phase. Next step is IP working after ROD in place, moving forward to next phase with ODOE. Anticipated time frame for internal transfers with amended preliminary application anticipated for site certification around June. If ROD is done first quarter there is a chance to get the easement taken care of the next quarter.

Discussion regarding decision making capacity for the body. Historically it has included land owners, as well as adjacent county planners, and could be adjusted as interests shift. Developers have not been granted membership status. Noted the importance of group hearing what is going on and future planning information with interaction from neighboring counties. Minutes distribution should include Board of Commissioners and state representatives in order to garner interest. Would like to see City of Boardman representative to participate.

Energy projects: B2H – BLM protest period ended, expect record of decision first quarter, expect final version of the preliminary decision to follow. Working with Navy to get their ROD finished. Will be talking with stakeholders about route received from BLM, note that this doesn't include private lands that need to be addressed. BLM is wrapping up consultation piece; hold up includes the tribes, but received an agreement and moving forward. Recently had DoD/Navy real estate group to take a look and hopefully speed up the decision process. Still looking at 1 ½ years, giving 2019 timeframe for permitting. Still working on the IRP in preparation for hopeful 2020 ramp up.

Saddle Butte completed contested case appeal process, paid bill and received site certificate. Orchard Wind issued permit in December now waiting for construction start up.

Mariah Wind waiting for application, last known that they did not have a route out established yet.

WheatRidge in contested case; three parties involved include Umatilla Electric, developer and Idaho Power. Set of questions raised by Friends of the Grande Ronde Valley. 3 questions certified for clarification from the siting council. Not sure if the transmission line is part of the clarification required. Neighboring county raised concern in written testimony that applicant erred by not including the final transmission route in the initial application.

Boardman Solar asked for expedited review process.

Carty going through request for amendment, first comment period closed. Did send letters of support and comment letter defining amendment request items. Going through EFSAC. Airport has had no movement. Increasing footprint and collecting more data.

Federal Legislation: Hand-outs from Congressman Chris Collins – proposed bill to delete credits for renewable energy tax if within military airspace. Karen Wagner indicated that this was on the radar for Senator Merkley. Bottom line means that billions of tax income dollars for county and surrounding areas would disappear. In Oregon the protection of military training routes is achievable, anticipated outcome at least.

White Paper: Closure of outstanding things including REPI. Will be moved up on Carla's agenda and she will reach out to complete paper.

Redhawk MOA: no final EIS. Airforce proposed new and enhanced airspace in Oregon, This MOA would cover portions of six counties, cutting across portion of Morrow. Floor is 11,000 feet. Enhancements of two other areas have varying issues

Squirrel: not to list at federal level and in Washington, but retained as Oregon species. New Board of Commissioners need to revisit this issue.

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Marika: Water Coalition – present as introduction to the group, with interests in water. Past interest was B2H. Will be on the distribution list.

Dave: HDR is an engineering firm for Idaho Power. Has interest in the region, and would like to be on the distribution list.

Karen: Merkley Office representing the local jurisdiction interests. Did review the two bills from Collins, and determined that it wasn't specific to locals.

Steve: EUC planning new transmission line from McNary to Hermiston, final stages.

Kevin: Chief Walker is the new leader. Carla asked for VTC with Board of Commissioners and Navy to invite Chief Walker for a meet opportunity. Sending local people to firefighting school. Need BOC and City of Boardman to complete MOA with BRFPD that has been outstanding for a year. Need response and resolution of historical issued before taking forward for finalization. The RAICUZ project is slated for fall completion with open house intended about noise zones for airspace training. Hopefully follow on with joint study down the road, looking for a sponsor to receive funding and facilitate. Range roadwork starting up again soon. Kevin is leaving the Navy for a civilian job. There won't be backfill at this time due to hire freeze, but interim will be Pat lolavera.

Max: EFSC meeting on Thursday 2/23/17. Rule-making for a couple projects that are open to public comment.

Group decided to go forward with a regularly scheduled monthly meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month. Location will be consistent. Meeting attendees will vary depending on agenda and status of projects. County phone system will be available for call-ins.

Next meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, March 16 at 9am, location TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.