

## **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) planning**

**June 23, 2021**

**10:31 a.m.**

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Richard DeBolt, Marrienne Schumacher, Josh Metcalf, Lee Napier, Amber Smith, Meja Handlen, Lara McRea, Grace Jimenez, Todd Chapput, Sherri Dokken

Guest: Linda Williams

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Josh Metcalf is putting together RFPs for a whole county water/sewer needs assessment. Josh said the draft RFP will be ready for Packewriter soon. He said the needs assessment will include what projects the partners within Lewis County have currently in progress and what are future needs within a five year timeline. He needs feedback from the board about utilization and allocations of ARPA funds in order to capture enough information for the assessment to present to the Lewis EDC.

Richard DeBolt suggested having a plan of what is being performed currently and what can be done in the 5-year future, then looking out further. Josh is concerned about water rights. Some smaller municipalities or districts have restrictions.

Commissioner Stamper suggested inquiring about Lewis County taking over smaller water/sewer systems that may be struggling. This would include both public and privately owned systems. Commissioner Stamper recommended having the consultant reach out to the Health Department for information.

Josh said his goals and timelines include having a draft out to staff, and a MOU with LEDC so there isn't any duplication of items/projects at the end of the week. He is looking to have results back by the end of July and a plan in place by quarter 3. Erik would like to tie in work with Josh's project for the housing summit conversation. Commissioner Swope asked about improving infrastructure at the fair. Erik said that would require both water and sewer improvements as well as upgrades to the stormwater system. Becky asked about the intent for the City of Centralia's MOU because there are similar ideas requested from the LEDC to Centralia. Becky suggested a scoring tool to prioritize projects to include future growth, matching funds and where each project will be in a 30-year plan.

Becky said American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) has new requirements that will update templates and MOUs going forward. She said there will be changes to how documents are scanned in. The first report will be due in August.

Becky said broadband guidance updates broaden the availability of funds to unserved and underserved areas.

Erik and Commissioner Pollock are spearheading waterbanks and water infrastructure topics. Richard suggested keeping options open to encompass projects that will be long-term.

Marriane Schumacher said the EDC meeting update from the stakeholder meeting confirmed the veteran's museum July 24<sup>th</sup>. Marriane has promotion ideas in place for the meeting. Her goal is to communicate the collaboration of projects. Richard said having a map and a timeline for a supplemental budget by October/November on current projects will be beneficial. Richard said there are over 700 projects in Lewis County and he figures approximately 70 percent of the projects still have funding available for their completion. Richard said for the dig once program, there are three phases for completion and about he figures 30 percent of those projects will need matching funds. There will be a link on the EDC website to Lewis County's ARPA site.

Becky suggested speaking to different councils about creating a collaborative effort for communicating the intent of each project.

Commissioner Swope said the Housing Summit will be in September. The plan for the housing summit is for the first half of the day to be informational and the second half to be multifunctional, including different housing types. They have hired Berk Consulting to help create a plan for the housing crisis.

Erik said the next steps in planning will be to meet with Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) to determine current needs and future needs for the biggest impact, then to work on guidance documents.

Becky said there are interviews scheduled for the grants coordinator position. She feels Lewis County may need to find a different way to advertise the opening to find applicants.

Meeting ended at 11:22 a.m.