

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Preedin	Mayor
Andrea Blum	Council President
Jennifer Letz	Councilor
Gary Ross	Councilor
Susan Cobb	Councilor

STAFF PRESENT:

Joe O'Neill	Interim City Manager
Paul Bertagna	PW Director
Scott Woodford	CDD Director
Kerry Prosser	City Recorder
Chad Davis	LT. DCSO

GUESTS:

Jon Stark	CEO Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO)
Eric Strobel	Sisters Area Director, EDCO
Treyton Moore	Project Engineer, Anderson Perry & Associates
Bryce Wininger	Staff Engineer, Anderson Perry & Associates

Mayor Preedin called the workshop to order at 5:30 pm.

1. Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Update

- Deputy Hudson attended a three-day advanced interviewing class hosted by the Bend Police Department.
- Deputies were preparing for summer events and looking at Rodeo and Quilt Show staffing.

2. Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) [Presentation](#)

Area Director Strobel reviewed the work accomplished in Sisters over the past year. He highlighted efforts in community engagement and networking, He held business roundtable events which had fostered peer-to-peer networking and collaboration among local companies. One positive outcome of the roundtables included establishing a vanpool with commute options. There were also discussions on the impact of Sisters High School internships, and Director Woodford gave a presentation on the Housing Plan.

Area Director Strobel discussed various projects under the categories of "Move," "Start," and "Grow" and provided examples of how he had assisted businesses. He had also been developing local connections, including involvement in committees and participation in meetings with the community development department. He discussed the possibility of starting an industry trade group to provide information, education, and grant opportunities to businesses. In terms of table setting for the future, Area Director Strobel highlighted the need to build an Advisory Board and develop a strategic plan. In addition, they would like to establish a local membership drive to generate funding for the program.

Jon Stark, Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on the EDCO team, highlighted their expertise in events, marketing, and databases, and outlined their support for Area Director Strobel's economic development efforts. In addition, he reviewed the organization's

simplified strategic plan focused on business development, workforce development, and organizational stability. The presentation also covered various programs and events, including the internship program, Youth Career Connect program, and events like Pub Talks and the Bend Venture conference.

Mr. Stark presented a funding request to the City, which included increased labor and material costs due to inflation and adjustments for Area Director Strobel's transition from part-time to full-time work. Mr. Stark highlighted the organization's efforts to pay competitive wages and the value of having a full-time economic development resource in the community.

Council President Blum asked if there was a pipeline of trained workers that would help fill the hiring gap that businesses were currently experiencing. Mr. Stark replied that modest growth was expected, which might create an increase in workforce availability in the community. He said existing training programs and the reputation of Central Oregon as a trainable and hardworking workforce were seen as positive factors. The pressure on the workforce was expected to ease, and efforts were being made to improve companies' recruitment and hiring processes. While these changes were not immediate, they were viewed as incremental steps toward a better situation in the future.

Councilor Cobb asked what the current situation regarding available space for childcare was in Sisters. Area Director Strobel replied the main issue was that space for childcare had many State requirements that a light industrial area and most commercial locations could not fulfill.

Councilor Ross asked why Sisters was not part of the internship program. Mr. Stark said the program was funded by the school districts that participated in it and currently the Sisters district was not funding it. The program typically required at least half a position or more to operate effectively. We were open to reviving the program if there was sufficient desire, willingness, and demand from the community.

Councilor Letz praised Area Director Strobel's work; he understood the Sisters community, and his impact was visible. She said it was important for EDCO to continue supporting him as he addressed various multifaceted issues, including childcare and housing. The lack of available childcare options had affected the workforce, and addressing this issue was a significant opportunity. Councilor Letz thought the investment in EDCO and addressing these critical issues was money well spent.

Mayor Preedin highlighted the importance of discussing a three-year contract instead of short-term increments. He believed that maintaining momentum became challenging with yearly discussions, and he felt we now had a clearer understanding of how things would

work and the associated costs. He would like to establish a long-term plan to allow everyone to focus on economic development rather than contract negotiations.

