

**Montezuma Community Economic Development Association  
Board Meeting**

**Dated: February 9, 2016**

At: Axis Health

By: Leila Hanson, Secretary.

Present at the meeting: Dave Hart, Chris Burkett, Josh Dellinger, Shawna McLaughlin, Greg Kemp, Tom Maley, Ellie Courtney, Tomas German-Palacio, Lana Hancock, Haley Leonard, Shane Hale, Laura Lewis Marchino, Chelsea Jones, Claire Attkisson, Bern Heath, Leila Hanson.

The meeting was called to order at: 3:05 pm

**Minutes:**

Approval of the minutes from the last meeting: Shawna moved to approve. Bern seconded. Motion passed

Treasures report: January report approved. Leila Motioned. Shawna seconded.

Status of MCEDA: Laura discussed that MCEDA falls under the umbrella of Region 9. Consideration should be taken about the possibility of nonprofit status or "postcard 990" through another entity. The Executive Committee will consider possibilities at a date to be determined.

Laura was pleased to announce that she has been promoted to Executive Director of Region 9 upon Ed's retirement effective October 1, 2016.

Chelsea Jones: Economic Development Specialist report: Commented on her written synopsis of last's month's events.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

- A. Annual Meeting: Tentatively set for April 19, 2016 at Dolores Community Center as a catered noon lunch with speakers Shawna will speak with the membership committee concerning board positions. Three Board of Director members will be sought for approval at the meeting.
- B. Solar: Chelsea and Josh connected with the county as well as Empire Electric for an understanding of solar opportunities. Chelsea will present information to the County Commissioners March 14 @ 1:30pm (open meeting) and continue to look at the feasibility of a solar project.
- C. Rural Jump Start Program: Tomas reviewed the opportunities for participation in the program, which offers incentives to new businesses that locate here. The County and Municipalities will be contacted about the benefits of the program, so that resolutions of support might be sought from these entities. Tomas will approach the County Commissioners about making a presentation which could include Tim Jensen, who spear heads the program at the state level (flyer attached). While reduced taxes to Jump

Start participants would affect income, the increased growth and job opportunities would benefit the area, and boost parts of the tax base.

- D. Membership: Shawna is working on membership. It has been decided that membership discounts will apply for those that are members of the Chamber (10% off) and new members (20% off). Next week the membership requests/invoices will be sent out. The committee will discuss board positions that will be voted on at the annual meeting in April. Two board positions available and vice chair position.

**Chelsea will put information on the website.**

Election of the Officers: The Secretary (Leila) will address the format of the election to prepare for the April annual meeting.

VII. New Business:

- A. Radio show: Dave and Chelsea recorded a presentation on MCEDA which airs Friday, February 12th in the morning. The presentation will be archived for those wish to hear it later.
- B. Strategic Plan: Laura will submit the strategic plan from 2011 to the Executive Committee for review and recommendation to the Board on the continued relevance of the plan and items that need to be amended and updated. Greg indicated that the planning commission will have a workshop, and the Strategic Plan might be beneficial to their assessment of drivers in the community. Additionally, Region 9 has a compendium of strategic plans that it uses on an ongoing basis for community goals.

VIII. Next Meeting:

MCEDA Board meets on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 3:00 at Axis Health. There will be a celebration after the meeting for Chris Burkett, location to be announced.

**Sector Updates:**

Claire Attkisson: New Member with Jaynes. Their mission is to be a premiere builder in the community, a good community member, and a supporter of nonprofits. They started in Montezuma County in 1971 building commercial facilities such as the Cortez Recreation Center.

Greg: The Commissioners may want to work on historic site preservation by forming a committee. They are encouraging a focus on recreational opportunities such as Phil's World Trails.

Tomas: serves on a local technology board. He understands the importance of fiber optics in the community and telecommunications. Telecommunications was a number one priority locally, per a recent survey. Montezuma County has 10% of its business enterprises as home based businesses (which is higher than surrounding counties.)

Haley: Southwest Memorial Hospital: The hospital has a dynamic recruitment program and is offering incentives including tuition reimbursement. It is building strong partnerships with visiting specialists such as cardiologists, and has hired a new general surgeon. Board Meetings are open for community input. Their EMS Training Center was recognized as one of the best in the state. They are expanding their EMS Center to be more comprehensive with broader participation and easier access to information. They believe that it will draw students from diverse areas.

Chelsea: SBDC: Cortez will host the SBDC class for "Starting Your Business". It will be held at the Welcome Center on February 23, 2016 from 9-2 with a complimentary lunch. Amy at the City of Cortez has scholarships available. Cost \$25. Chelsea is looking for additional local presenters. You can email Chelsea if you are interested in attending.

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The meeting adjourned at: 5:00