

# Final planning session for Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

By Rudy Diaz  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Planning for the updated Grant County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan comes to an end in May as the committee moves on to the final conference call for planning.

On May 12, there will be a virtual meeting from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and this will likely be the final steering committee meeting prior to future meetings to adopt the plan. The link for the meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99172788386pwd=UHk5MWNFWG9EZ2Jpb3E4aE82a1hiZz09>. The meeting ID is 991 7278 8386. The password is 433574.

This plan is created from an assessment from the community and their perceptions of the risks faced from a range of natural hazards, according to Katherine Daniel from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Another benefit is the opportunity to work with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, which provides an analysis of the structures and people at risk from floods, fires or other hazards.

"The goal of this is to reduce the damage to property and the risk to lives," Daniel said.

The mitigation plan focuses on eight hazards in the county, which



School teachers, staff and students joined other volunteers in sandbagging along Canyon Creek to protect school property in April 2019.

Eagle file photo

are wildfires, severe winter storms, floods and drought, followed by volcanic activity, wind storms, landslides and earthquakes.

Daniel said that this plan is an update to an existing plan from 2014 that focused on the northeastern part of Oregon and included four counties. The current work is updating the plan with a focus on Grant County.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency sets the planning process and provides grant money for the DLCD to participate in writing

a plan. FEMA also sets expectations for the county to be as involved as possible. After the planning process concludes, the plan will be submitted to the Oregon Emergency Management for review, and then FEMA will look at the plan for approval and comments before the next phase.

"I want to emphasize that one of the big benefits of having a mitigation plan that's been approved by FEMA is that it opens the door to FEMA mitigation grant funding, so the community doesn't have to support the whole

bill, but they have to be supportive of the plan as a whole so their elected officials have the authority to go forward and seek grants that'll be necessary for some of the mitigation plans," Daniel said.

She said the average homeowner can provide a unique perspective and may also be aware of hazards they are subject to and assist in providing a full picture of what the community will support when the process of adoption begins.

"In the end, community resources may be required to put forth some of these mitigation actions," Daniel said.

Ted Williams, the former Grant County emergency management coordinator, was central to planning as he helped build the steering committee with Jason Gatley from the DLCD, prior to Daniel. Williams had the responsibility to make people aware of the meetings and what the content would be, according to Daniel.

The steering committee is formed from people from the state and county officials, city representatives, school officials, local fire chiefs and first responders.

Even with the resignation of Williams from his position, the steering committee continues to plan and work, but the open position will need

to be addressed for the next phase.

"I think Ted laid a really great groundwork and did a great job at putting together a cohesive group that would show up and participate," Daniel said.

As the committee concludes the plan, which will be effective for five years, the next phase is to implement the mitigation actions. Daniel said the individual who would build the implementation committee would be the emergency manager.

"The steering committee made the decision at the last meeting that the implementation committee should meet every year," Daniel said. "They also decided that the emergency manager, when in place, would be the convener of that committee," Daniel said.

Currently, the temporary emergency manager is Dave Dobler until the COVID-19 pandemic subsides, according to Grant County Judge Scott Myers.

"The writing of the plan may be nearly done, but being involved in educating yourselves or your neighbors about how Grant County residents can avoid the devastation from floods or wildfires is important," Daniel said. "It's important to be engaged with your government and be aware that the county has a whole separate plan that relates only to wildfire."

# John Day purchases land, submits EDA grant application

City council approves purchase of land from Iron Triangle

By Rudy Diaz  
Blue Mountain Eagle

On Jan. 14, the John Day City Council discussed its interest in seeking assistance from the Economic Development Administration, which could provide up to \$20 million in funding for various projects in the Innovation Gateway.

During a virtual city meeting April 14, the city shared the scope of the projects and priorities that will be submitted for the application. This process went through stakeholders and city council members who voiced their input on priorities for the application.

They also worked together to determine which projects to include in the scope of the application for the Economic Adjustment Assistance pro-

gram. John Day City Manager Nick Green said the EDA's EAA program provides funds for communities under a federal disaster declaration.

Because the floods were declared a federal disaster and because the city has a Comprehensive Economic Diversification Strategy approved and funded by the EDA, the city can apply for economic assistance and recovery, Green said.

The scope of the EDA proposal consists of eight different projects that will be submitted. The eight projects are: the broadband expansion and network modernization; workforce housing; Innovation Gateway industrial site and grid modernization; street and parking improvements to make the site accessible; hotel and event center/distillery; flood mitigation and environmental restoration; community pavilion and the greenhouse learning center.

The city council also voted and approved the purchase and sale agreement of 14 acres



John Day City Manager Nick Green and Mayor Ron Lundbom during a city council in October 2019.

Eagle file photo

near the Innovation Gateway site and the right of way from Iron Triangle, which will be subject to final review and approval by the city's attorney. This was done so industrial land development could be included in the scope of the EDA application.

The council approved the purchase of the property for \$495,000 along with closing costs and the land acquisition and right-of-way dedication agreements, which were \$205,000.

The land planned to be purchased is located between the U.S. Forest Service office

building and Valley View Assisted Living. The right of way is between Patterson Bridge Road and Valley View Drive to create the new Government Entry Road and complete the Seventh Street Extension.

The meeting agenda states that to complete the proposed land acquisitions and development clean up, the city will need to approve a supplemental budget for Water Fund expenditures that increases capital outlay for this project to \$725,000. Following a notice in the Blue Mountain Eagle, the supplemental bud-

get could be approved at the May 12 city council meeting.

