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Seeking a Prosperous and Sustainable Future

During 2021, PRWA continued its work to develop a telehealth clinic in the small Eastern Washington town of Garfield, Southeast of Spokane, after a community survey demonstrated a strong need for a local clinic. Despite a temporary setback as to which entity would operate the clinic, Whitman Hospital and Medical Clinics has agreed to staff and manage the facility. The Port of Whitman completed a broadband expansion project in November to provide fiber to the premise (FTTP) service in Garfield, including the clinic building. Approximately \$20,000 is needed to make the space functional, with \$4200 secured by the local health district via grant funding, and the remaining amount covered by a grant obtained by PRWA (\$16,000). The clinic is expected to open by the end of April 2022.

PRWA is also focused on the expansion of broadband to underserved areas of Eastern Washington. After Lincoln County was able to apply for state funding to expand broadband to underserved areas in their county with the help of Petrichor, a consortium of six Washington ports to expand broadband access, PRWA approached Adams County and Fairfield about opportunities to expand broadband services. Word of this assistance reached officials in Ritzville and they, too, reached out for PRWA assistance. Multiple, collaborative proposals were submitted to the Public Works Board and State Broadband Office. PRWA was also instrumental in securing \$20,000 for Adams County officials to use toward matching funds or other costs related to broadband expansion. Partnerships formed with Petrichor, and local governments also have the potential to provide a monthly income stream for towns or counties whose grant applications are funded. PRWA and Petrichor are working together to bring additional communities and counties in the ten county area on board and assist with application preparation free of charge.

PRWA has been working with the City of Harrington to explore their community development needs and identify funding opportunities and has met with officials and community volunteers to develop projects and applications. PRWA is also providing training for several volunteer grant writers in the city so they can continue to seek additional funding.

PRWA is continuing its outreach to the ten county area in Eastern Washington, contacting rural county governments and officials in towns with fewer than 5,000 people to see what assistance is needed to help these areas thrive. As a result of this effort, PRWA has received "some great testimonials for future funding requests." In September, PRWA applied to Banner Bank for additional financial support and has plans to seek additional financial assistance for our work through 2022 from other public and private sources.