

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) planning

June 9, 2021

10:32 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Richard DeBolt, Marianne Schumacher, Josh Metcalf, Taylor Albright

Guest: Nic Scott

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Richard DeBolt said there are 12 large projects taking place in Lewis County. He said he is reviewing the projects to see where seemingly unrelated projects can be combined so efforts aren't duplicated. For example, Richard noted that there are 47 culverts being replaced within the county. He said it would be beneficial to lay fiber optic cable as those are replaced, saving roughly 70 percent of the costs associated with the fiber installation.

The group discussed planned stakeholder meetings being led by the EDC.

Richard said the EDC will hold the stakeholder meeting July 21 in the commissioners' Hearing Room. Richard said the EDC will provide all of the coordination work, specifically regarding all of the outreach and invitations. He and Becky said BOCC staff will be responsible only for taking minutes during the stakeholder meeting.

The group discussed their hopes for the meeting, including transparency, communication, coordination and fiscal responsibility. Becky noted that the county is developing a web page devoted to outlining how the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are being allocated.

Richard said the capital budget is poised to be much larger than usual, providing an opportunity to secure funding that's larger than normal.

Becky said the U.S. Treasury is updating its guidance for the use of ARPA funds. She said she feels it's likely the funding can be used to alleviate backlogs in the courts.

Becky said the housing summit will take place in August or September.

Richard said Cascade Mental Health would like to create a detox facility in Lewis County, noting that substance abuse has increased dramatically as a result of the pandemic.

The group discussed vacancies the county is trying to fill.

Richard said Cardinal Glass has agreed to purchase the railroad spur from the East Lewis County Public Development Authority (ELCPDA).

Richard said the .09 committee will meet June 11.

Meeting ended at 11:19 a.m.