

Military Economic Advisory Committee
October 18, 2018
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, Boardman, Oregon

Attendees: Bob Guertin, Carla McLane, Jerry Rietmen, Melissa Lindsay, Stan Hutchinson, Alec Shebiel, Larry Lindsay

By phone: Laura Minor, Kim Peacher

Introductions were made and minutes from September 2018 were accepted as presented.

Mission, Vision, Goals, and Objectives Discussion:

The group spent about 45 minutes reviewing the DRAFT Mission Statement and Goals. Most felt and all indicated support for the Mission Statement as presented. Discussion of the Goals focus on working to find the proper balance between the military mission, community economic development and protection of the environment. The following changes to three of the Goals represents the outcome of the discussion:

- Foster mutually compatible community development.
- Develop and implement a mutual notification, communication and coordination process between the military, developers and local governments to address projects under and near military training and operations areas. To be considered would be:
 - Early notification of project development to military partners and regular updates concerning projects in the permit process, under development or operational.
 - Implementation of the Range Air Installation Compatibility Use Zone (RAICUZ) Study and other similar studies of interest to MEAC partners.
 - Discussion of military mission and impacts of those changes to both local economic development and environmental protections.
 - Develop a resolution process to address conflicts under special use airspace associated with military activities and facilities.

At the next meeting these changes will be confirmed or modified. This will be followed by further discussion on additional Goals.

Navy Update:

Kim Peacher shared that Captain Arny is on the job and learning fast. Potential dates for a Video Teleconference (VTC) were tossed about; further conversation will take place working towards both a future VTC and in person meetings. The RAICUZ work continues with internal review of a 4th prefinal draft underway. It is hoped that an in person meeting in the Spring could be done in collaboration with an Open House around the RAICUZ. The Hood Canal easements article spurred excellent discussion and questions about how the process could be utilized locally. It is similar to the REPI program, which has not proved beneficial yet to local landowners here in Umatilla and Morrow Counties. The program is also cost limited with an upper threshold of \$750,000.00. Kim committed to sharing additional information with the MEAC membership. The final item of the Navy Update was the Geographic Area of Concern, or GAOC, which is an area covering portions of Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow and Umatilla Counties on the Oregon side of the Columbia River and portions of at least three counties on the Washington side. The military areas of concern include the Boardman Bombing Range and its associated airspace, the Umatilla Army Depot, the Common Air Route Surveillance Radar related to Fossil, and a number of military training routes leading in to and out of the area. A number of concerns were identified related to this mapped area: impacts to MEAC, development of both Boardman to Hemingway and the local green energy

corridors, and economic development within the region. It is unclear how the military will be using this GAOC and MEAC members expressed concerns.

Energy Project Updates:

Boardman to Hemmingway – Oregon Department of Energy and Idaho Power Company staff are this week accomplishing community meetings across eastern Oregon. The stops tonight will be in Umatilla and Morrow Counties. Work on the Draft Proposed Order has started.

Green Energy Corridor- Discussed briefly current status, particularly in relation to obtaining easements and the need to accomplish the work envisioned in 2016 and early 2017 with the Governor’s Task Force.

Wheatridge – Planning staff reported that they are working on the two pending amendments for the Wheatridge Site Certificate related to battery storage and the change in turbine size.

Nolin Hills – No update.

Orchard Wind – Awaiting start of construction.

Boardman Solar – Local CUP pending. Work should be completed soon.

Carty Solar – No update

Harp, Stark Solar, and POM – Stark Solar will be heard locally by the Morrow County Planning Commission on December 4.

Items for the Good of the Order:

Meeting dates for next year were shared and briefly discussed.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla McLane