

**Regular Meeting of the
San Juan County Economic Development Council
Board of Directors – Approved Minutes**

Wednesday February 11, 2009, 8:30-11:00 @ EDC Conference Room

Attending:

Conference Room: Ralph Hahn, Bruce Gregory, Peggy Long, Marilyn O'Connor,
David Jones, Liz Illg, Scott Webster, Denise King.

Phone: Patty Miller

Recorder – Sally Hawkins

Excused: Eric Youngren

Absent: Jill Blankenship, Lia Nordeen, Lance Evans, Bill Evans

Guests: Charley Anderson

General Discussion of Projected Budget cuts in Ferry Advisory Committee, and various Family Services with a major impact on jobs & schools.

Agenda,

1. Meeting Called to Order
Any Additions/Changes to the Agenda??
Scenic Byway Grant discussion was added to the Agenda.
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes (Jan)
M/S/P Approve Jan meeting minutes without modification
3. Review of Financials and Budget Expenditures (Jan)
M/S/P Approve Jan financials.

Budget Projection Update: CTEDs projected funding shows
Annual cuts of \$4000 for 2010 & 2011.

4. Correspondence
 - Letter from Lopez Island Superintendent of Schools: Market schools as draw for new families.
Scott Webster: People who move here don't have jobs—they're retired—no children.
Liz Illg: The idea has merit. We should take a deeper look.
5. Operational Issues
President's Report
 - Sustainable Economy- Ralph updated the board on his meeting with Liz Illg, Patty Miller.
 - **Transportation**-Ralph reviewed the Farm House Gang Meeting Agenda summarizing the transportation issues with Skagit Transit meeting San Juan Island Ferries; and emphasizing the cooperative effort of the RTPO to include San Juan Co. in their planning meetings.

A.I.- Shannon, Bill, and Marilyn (?) are committed to attend. (March 6)

6. Business Contacts report:

Marilyn—Two charter businesses were lost; however, two new businesses are in negotiations with the Port. Schooners North, (Marshall Davis & Gary Gero), and Art Lawrey's Proposal.

Patti—new lease holder in her building.

7. Continued Business

Nominating Subcommittee Report

Patty Miller--

No Report

Sustainable Economy Sub-Committee Report

Ralph—Summary of Feb. 2nd phone conference with Rocky Mountain Institute on Economic Sustainability with emphasis on Green Practices offering substantial financial return. (Bill W, Bill Apple, MRC, Stephen Doig RMI, Michael Kingsley, RMI.)

Cell Tower Ordinance Study Committee

Patty—updated the Board on her conversation with Shireen Hale, which mentioned that there was currently a 6 week prioritizing and the County would move forward without EDC funding.

A.I. Sally will contact Bill to follow up his conversation with Ron about EDC participating in funding.

Almanac

Sally updated the Board on the Real Estate Study and Bill's current considerations for proceeding with the project.

A.I. Bill will define next stage for Real Estate Statistics study

Suggested additions to the Almanac:

- Liz—Waste
- Marilyn—Review the Maritime section
- Include the Non-Profit Sector

Scenic Byway—Grant Writing Time—Request for continued support from EDC.

A.I. Liz will write letter of support from EDC.

Economic summary:

Open Table Discussion of 3rd Quarter, 2008. At that time, with inflation figured in, S.J.Co. was holding its own, but not growing. Costs for food & lodging are greater, less is spent on retail. Since the end of the 3rd Quarter, shops have been closing, Currently Retail & Construction activity is declining.

Marilyn—Stop on the Customs Building until agreement on financial responsibility for the construction costs is reached; Docks are in review to determine the needs for future construction. P.O.F.H. official stance is to slow down spending unless return can be seen in a 3-5 year period.

Job Fair:

Customer service training element. –Denise King. Send out notification to EDC members of the Erosion Soil League Certification Workshop.

A.I. Denise, Minnie, Sally, meet to discuss combo of BIZZbuz & Job Fair.

Community Foundation: EDC sponsored local investment pool?
Board to consider a role in establishing a community fund with the Community Foundation in the March and April meetings. Local Investment Pool for bright start-up businesses.

A.I. EDC connection: Send people to Community Fund Meeting March or April.

Can we be involved with loans? David Jones requested open mind about that. Scott Webster—neutrality essential. Show no favoritism in loan process.

Sustainability:

- Sustainable Business—What Does It Take?: F.H. High School, April 18, 10-4:30 workshop. Luncheon by Tom French.
 1. Morning session--Pollution
 2. **Afternoon session** --Brain-Storming—Green Business now and in the future. Liz encourages attendance at the afternoon session.

A.I. Ralph will present deliverables for an Import/Export study— to further evaluate “Sustainable Business” needs.

MRC Highlight: Green Sustainable Business Directory 120 businesses
Proprietary to Sound Publishing.

8. New Topics

Integrated Medical Center Project

Guest Speaker: Charley Anderson—Integrated Medical Center. (Request summary: C:\EDC Projects\Integrated Medical Center\ 090211summary.doc)

A.I. Charley Anderson Requested the following from the Board:

- EDC Mailing List
- EDC evaluation of the ripple affect of 24 new local jobs to community
- Direct people with questions or opposition directly to Charley

M/S/P Add support for this project to the 2009 project list.

Announcements

Next mtg Wednesday, March 11th, teleconference
8:30-11:00 EDC Conf Room