

ImPERUving as oNE  
Meeting Notes  
June 19, 2020  
Meeting by ZOOM @ 9:00 a.m.

Present: Dan Hanson, Justin Douglas, Tim Hoffman, Cindy Hoffman  
Also Present: Marilyn Schlake & Charlotte Varjes (UNL Extension), Amy Mincer

Dr. Hanson thanked all for persevering through all of the challenges we have been facing. He looks forward to this group getting back on track in the coming months.

- 1) **Review of May 22 meeting notes** – In a review of the prior meeting notes, items listed in red font should be addressed during the discussion today.
- 2) **Long-Term Recovery Group update** – Dr. Hanson reviewed that the LTRG is working on flood recovery/funding concerns for Peru. This group is where most of his City-focus is placed. Some of the projects the LTRG is currently addressing:
  - **Staff Person** – A grant application has been submitted to the Daugherty & Kiewit Foundations for funding to support a one-year staff position. This person will work to find matching funds for the City’s funding needs for flood recovery. Dr. Hanson asked all to suggest individuals who would be a good fit for the position.
  - **Levee Repair** – The City needs repairs to both the riverbank and the levee. The LTRG is communicating with the federal delegation, asking them to pressure the USACE to complete its legally required repair of the riverbank. At the same time, Congressman Smith has proposed verbiage for the WRDA bill that would support the levee repair. If this passes, it will be great news for Peru. The group is also waiting to hear on possible State funding for the levee engineering study.
  - **Water Solution** – The temporary water treatment plant is currently shut down for service repairs, so the City is trucking water in again for 2-3 weeks. They are waiting to hear from FEMA on the amount that will be allowed for a permanent water solution. The current choices are:
    - Connect to the water supply at Auburn
    - Connect to the water supply at Nebraska City (this would cost \$1.5 million more than connecting to Auburn)
    - Connect to the water supply at Atchison County, KS.NOTE: JEO is evaluating all of these options and helping the City make the best decision.
  - **Wastewater Solution** – The City is hoping for FEMA money for this repair. They looked into doing a “farmer fix”, but it will not be possible.
  - **Street Repairs** – The City is applying for EDA grant funding to help with road repairs, including sidewalks and lighting. The LTRG will hope to find the 20% matching funds (\$500,000) for this project.
- 3) **Community Survey on Grocery Store** – Marilyn Schlake provided an updated survey draft for all to review, asking for clarification on the highlighted points. **The group decided on a Sept. 15 (approximately) distribution date.** The group also discussed having another meeting with the grocery store committee to discuss next steps of setting up a community store. **Amy Mincer will check with Vanessa about feedback from PCIG on the survey and distribution date. Dr. Hanson and**

Amy will review the survey and update the imPERUing as ONE team member list. Amy will schedule a Zoom meeting in July for the grocery store group and imPERUing as ONE to discuss the survey.

NOTE: Peru State has a student whose parents own the grocery store in Johnson. Dr. Hanson offered this as a possible resource.

**4) Planning Team Reports –**

**A) Infrastructure** – See above “Long-Term Recovery Group update”. Dr. Hanson will talk with Jason Jones about his continuing with the group.

**B) Housing** – No update. Cindy Hoffman asked about getting the Peru Housing Authority contact names. Amy will send those names to Cindy and Tim. Cindy noted that this team plans to have a landlord list and properties available, hopefully in July, for students when they return to school.

**C) Attraction, Retention & Communication (ARC)** – No update.

**D) Business/Economic Development (B.E.D.)** – Dr. Hanson reported that the grocery store project is the present focus of this planning team. In addition, CARES Act funding opportunities have been shared with a couple of local businesses.

**5) Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be July 17, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at Peru City Hall or on ZOOM (Normally the third Friday of the month).