

White River Health District - Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation

Gaining Members and Momentum

Sue Knapp, District Board Member

The DRC Foundation received a big boost in January with the addition of two members to the District Board. Brian Manning, who has served on the Board in the past, agreed to step in until the end of June. Andrew Houck, who owns the Chiropractor business in Tygh Valley, also became a member, representing another aspect of health care in the area. We are pleased to have them both. Their addition provides the Board with the full complement of 5 members as well as beneficial experience and expertise.

We are now gearing up to plan for a groundbreaking event this spring. In this COVID environment, it will be a challenge, but we are optimistic the event can be safe for attendees and will plan accordingly. The architect is currently developing the construction plans, working with the contractor and clinic staff. The contractor will soon be assessing the site to determine what to do with all the dirt piles and unwelcome dumping of extraneous materials.

Conversations have been taking place with community members about the financial viability of a new clinic. Our response is this: with all the financial analysis that was done in preparing the application for a USDA loan, we are confident in the ability to repay the debt service on that loan. One of the key contributors to this confidence is the pending designation of becoming a certified 'Rural Health Clinic'. That official designation will provide for a greater revenue stream from Medicare and Medicaid payments and opens the door to grant opportunities for many purposes. As the clinic builds its base of providers, income from those services will also bring greater fiscal strength and stability to the clinic.

The Foundation's 'It's YOUR Clinic' capital campaign has raised over \$100,000. Those funds have been an important part of getting us to where we are now, on the cusp of starting construction. The assistance our consultants, Westby & Associates, has provided continues to be invaluable. Their support and expertise will continue to help guide us as we move forward with fundraising events and the seeking of various grants from foundations. The 'big one' will be The Ford Family Foundation.

We will have a busy spring preparing for the groundbreaking, applying for grants, conducting fundraising, developing marketing materials, and continuing our outreach to the community.

As always, a huge 'Thank You' goes to all our supporters and believers!