



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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**Minutes of the Public Hearing of the
Morrow County Planning Commission
Tuesday, September 26, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
Bartholomew Building, Heppner, Oregon**

Morrow County Planning Commissioners Present: Chair Jeff Wenholz, Vice Chair Mifflin Devin, Clint Carlson, Kathy Neal, Wayne Seitz, Greg Sweek

Members Excused: Ken Bailey, Sue Oliver, Rod Taylor

Morrow County Staff Present: Carla McLane, Planning Director; Stephanie Loving, Planner I; Stephen Wrecsics, GIS Planning Technician; Justin Nelson, County Counsel

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Neal moved to approve the Minutes of August 29, 2017. Commissioner Carlson seconded. Motion carried.

Audience Participation:

None

Renewable Energy Discussion:

Director McLane led the discussion about Renewable Energy and current code requirements for siting energy facilities. There was discussion about residential setbacks in relation to noise and safety, visual protections, financial assurances, and required navigational lighting. Commissioners talked about noise standards and enforcement and Director McLane indicated that the Code Enforcement Ordinance identifies noise as a public nuisance, but specifically excludes energy facilities. We also do not enforce on facilities with state or federal permits.

GIS Planning Technician Stephen Wrecsics provided the Commissioners with information and photographs from his Site Visit at Echo Wind. He gave an overview of the visit and his impressions from touring the facility. Also included in his presentation was information from the public information meeting for Boardman Solar and his site visit at that facility. The Application for Site Certificate for Boardman Solar has been deemed complete and is currently in the Draft Proposed Order (DPO) phase of the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) process.

Consideration was given to the process and how Morrow County would like to move forward and address some of the above issues around renewable energy. There will be further discussion in the future regarding energy facility setbacks, financial assurance, and developer community engagement.

Comprehensive Plan and Ordinances Discussion:

Planner Stephanie Loving provided Commissioners with the Executive Summary of the project by University of Oregon supporting Eastern Oregon New Natural Resource Economy. The New Natural Resource Economy was briefly described and should be considered in the development of the update to Goals 3 and 4 of the Comprehensive Plan.

Director McLane described the need for updates to the Transportation System Plan, Subdivision Ordinance, and inconsistencies within the Zoning Ordinance and other documents. The Rural Addressing Ordinance also needs to be updated and there is ongoing work to correct the issues with Rural Addressing.

Other Business:

- Currently 3 Land Partition applications received for the October 24, 2017 meeting, two of them will have Non-Farm Dwellings associated with them that staff has to navigate through the process with the new articles in the Zoning Ordinance.
- Staff will be working to create the necessary application forms and processes for agritourism, guest ranches, and other economic development opportunities that have been created with the implementation of the new code provisions.
- October is National Community Planning Month! Kymberli Erevia, Outreach Coordinator, created an informational packet regarding the American Planning Association and National Community Planning Month that was presented to the Commissioners.
- Dave Pranger, Morrow County Weed Manager, will be at next month's Planning Commission meeting to discuss weed management at aggregate sites.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

The next meeting of the Morrow County Planning Commission to hear regular business is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Center in Boardman, Oregon.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Loving