

Gilliam County Court
Work Session
October 2, 2019

Judge Farrar opened a work session of the Gilliam County Court at 8:30 a.m. at the Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon, Oregon. Present were Judge Elizabeth Farrar, Commissioner Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner Sherrie Wilkins, Chief of Staff Lisa Atkin and Court Administrative Assistant Teresa Aldrich.

IN THE MATTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ZONE (RRED)

Art Fish, Business Incentives Coordinator for Business Oregon was present to outline the program.

Rural Renewable Energy Development Zones offer an incentive to encourage new investments that either: harness wind, geothermal, solar, biomass or other unconventional forms of energy in Oregon to generate electricity or produce, distribute, or store any of a wide variety of alternative energy sources.

The incentive is the standard 3-5 year exemption on qualified property available in any enterprise zone, except that in a RRED Zone it is only for renewable energy activities. The total amount of property that can qualify is subject to a locally-set cap with each RRED Zone. That cap can be no greater than \$250 million in initial market value of each project. The county may waive the requirement to create full-time employment with a new project, if the cost of the investment is \$5 million or more. At this time 11 counties in Oregon have designated RRED Zones.

To apply for designation of a RRED Zone the county would furnish the Planning Department with a copy of a resolution requesting designation duly adopted, evidence of timely notice and communication with local taxing districts.

After Art Fish was finished with an outline of the program (handout on file), the work session was opened for discussion. Brian Walsh, from Avangrid was present and spoke in favor of RRED Zones. He presented facts, figures and projects highlighting the advantages of RRED Zones. Gilliam County Assessor, Treasurer and Planning Director were also on hand to clarify concerns and answer questions for the Court.

Next steps, Judge Farrar and the Chief of Staff will conduct some planning research on cost scenarios.

At this point, there were no further comments, Judge Farrar adjourned the work session at 9:51 a.m.

GILLIAM COUNTY COURT

By _____

Elizabeth Farrar, Judge

By _____

Leslie Wetherell, Commissioner

By _____

Sherrie Wilkins, Commissioner

Teresa Aldrich _____

Court Administrative Assistant