

# Montezuma Community Economic Development Association

## Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on August 9, 2016

By: Leila Hanson

In attendance: Tom Maley, Ellie Courtney, Fred Brooks, Haley Leonard, Lana Hancock, Sarada Leavenworth, Laura Lewis Marchino, James Lambert, Chelsea Jones, Dave Hart, Claire Attkisson, Tim Miller, Liz Ross (SBDC), and Leila Hanson.

- I. Call to order: Dave Hart at 3:05 pm.
- II. Approval of July minutes: Tom motioned; Seconded by James. Motion approved as amended.
- III. Treasurer's Report: July financial. Fred motioned to approve the July Financials; Seconded by Dave. Motion approved.
  - Region 9 created this new format as the fiscal agent for MCEDA. Request was made for submittal of a balance sheet and for a report that would reflect the calendar year versus the annual budget. Laura will assist with this format.
- IV. SBDC Director - Liz Ross:
  - She began working with SBDC last year. She presented an organizational overview based on the state and county objectives for SBDC. She changed the Leading Edge professional development program to a shorter format and received an \$8,000 grant for the program. Montezuma County will host a program with Cindy Dvergsten as a teacher in the fall. Part of the program will be online. Since Broadband is now a consideration for Montezuma County, a tech component was discussed as an addition to the SBDC development objectives. Chelsea would like to see tech certification classes tailored to specific business needs. SBDC will have a 1-hour presentation on the components of writing a business plan which will be broadcast throughout the state and can probably be found in their website in the future. Liz is open and available for assistance.
- V. Issues for Broadband Proposition
  - The November ballot will have an "Opt-out of 152" component. Chelsea will continue advocating for this issue.
  - The Broadband sales tax initiative is no longer proposed for the 2016 election. It has been deferred to the ballot in 2017 as a special election item, with a request for voter approval on the funding of a 1% sales tax in Montezuma County earmarked for Broadband implementation.
  - The Board supported Chelsea continuing to allocate two-thirds of her staff time to the "Opt-out of 152" issue until the November vote.
  - Through Chelsea's work related to Broadband, people are showing support for her continued involvement through 2017. Pending approval of the "Opt-out of 152" in November, outreach to government entities will be considered for funding of advocacy work on Broadband.

VI. Economic Development Specialist's Report – Chelsea

- Business development update: See Economic Specialist's Report for July.
  - OSF: A PowerPoint presentation about Broadband, created by OSF, is on the MCEDA website. Chelsea is able to amend this site to be more specific to our local situation. OSF plans for "Fiber to the Home" (FTTH).
  - Laura indicated that about 80% of all 64 counties in the state of Colorado have already completed "Opt-out" approval. The Town of Dolores as well as Montezuma County need to have "Opt-out" in order to create open access Broadband. The Town of Mancos and City of Cortez have already received approval for "Opt-out."
  - James stated that 2016 is the year to accomplish "Opt-out of 152" because there is proposed legislation at the state level to stop the ability to "Opt-out" by Verizon and CenturyTel.
  - "Opt-out of 152" can be a confusing issue for voters so a clear format for presentations is needed. It was suggested that an infographic website presentation be created and posted through MCEDA.
  - Tom motioned that a "Letter to the Editor" and press release be submitted to the media by the MCEDA Chair in support of "Opt-out of 152." Second by Haley. Motion approved.
  - The Executive Board agreed to prepare a "Letter to the Editor" about "Opt-out" and why MCEDA supports open access service to homes. This letter will be emailed to the full Board prior to submittal to the Cortez Journal in the next few weeks.
  - The Board desired that a press packet be presented to the Cortez Journal expressing support for "Opt-out of 152," and that it be tied to the MCEDA website. Haley will assist Chelsea in finalizing graphics for the website presentation.

VII. New Business

- Board Election: Lana motioned to approve Sarada to a position on the Board of Directors for MCEDA. Seconded by Leila. Motion passed.

VIII. MCEDA Board Meeting – Next meeting Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 3:00pm – 4:45pm; Axis Health Conference Room.

IX. Budget:

- MCEDA will be doing a budget for 2017 and will need to know what is to be paid in member revenues.
- Laura will send MCEDA a letter of request to be sent to members for a commitment for MCEDA membership in 2017 (within the next few weeks).
- The local government entities have tasked MCEDA to work on Broadband. Therefore, it would be anticipated that voluntary funding would be possible.
- Based on approval of "Opt-out of 152" in November, MCEDA could approach members concerning additional funding in 2017 for Broadband-related issues.

X. Sector Updates:

- Hospital: The new wing for the hospital will begin construction in September.
- City: The construction of Osprey's corporate headquarters near Parque de Vida has begun.

XI. Adjournment - at 4:50 pm.