

Rainier Economic Development Council Minutes
February 4, 2019
Rainier City Hall
106 West "B" Street
Rainier, OR 97048

The Rainier Economic Development Council Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m.

Board Present: Robert duPlessis, Steve Massey, Jenna Weaver, Sloan Nelson, and Rick Sanders (late)

Board Absent: Mike Kreger and Jim Bradfield

Motion by Massey, 2nd by Weaver to approve payables as presented, Passed Unanimously

The Rainier Drainage Improvement Company (RDIC) gave a presentation to REDCO council asking REDCO to commit the remainder of the funds needed for their project; \$107, 000.00 (note: Letter is Exhibit A in the packet). RDIC mentions that they have spent over \$100,000.00 in maintenance and repairs for the dike and they believe the recertification is beyond their scope. Weaver quotes the RDIC bylaw 5.1.8 and asks why RDIC can't fund the recertification. RDIC states they are not a land use agent and can only fund expenses for maintenance and repairs. Weaver mentions that the response still didn't answer her question as to why they can't fund the recertification. RDIC states they have limited funds from a loan and cutting timber in approximately 1996 and that those funds keep dwindling. They state they can't charge members enough to cover the cost of recertification. Nelson mentions that he thinks the recertification is important but has concerns about the accountability of RDIC. After looking at the financials Nelson is concerned that there are not enough funds to cover the general operations with the current revenue. Nelson asks RDIC how they can assure REDCO that they will be solvent and that they will tax their members enough to cover expenses. RDIC discusses that this is an internal process that their board needs to tackle and is on the to do list. There is discussion about the importance of recertifying RDIC and the potential of tax revenue. Nelson states he has an actual conflict of interest as he owns property in the diking district. The Corps of Engineers was there to answer any questions regarding the recertification process. duPlessis asks if there is a possibility of additional repairs or issues that may arise once the project starts that could cost additional money. The Corps said that there is always a chance and that they break the process down in two phases to try to identify any major problems in the first phase which is a lower cost. The first phase has been completed and problems found have been addressed and are now ready for phase two. Funding would be available from an agency if additional problems arose and more funding was needed but the agency cannot fund this phase of the project. duPlessis asks if there have been additional conversations with the county regarding them contributing funds to the project. At this point they are unsure. Industry has not yet been asked to contribute by RDIC. It was stressed by RDIC that they are running out of time and the deadline is fast approaching. REDCO council wanted time to look over their budget and get more information before a motion was made to commit funding to the project. They decided to schedule another meeting for February 19, 2019 at 6:30p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Sloan Nelson, President

Date _____

Robert duPlessis, Secretary

Date _____