The plan is to pay the cost with \$595,000 in loan proceeds, \$38,930 in grant proceeds from Brownfield Redevelopment Fund grants and \$91,070 transferred from the 2020 fiscal year contingency. Green added that the city's financing agreement for the property purchase also includes \$60,000 as a forgivable loan upon completion of any environmental remediation needed at the site.

John Day also received another Brownfield Redevelopment Fund grant from Business Oregon for \$59,986 to do a wetland delineation and site characterization for the Oregon Pine property, according to Green.

"The grants we received will allow us to make this site certified shovel-ready through the Oregon Business Development Department within the next 12 months," Green said. "As soon as we receive

the certification, our goal is to sell all 12 lots at fair market value to allow for business expansion."

Now that the application has been submitted, if the city is successful in funding, Green said the city will see economic gains such as creating new jobs and increasing food security by doubling production at the greenhouse.

Also, the 12 lots have been rezoned to allow for mixed use, commercial and light industrial, according to Green, with no requirements for job creation. He added that this site is eligible to participate in the enterprise zone tax credits available in John Day if new jobs are created as a result of business expansion in this area.

The goal is to receive \$20 million in EDA funding, Green said. The grant funding would require a 20% match, and while local and state funding can be used for the match, federal funds cannot be used, Green said.

**VOTE**

**Laurie Draper**

**OTEC**

**Board of Directors**

**Position 3**

**Harney County**

Raised in Grant County and a Harney County Resident for 37+ years, my entire working career has been in customer service (US Bank, small business owner, and ODFW). I hope to continue that service for the member-owners of Oregon Trail Electric. Now retired, I have the time and energy to work with the OTEC Board and offer a fresh perspective to continue to provide reasonable, reliable power for you.

**I ask for your vote.**

Paid for by Laurie Draper

**AGCO PARTS**    **MASSEY FERGUSON**    **HESSTON**

**Robbins Farm Equipment**

3850 10th St. Baker City 541-523-6377    62302 Pierce Rd. La Grande 541-963-6577    1160 S Egan Burns 541-573-6377    86812 Christmas Valley Hwy. Christmas Valley 541-576-2160

**Balance Today with Retiring Tomorrow**

No matter where you're starting from, COUNTRY can help you achieve financial security in retirement. It starts with listening to your situation. Then we help you build a straightforward plan with step-by-step guidance. Call me to get started today.

**Debbie Ausmus**  
245 South Canyon Blvd.  
John Day, OR 97845  
**OPEN WED. & THUR.**  
9 am - 5 pm  
**541-575-1113**  
24 hrs/7 days wk

debbie.ausmus@countryfinancial.com

**COUNTRY**  
FINANCIAL  
S185395-1

**TOM CHRISTENSEN**

**CONSTRUCTION**

**(541) 410-0557 • (541) 575-0192**

CCB# 106077

**REMODELS • NEW CONSTRUCTION • POLE BUILDINGS**  
**CONCRETE EXCAVATION • SHEET ROCK • SIDING**  
**ROOFING • FENCES • DECKS • TELESCOPING FORKLIFT SERVICES**

S185396-1

*A Flower Shop N More*

139 S Canyon Blvd. • John Day  
541-575-2112 • Call/Text/PM Me

In order to be open during the Covid 19 quarantine, a lot of things have to be done to keep everyone safe. Mother's Day orders for flowers & candy must be done through the drive up or walk up window or by calling in advance - which is highly recommended due to the high demand.

Walk Up or Drive Thru-Service Only

Please follow social distancing rules!

- We will be doing limited deliveries and they will be knock and drop.
- European wraps: \$25-\$40-\$60
- Gourmet chocolates available in 1, 4, 6, or 12 piece boxes.
- Other arrangements can be purchased but you can not go in to view. We will show you a couple of different options.
- No call out orders, which means we cannot call other floral shops in other areas for delivery.

S186978-1

**April is Child Abuse Prevention Month**

**Change a child's life.**

**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates FOR CHILDREN  
GRANT-HARNEY COUNTY-CASA

**Social distancing may increase risk of child abuse and neglect. During this period of isolation, let's support our families.**

You can make a difference in the life of an abused or neglected child. Visit [www.grantharneycasa.org](http://www.grantharneycasa.org) to become a CASA volunteer, and visit [www.myneighbor.org](http://www.myneighbor.org) to fill urgent needs felt by foster parents, youth & families in partnership with Every Child's My Neighbor initiative.

S184791-1

**Play, Learn and Grow... Together!**

**ENROLL TODAY**

**SONSHINE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

**1. Registrations are being accepted for 2020-21 school year**

We offer a high-quality school-readiness program for little learners. \*Eligibility requirements apply.

**Pre-Kindergarten (4-5 yrs):** 3 days a week, (T, W, TH). Now registering for morning & afternoon classes. \*Must be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2019.

**Pre-School (3-4 yrs):** 2 days a week, (T, TH) 8:15 am-10:45 am. \*Must be 3 years of age by Sept 1st, 2020 and be independent when using the bathroom.

Join our School Today

---

Love to Learn!

---

Class sizes are limited

---

Register before July 31st

---

Office Hours:  
Tues-Thurs  
8:00 am-3:00 pm

**SONSHINE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
521 E Main St.  
John Day  
541-575-1895 or 541-968-9865  
office@johndaynazarene.com

S178848-1