

ImPERUving as oNE  
Meeting Notes  
April 17, 2020  
Meeting by ZOOM @ 9:00 a.m.

Present: Dan Hanson, Vanessa Sherman, Justin Douglas  
Also Present: Marilyn Schlake (UNL Extension), Amy Mincer

- 1) **Review of Feb. 21 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 including the following:
  - **Economic Impact Flyer** – In conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED) and Zach Nelson (Nebraska Children & Families Foundation), the LTRG has assembled this document to help Peru gather disaster-recovery funding. The document was sent to group members. Dr. Hanson encouraged all to share as appropriate.
  - **Grant Funding** – The group is pursuing funding, with the assistance of Zach Nelson, from the USDA Rural Development Programs. They are also applying for NDED funding that is coming from HUD. These funds will assist the counties in Nebraska that experienced the greatest damage from the 2019 flooding.
  - **Staff Position & Fiscal Sponsorship** – The group is hoping to have the Nebraska Community Foundation serve as fiscal agent. They are also pursuing grant funding for a disaster-recovery staff position.
  - **Levee Repair** – The next step in this process is to complete an engineering study for the project. Since FEMA will not pay for an engineering study, Senator Slama is working to get the funding included in the upcoming State budget.
  - **Water Solution** – Auburn Public Works has declined Peru’s request to connect to their water system. In addition, the areas where new wells would be drilled is currently under floodwaters again. Therefore, the City is talking with Nebraska City about connecting to their water supply at Julian. One more long-shot option is connecting to Rockport through Watson, however it has the challenge of being across the river.
  - **Wastewater Solution** – The City is still waiting to learn what the State will require for the level of protection on the treatment system. This will affect the cost.
  - **Street Repairs** – The City is applying for approximately \$4 million in EDA grant funding to help with road repairs, including sidewalks and lighting.
  - **Hazard Mitigation Buyout** – This program is in process to support the Peru homeowners whose properties were destroyed by floodwaters.
  
- 3) **Community Survey on Grocery Store** - Dr. Hanson reported that a group met in February to discuss future plans for the grocery store, since it is for sale. Vanessa Sherman reported that the PCIG has reviewed potential questions to include on a community survey to gather feedback on this topic. PCIG is willing to help with survey distribution but they would rather not sponsor the survey. It would be a better “fit” to have the BED subcommittee sponsor the survey. Marilyn Schlake offered to have the UNL Extension staff combine additional follow-up research questions with the grocery questions. They will prepare the survey, including a digital version. **Marilyn will have this ready for review at the next imPERUving as oNE meeting on May 15.**

**4) Planning Team Reports –**

**A) Infrastructure** – See above “Long-Term Recovery Group update”

**B) Housing** – No update. The Hoffmans are running their business on a short staff due to COVID-19 concerns. They will return at a later date.

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

**D) Business/Economic Development (B.E.D.)** – No update.

Dr. Hanson confirmed that imPERUing as ONE will continue meeting. Although people currently are distracted due to the Coronavirus, we will recover and be reenergized!

**5) Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be May 15, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at Peru City Hall or on ZOOM (Normally the third Friday of the month).