

Montezuma Community Economic Development Association

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on March 8, 2016

By: Leila Hanson

In attendance: Chris Burkett, James R. Lambert, Greg Kemp, Lana Hancock, Shawna McLaughlin, Harvey Leonard, Mary Shepherd, Liz Ross, Sarada Leavenworth, Bill Utrup, Galen B. Larson, Dave Hart, Leila Hanson.

I. Call to order: Dave Hart at 3:07 pm.

II. Approval of minutes: Annual Meeting Minutes of February-not approved since there was not a quorum.

III. Treasurer's Report: Laura represented the report. A list of paid members has been prepared. The Executive Committee will meet to discuss the status of MCEDA and whether it should be a nonprofit or be aligned with another entity.

IV. Economic Specialist Report: Chelsea emailed this to members. She is attending a solar conference, and will promote MCEDA at the event. A successful workshop was held for Small Business Development Planning with thirteen participants in Cortez. Chris continues to solicit early education of small business owners regarding Enterprise Zone tax incentives and other benefits promoted through MCEDA. Chelsea is developing a strategic plan for MCEDA, with a meeting each Tuesday. More information to come.

V. Unfinished Business:

- A. Annual Meeting on April 19, 2016 from 12-2 p.m. at the Dolores Community Center. Speaker: Elizabeth Garner with the State Demographic Office. The lunch charge may vary from \$5-15. There will be a Board Meeting directly after. The Membership Committee is developing recommendations for new board members. Three vacancies need to be filled. An advertisement is to be posted indicating the event is open to the public.
- B. Solar: Chelsea will report on the Solar Conference when she returns. She met with LeeAnn, James, and EEA concerning solar.
- C. Membership Recruitment: In February a letter was sent to all past members about MCEDA and rejoining the Association. The Executive Committee will work on a follow up to show what is offered.

VI. New Business:

- A. County wide fiber: MCEDA supports a fiber ready community. James Lambert (County Commissioner) indicates they hired a firm to assess and estimate fiber hookups in the county and that a vote would be put on the ballot. Laura added that Montezuma County has the highest home based business ratio (36%) within the 5 county area served by Region 9. Greg indicated the city and county will have redundancy in the fiber lines for backup in case of one system going down. This is a great benefit.

- B. Trail project: There is a County P & Z meeting March 10, 2016. MCEDA supports the project. Greg can address this at the meeting. Signage for Phil's World would be helpful. Joe Keck has been a strong advocate and it a good resource for the trail project. MCEDA gave money to the Town of Dolores for trails in the past.
- C. Southwest Memorial Hospital: MCEDA has indicated the need for local lenders and contractors to be involved with the capital expansion program. Dave indicates that local banks will be contacted.

VII. MCEDA Board Meeting- Next meeting on April 19th, 2016 after the annual meeting.

VIII. Sector Updates:

- A. County Commissioner James Lambert: reported that there are three contractors that qualify for the building the Courthouse and they are working to finalize architectural design and construction management on this project.
- B. SBDC: Mary Shepherd and Liz Ross:
 - a. Has a new website which can be expanded with additional information.
 - b. Congressman Tipton meets 3-10-16 with a small business round table in Durango (see web link).
 - c. April 1, 2016: Nonprofit Board Development Series offered in Durango (Library).
 - d. CDOT Meeting April 20, 2016
 - e. Leading Edge: Kickoff March 31, 2016 at Fort Lewis. It is a five week course with modules online. Laura plans a Leading Edge Program in Cortez, which Chris is aware of and Chelsea will be updated on this.
- C. Greg: The BOCC has discussed the possibility of a county wide historical commission and advisory board.
- D. Lana: The City of Dolores will apply for a waste water treatment grant, which Chris will prepare.
- E. Shawna: The City of Cortez has four openings on the City Board. City residents are encouraged to apply. Osprey will build on 8 acres and perhaps Mr. Toms will consider developing one acre. The City is beautifying Main Street with new stairs and rails on Main, and tree planting on the main corridor. The City is investigating incentives for landscaping on business properties with a possibility of a tax credit of \$1000.
- F. Haley: Southwest Health:
 - a. Starting in April the Hospital will have ambulance service in Mancos 24/7 (replacing volunteers service) with a truck stationed in Mancos. All EMT and paramedics will rotate through Mancos and will be fully involved in the program. They will have 6 new staff positions available.
 - b. A preferred partnership has been formed with San Juan Regional Air Care Service for medical air support (at one third of the cost of other services) which offers very professional support.
 - c. Radial Emblation Therapy: The Hospital is opening a unit to help with tissue damage from acid reflux and other health issues. It will be the expert in this field in this area.
- G. Laura: Region 9: BOCC approved a community action plan. The Annual report for 2015 is on their website and gives a good description of the Enterprise Zone.

- H. Sarada: Axis Health: She is the new Senior Development Officer for Strategy and Communications. Axis is hiring an outreach specialist for families with limited income who would be working with healthcare and provider information.
- I. Bill Utrup: Looks forward to working with MCEDA.
- J. Galen Larson: Spoke positively about his idea for an opportunity to create an event for holding a cook off with the theme being Anasazi beans from the local area. This would have a positive community effect. He was enthusiastic on this 20 years ago after witnessing success elsewhere. He encourages community outreach and participation, and hopes that his suggestion might be embraced.

IX. Adjournment: 4:45 pm. Members invited to celebrate Chris Burkett at the Destination Grill immediately following.