

# Montezuma Community Economic Development Association

## Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on May 10, 2016

By: Leila Hanson

In attendance: Chris Burkett, James R. Lambert, Greg Kemp, Lana Hancock, Shawna McLaughlin, Harvey Leonard, Sarada Leavenworth, Dave Hart, Andrea Phillips, Josh Dellinger, Rick Smith, Jim McClain, Karen Sheek, Shane Hale, Tim Miller, Tom Maley, Claire Attkisson, Cassie Alexander, Laura Marchino-Lewis, Chelsea Jones, Dave Hart, and Leila Hanson.

- I. Call to order: Dave Hart at 3:05 pm.
  - Greeting new Board of Directors Members
- II. Approval of minutes from March and April
  - Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting from March 8, 2016 were approved. Motioned by Lana and seconded by Shawna. Motioned carried.
  - Minutes of the Board of Directors Members from April 9, 2016 were approved. Motioned by Andrea and seconded by Cassie.
- III. Treasurer's Report: Andrea motioned to approve, Lana seconded. Motion accepted.
  - Cassie presented the report. MCEDA is 1 month behind on the Treasurer report. Axis will reimburse the expense for the annual meeting. MCEDA appreciated Axis' sponsorship of the event.
  - Discussion was held about the legal and financial parameters for MCEDA. Financial parameters discussed were:
    - 501(c)6 nonprofit status with the IRS (At a cost of \$1,000-\$1500). This would allow MCEDA to apply for grants and other benefits for its nonprofit status. Cassie indicated that the application fee is \$800. Sarada indicated that ongoing expenses for a nonprofit can add up, or:
    - Region 9 becoming the fiscal agent for MCEDA. Region 9 charges \$35/hour and estimates 1-1.5 hours per month for book work. They would file taxes and give fiscal oversight.
    - Motion:
      - Leila motioned to **accept the Treasurer recommendation to approve Region 9 as the interim agent for financial affairs.** Andrea seconded. The motion passed.
  - Region 9: Laura will put together an agreement for Region 9 as the fiscal agent for MCEDA.
- IV. Economic Development Specialist Report: Chelsea e-mailed this to members and gave a quick overview. New Board Member packets will be distributed. Notes indicate the Heart & Soul poster will have the MCEDA logo.

## V. New Business

- Broadband:
  - County-wide Fiber: Discussion was held on 152 ballot measures and telecom/marketing.
  - A Broadband Working Group has been formed. This is a joint effort with all government entities in support. Chelsea is a member. Other members include the City of Cortez, the Town of Mancos, and the Town of Dolores.
    - MCEDA is in support of broadband as a hallmark for the community.
    - MCEDA is ideally suited in reaching the community to educate it on the benefits of support for county-wide broadband.
  - As we progress, a Broadband Authority may be formed, and may be on the ballot.
  - Shane: The City of Cortez has been on fiber for some time.
  - Karen Sheek: There are many home-based businesses in the county. They need connectivity. This is the moment in time to take action. We have the right people, the right place, and the right time to make this work.
  - MCEDA could be central in marketing the whole project to the community.
  - Chelsea's skills in technology and internet communication inspire community action. She could be creative in soliciting marketing support (such as having videos made by high school or college students to educate the community). The objective would be to leverage ideas and funds, and think outside the box. Warren Jasper, a retired internet expert, is willing to donate his services to the project. Tomas at Pueblo Community College will look into potential student resources to assist. Solicitation in the private sector may also serve to increase membership.
  - Broadband has great advantage in the community. It is becoming an "urban versus rural divide."
  - Broadband working group: Chelsea received responses to her survey about broadband on the MCEDA website, and had great support from the 300+ respondents.
  - To have broadband on the November ballot would require meeting a July 29 deadline by submitting the wording for the ballot and a side letter to the state.
  - Jack Schuenemeyer could expand survey questions which the city could fund.
  - Chelsea would allocate two of the three days that she works each week to the broadband project through early November. MCEDA could allocate reserve funds to assist in the broadband effort.
  - **Motion:** Andrea motioned: **"The economic development specialist shall support the broadband working group with up to 66% of her staff time and MCEDA shall fund up to \$5,000 in expenses from their reserve funds."** Chris seconded. Motion passed.
- Solar: MCEDA has investigated solar in support of the Montezuma County Commissioners' desires. This project would take a back seat to the broadband project until the end of the year. James Lambert, Montezuma County Commissioner, was in support.

- **Calkins Building motion:** Leila motioned: “**MCEDA to send a letter of support to advocate for the Housing Authority and its commitment to the Calkins Building project.** Jim seconded. Motion passed.
  - **Orchard Rehab: Motion:** Chris motioned: “**MCEDA to send a letter of support for the Montezuma Orchard Rehab Project.**” Josh seconded. Motion passed.
  - Held over to the next meeting:
    - Selection of Executive Committee Board positions was held over.
    - Board of Director Positions: Two positions are available under the “business or non-profit” designations. Sarada volunteered for one position.
    - Unfinished Business – Subject to Change
      - Membership recruitment – Dave.
      - Website updates, show analytics – Chelsea.
- VI. MCEDA Board Meeting – Next meeting Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Board Meeting 3:00pm – 4:45pm; Axis Health Conference Room.
- VII. Sector Updates:
  - Region 9: Mark Walker is interested in Brownfields sites. In this preliminary stage it looks as if it would be possible to have owners apply for grant funds to assess their sites.
- VIII. Meeting adjourned at 4:47pm.