

WHITE RIVER HEALTH DISTRICT
1605 GEORGE JACKSON RD., MAUPIN, OR
FOUNDATION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2022
MEETING MINUTES

(MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO PLATFORM)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sue Knapp, Julie Whetzel

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura Taylor, Andrew Houck

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Karletta Carrithers, Bill Aarnio, Merle Hlavka, Jim Holycross, Dennis Beechler, Beth Ernst, Mike Westby

GUESTS:

DRHC:

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 by the Chair, Sue Knapp.

II. INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS: Participants on the call were identified.

III. CLINIC BUSINESS UPDATE:

- Community Outreach: The clinic website is getting caught up with minutes and agendas. Shelby continues to regularly update the clinic Facebook page. The Wampinrock published 4 articles written by the clinic and Sue this month.
- Partnerships Update: Sue participated in a phone meeting with Connect Oregon Network. Their purpose is to use technology to connect health and social services organizations to each other throughout OR in order to improve whole health outcomes in patients. South Wasco Alliance invited us to join them in the Connect OR call. SWA received a grant from Pacific Source to help create and strengthen partnerships to improve access to healthy food and nutrition, so it's a natural fit for us to work with them to improve whole health access for area patients and residents. Sue also continues to increase her involvement with MCMC as a member of their Board of Trustees. MCMC is currently evaluating applications from approx. 20 organizations looking to partner with them as well, so our network may expand.
- School-Based Health Clinic: Maddy coordinated this with the school social worker, and the hope is that the new temporary provider will continue this. The current school clinic room needs remodeling to be better equipped to address health care. We and the school may need to look into grants for this. The ultimate goal is to get the school clinic certified.
- Operational Update: The locum tenens provider starts this week. She is an Internal Medicine PA from Seattle. Recruitment for a full-time provider continues. Patient visits in total are down a bit recently, but on the other hand the clinic saw 10 new patients last week. We also lost 2 patients to the other clinic in town. We are hoping to get the Rural Health Clinic certification application out soon. R & H Construction will give us an "Open During Construction" sign to post. The Board is tentatively exploring hiring a full or part time District Manager. Thus far, we have identified key responsibilities this person would have, and Sue and Kathryn are crafting a job description for the post. A DM is not in the budget at this time, but we will continue to assess the viability of this as we work toward the next FY Budget. Budget Committee members will be recruited from the community and begin meetings next month.
- Board/Steering Committee Updates: Recruitment Announcement flyer for finding a 5th board member has been posted. Still actively looking for someone.

VI. FOUNDATION:

- Financials and FY 21-22 Budget: Sue signed the \$1.5M loan with Old West Federal Credit Union on January 31, and then immediately paid the first contractor invoice for ~\$475K. Sue has already

discussed with the bank the possibility of increasing the loan amount if necessary, and she has secured approval for this if we absolutely have to. Grants have been applied for, but funds may not come in time to cover the costs when needed. If no federal funds come in time to pay the last construction costs in August/September, then we will be approximately \$200-\$300K short to finish clinic construction, even if we receive all of the grants we applied for. Sue is starting to work on the next FY Budget for the foundation. We redeemed the CD from Community Bank and it is now in savings. The Foundation received \$6300 in donations since July 2021. A 6-month appeal letter in June continues to be a good idea.

- Loan update: See above

- Federal Funding: (Congressionally Directed Spending). This is still delayed in congress. Mike Westby was in DC in early February and did a lot of lobbying (met with 6 Congressman and 1 consultant). The consensus among them is that the Continuing Resolution will be moved until mid-March, but Congress doesn't want to drop approving/releasing funds entirely because it was such an unpopular act the last time this happened. Hope continues that we will see funds approved for release in mid-March. Mike will be returning to DC prior to this to continue lobbying. If funds are approved in March, it's theoretically possible that we might see the actual funds in April, but that's not realistic. More likely the money will come much later due to the procedures that it needs to go through first. If so, we would only be able to use it to pay expenditures going forward from the date we receive it, which would likely be after most of the construction has been paid for and FFE ordered. It could be applied to the remodel/repurposing of the old building. Mike suggests that Sue draft a cash-flow map to see where we'll be in April, then May, then June, etc. Mike thinks having that data available may be helpful in compelling Bentz et. al. in funding us ASAP. Dennis asked, if we get the funds, will there be a deadline by which we have to spend it? Mike thinks we likely will have 12 months from time of funding or thereabouts. Mike suggested that we schedule a work session near the end of March with clinic staff, board, foundation, and maybe reps from MCMC to identify options of how to use the funding toward the old building, as that likely will be where the bulk (or all) will be used. However the old clinic is repurposed, it will need to be something that generates revenue to help pay off our debt.

