Membership Meeting
GM Minutes 9/4/2024
Noon @ Fiesta En Jalisco Orofino

- **Welcome!** Malia Erlewine, President

- **Guests/Introductions:** Kaitlyn Hinkley, Digital Marketing Studio 1892/Lewiston Tribune

- **Announcements: Big Canyon Acres Fall Fest Oct 18-20, Farm to Table Oct 20**

- **Executive Director Report:**
  - Welcome New Members: Brewed Bliss
  - Event report: Elk River Days, MaryLou Triathlon, Music in the Mountains Elk River, Wild Weippe Days & Rodeo (1300+ attendees), Orofino Rotary Fun Run (25 participants), Elk River Labor Day
  - Quarterly Reporting: Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet Q3 next
  - 90 day Outreach as of Aug 30, 2024 - FB 3,078 followers (10 new) Reach 28,098 (up 15%) Engagement 11,100 (up 53%); Google 5,816 users (up 3%) Views 23,084 (up 35%) Interactions 49,092 (up 12%) over last month

- **Economic Development Report: Susan Jacobson, Director**
  Weippe Community Center has applied to be added to the National Historic Registry. Clarke McAbee is a historic preservationist and helped facilitate the meeting with the state. Emails in support are appreciated. 6pm Wed 9/11 open public meeting. City of Orofino and Syringa club awarded grants from Idaho Community Foundation. Orofino Adventure Park project received 15k and volunteers are needed for ground breaking. GEM Grant awarded to Elk River for Helipad. Orofino Downtown Revitalization project is going through tribal historic review for preserving tribal interest in land use. Other funding pools may be eligible due to this. Income levels are increasing, so Orofino is no longer eligible for LMI grants. Average age 55-58 for new residents. Interviews for Orofino City Administrator happen next week.

- **Committee Reports: Fishing**
  Legislative: Kaci Ralstin (Senator Risch), Leticia Seloske (Senator Crapo)
  Senator Crapo visited here last week and looks forward to coming back. 8 DC staffers were visiting over the month. The Senate is in recess. Risch was hosted up North while DC staff was here. Session starts again next week until October recess. More after elections. Tax cuts and jobs acts pieces are coming up for renewal. Focus on this with your accountants and let them know if you have concerns. Disadvantaged rural communities under Justice 40 have been helped and Susan hopes that it can continue.
  Strategic Planning: n/a

- **Guest Speaker/Program: Joe Dupont, Clearwater Region Fisheries Manager IDFG**
  Digital presentation of slides on fisheries programs that influence our area economics, 2003 and 2011 surveys, how much anglers spend here in Clearwater Region, $90 mil - $100 mil, estimates

near $130 million currently since no new surveys have been done. Slides are available. World famous Salmon and Steelhead here, top site in the state. Predicting a new record fishing year! Spring Chinook hub in Orofino from 1-2 months. Greater fish releases here over the years, lasting months instead of weeks. Forecast is good for next year as well. Steelhead fishing lasts up to 9 months (Oct-Apr usually). Some of the biggest fish are world renowned. Guided trips are popular and provide revenue to the businesses in our area. Tracking shows a good trend of what's coming. Current timing 43k Steelhead have passed over Bonneville, 2nd best ever tracked and earlier. 35-45k are expected for this fishery. Coho consistent over the last 5 years, Nez Perce Tribe run, with a great success forecast of 14-20k. Dworshak fishing for Kokanee and SmallMouth Bass are national tourism draws. Nutrient restoration program increased nitrogen release to balance the chemicals of algae growth. Good algae provides a food source for fish to thrive.
Limited budgets have not provided for completion of a new economic survey. Licenses, permit sales and grants provide funding to support the survey. Contact the commissioners office to express concern or support. Go Outdoors Idaho online app available now for anglers, with e-tags.

Special Events:

- **Lumberjack Days & Clearwater County Fair - Sept 12-15, Chamber Fundraiser Beer Garden Sep 12-14**
- **Patriots Day Celebration 9/11 VFW Memorial Ballfield**

Door Prize Drawing: Cindy Wines, awarded gift card

- **Discussions:** Cindy Wines appreciates the speakers and work of the chamber! Business sponsorships available for Big Canyon Acres Fall Fest. Rotary welcomes volunteers any time, but especially during Lumberjack Days. Ad spaces available with Studio 1892 on Lumberjack Days space with Lewiston Tribune. OCI meeting 6pm tonight and looking for timing volunteers for the Log Show. Joe encourages people to join the organization and get involved with the 75 year tradition.

- **Next meeting: October 2nd @ 4pm at O-Town Mugs & Grubs**

- **Adjourn to Happy Hour!**

SIGNED:

_____ Malia Erlewine, 2024 President

_____ Erica Holland, Director