Councilor Ross acknowledged the focus on the traded sector in economic development but noted that Sisters, as a community, differed from Redmond and Bend in terms of its businesses and their robustness. He thought local businesses had the potential to thrive with the assistance and support of Area Director Strobel. Councilor Ross believed economic development should encompass more than just the traded sector and emphasized the importance of a strong and diverse business community in Sisters. He would like to see provisions in the contract that addressed these broader aspects of economic development, such as community well-being, employability, and affordable workforce housing.

Mr. Stark acknowledged that in smaller communities like Sisters, the number of companies in the traded sector was smaller compared to larger cities, and he believed that collaboration and support among community members was essential for success.

Staff would incorporate the suggestions discussed and finalize the EDCO agreement for the Council's approval.

3. Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update

Director Bertagna introduced Bryce Winger and Treyton Moore of Anderson Perry & Associates, the lead engineers on the Water and Wastewater Master Plans.

Water Master Plan Presentation

Mr. Winger discussed the ongoing development of the Water and Wastewater Master Plans in collaboration with other engineers at Anderson Perry & Associates. These plans evaluated the condition, performance, and capacity of the existing water and sewer infrastructure in Sisters over a 20-year planning period. They assessed potential water demands and sewer flows based on population growth and determined necessary improvements. The primary outcome of these plans was to create a capital improvement plan with project timeframes and cost estimates for budgeting.

Mr. Winger highlighted the key components of the water system, including supply and treatment, water storage, and distribution. He emphasized the need for clean drinking water, adequate capacity, and maintaining pressure and fire flow throughout the City. He also mentioned the importance of addressing aging infrastructure and the potential need for additional water storage and transmission lines to accommodate future growth.

Councilor Letz asked if the water line under Whychus Creek needed to be replaced and how heavy of a lift that project was. Mr. Winger replied that the project's overall impact was not considered severe.

Council President Blum said the Public Works Advisory Board was impressed with the quality and thoroughness of the work done on these Plans. The Board understood the importance of having a clear vision and understanding the available avenues for financing. The Master Plans provided a foundation for future planning and the community's needs based on the analysis provided by experts. Council President Blum was happy with the progress and noted it was an essential responsibility of the Council to address the community's future requirements.

Wastewater Master Plan Presentation

Mr. Moore said they conducted a system-wide analysis of the wastewater system from a capacity standpoint and condition assessment, including the collection system, pump stations, wastewater treatment facility, and disposal system. The existing facilities, such as sewer pipes and lift stations, were evaluated for capacity and condition. The wastewater treatment plant was examined in terms of its unit processes and disposal capacity based on findings from the Lazy Z Master Plan. Mr. Moore proposed various improvements, including refurbishing the Rope Street lift station, adding a new lift station for the west side of town, converting individual sewer pumps to a gravity system, replacing aerators, and improving various treatment plant components. He had broken down the proposed Lazy Z improvements into two phases, one in the short term within the next five years to help get a jump on addressing capacity and then some slated for later as the City continued to grow.

Councilor Letz asked if the wastewater would be gravity fed or pumped to the Lazy Z. Director Bertagna replied it would be pumped to the site.

Councilor Ross asked if the storage lagoons would be able to handle the expected growth in population. Mr. Moore replied they had prepared water balance analyses to aid in determining the appropriate measures for managing water resources. Although some extra storage would be necessary, this requirement could be accommodated by utilizing existing ponds. The preliminary proposal for additional storage capacity was centered around the larger pond in the South. Additionally, they envisioned a smaller interconnected system of ponds and streams, which would primarily serve purposes such as evaporation control and enhancing aesthetic appeal.

Councilor Cobb asked how many miles of paths would be at the Lazy Z, and Mr. Moore replied the plans were currently at a high level, but there would be roughly 2-3 miles of trails.

Director Bertagna explained the next step for these two Master Plans would be brought back to Council as ordinances for consideration of approval.

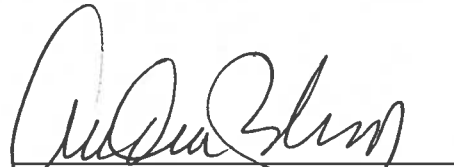
4. Other Business-None

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
SISTERS CITY COUNCIL
520 E. CASCADE AVENUE
MAY 24, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.



Kerry Prosser, City Recorder



Andrea Blum, Council President