- Grants Update: Sue and Beth updated the group on the status of the following grants:

- Ford Foundation: application is in. We are asking for \$500K, but hoping for \$250K. Site visit pending

- Collins: \$150K Letter of Interest submitted; we have been invited to submit a full application; deadline 4/1.

- Storms: awaiting further followup. They reached out via email and said they'd call to obtain more information..

- Murdock: LOI was submitted. Full application will go out by the end of the month. We are asking for ~\$125 K toward dental FFE.

- HedCo: received \$39K for the trusses. They ask that we use their grant as a match

- BNSF: beginning research toward this

- City of Maupin: Sue will appeal at March council meeting. Requesting that the city offset the cost of dirt and debris removal from the lot (cleanup of city dumped material totaled \$21K in costs)

- City of Maupin: Sue has applied for a \$1000 grant from the city

- Wasco Electric: will apply for \$2500 (their max) when the 2022 application comes out

- Operational Update:

Construction: Exterior walls are up, trusses go up soon, work is starting on the interior. There are lots of windows. The inside is going to be nice and bright with lots of natural light. Lots of public interest; folks are driving by to take a look. Sue is working with the contractors to save time and costs. A landscaping group will meet soon to plan where the irrigation lines will be installed. Dennis and Sue emphasized that going with R & H Construction was the right decision. Mike agreed.

FFE: Sue is making a spreadsheet of what is needed room-by-room (furniture, equipment, workstations, phones, etc). She will ask for clinic input as to what we already have that can be re-used, and what needs to be purchased new.

•Fundraising Opportunities/2022 Event Planning: Planning continues for a Hard Hat Tour/Fundraiser combo event on May 7. Committee will meet every 2 weeks through early April, and then weekly thereafter. We have a shared Google Drive folder for committee members to share info and ideas. Julie will gather and share photos of FFE for use on fundraising posters during the event. Mike suggested we create 2 naming opportunity price-points; a higher one for naming in perpetuity, and a lower one for 5 years or so. Another option is to set price points for other things like chairs, closets, writing on beams, whatever. Don't forget to utilize our match challenges from HedCo and Reser to incentivize sponsorships.

•Marketing: Jim will price out costs for a billboard to set up at the clinic site. He had hoped to get a higher resolution picture for it. He has 2 price estimates and will share those at the next event planning meeting. Lindsay continues to improve and update the website weekly with Sue's input. The website had 45 visitors last month, some of which were repeat visits. Karlton Hahn is refining the clinic and White River HD websites. Jennifer Mitchke and John Black have taken some great photos of the construction progress; some will be shared shortly. Sue read a nice letter (and donation) from Frank and Susan Kay.

•Support and Assistance/Opportunities to Engage: We continue to need more bodies and brains to help with fundraising planning and marketing tasks. Anyone who can pitch in and help in any way would be greatly appreciated. Jennifer Mitchke has been really helpful in documentening construction through photography. Kathryn is training Kim on the financial tasks associated with the clinic.

V. WESTBY ASSOCIATES:

Workplan: see items previously discussed in Grants, Fundraising, Event Planning and Marketing. Beth, Mike and Kelsey will assist with all of those. Mike will continue to lobby for us with the Feds, and also work with us on ways to maximize the use of those funds when/if they arrive.

VI: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: None

VIII: ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 am. The next DRCF Steering Committee meeting will be March 15; the regular DRHC Board meeting will be on March 23. .

ATTESTATION:

Sue Knapp, Board Chair

Attest:

Julie Whetzel , Board Secretary