

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

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

**Attending:**

Conference Room: Ralph Hahn, Bruce Gregory, Peggy Long, Marilyn O'Connor, Liz Illg.

Phone: Patty Miller, Jon Kobayashi, Lance Evans

Recorder – Bill Watson

**Excused:** Denise King, Bill Evans, Lia Noreen

**Absent:** Jill Blankenship, David Jones, Scott Webster, Eric Youngren

**Guests:**

**Agenda,**

Meeting Called to Order

Any Additions/Changes to the Agenda??

There were no changes to the agenda.

Introductions of Guests

1. Approval of previous meeting minutes (Feb)  
**M/S/P** Approve Feb meeting minutes with modification
2. Review of Financials and Budget Expenditures (Feb & Mar)  
**M/S/P** Approve Feb & Mar financials.
3. Consent Agenda - None
4. Correspondence - None
5. Operational Issues
  - President's Report
    - Board Resignations: Bill Evans  
Ralph informed the rest of the board that Bill Evans had submitted his resignation from the EDC Board.
    - Ralph updated the board on the latest retail sales tax figures as of Q4 2008. The web site charts have been updated.
  - Business Contacts report
    - San Juan Canvas has changed owners
    - BlueWater Café has opened where the Front Street Café and book store used to be.
    - Bella Luna Café has changed owners and has a new name
    - Mi Piace has closed and been replaced with Churchill Café.
    - Porte Vino Pizza changed owners
    - Olga Store has re-opened

- o Island Water Supply – new company in Eastsound

## 6. Continued Business

1. Nominating Subcommittee Report  
(**Scott**, Marilyn, Liz, Bruce) - No Report
2. Cell Tower Ordinance Study Committee – Patty  
Patty updated the board on the current status of the updated Cell Tower ordinance. The County Council has pulled the process back into Community Development and Planning Department (CDPD) staff hands. There are still a few quite vocal opposition, but mostly around aesthetics and process, and not much around “the facts” or “aspects” of the new ordinance. The new ordinance was written with the intent of addressing the aesthetics and property rights concerns of the community. CDPD assured the County Council that this ordinance was still slated for this year’s Comprehensive Plan update docket.

**M/S/P:** EDC should take a public stand on this issue and write an editorial for the local news. Emphasize the balanced approach of the new ordinance of providing better coverage that supports personal, business and emergency services use while addressing private property rights and aesthetics.

**AI:** Bill to author, Ralph & Bruce to Edit. Have article distributed to entire Board prior to issuing to the Press.

**AI:** Patty will forward to Bill and Liz her comparison power point presentation. The Draft Ordinance is on the County Website.

3. SJI Community Foundation Critical Needs Update – Ralph, Liz, Bill, Marilyn  
The Board was updated on the activities of the San Juan Island Community Foundation’s Critical Needs Task Force Efforts. There are now over 240 people involved in 10 major areas of discussion. The EDC is represented on the following committees: Jobs, Work Projects, Community Development Corporation, and Transportation. The SJI CF has reached out to the Orcas Island Community Foundation as well as representatives on Lopez Island.

Liz informed the Board about a website that allows individuals to apply for un-employment online. <http://www.parenthelp123.org/>

4. Tech Grant – Ralph and Bill informed the board that a group has begun meeting to pull together a grant application for BroadBand infrastructure development. This funding is part of the Federal Stimulus package. The grant will cover both fibre backbone installation as well as application implementation to utilize the backbone such as: video conferencing

between our islands, Distance Learning, Distributed Medical Services, and EMS.

5. Job Fair Update – Bill reported that as far as he could tell, it appears that the effort to pull together a single job fair concept has not succeeded and that individual companies will be handling their own needs.
6. FHG Transportation Mtg – Liz, Bill  
Liz and Bill attended a Farmhouse Gang meeting in Mt Vernon to discuss the possibilities of a Transportation Public Benefit Area. Shannon Wilbur, San Juan County Transportation Planner was also there. The conclusion after the meeting is that this issue should be one of the first issues addressed by the San Juan Sub-Regional Transportation Planning Organization.

**AI:** Ralph will discuss with Pete Rose the status and “slow” progress of the process to get our sRTPO group created.

**AI:** Bill will look into having Mike Morton of Island County “assist” SCOG’s James Mastin with pulling together the WDOT numbers needed to understand the before and after affect of San Juan County joining the Skagit/Island RTPO.

7. IMC Deliverables –  
From the February minutes, the EDC was asked to provide an evaluation of the economic impact of the 24 new local jobs created by the Island Medical Center new plans.

**AI:** Bill will investigate a source to provide this quick analysis. WWU, BRC, State Regional Economist, etc..

8. Sustainable San Juans: Greening your Business, Home & Foods on April 18<sup>th</sup> – Liz  
Liz informed the group of the discussion topics on Saturday afternoon, the 18<sup>th</sup>, as well as the other activities on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged the EDC to be represented at the discussions on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. New Topics

### 1. Project Ideas

1. “Managed/Certified” forests and added value products  
Discussion about “Sustainable Forest” industry on the islands, how the EDC has been discussing this topic for two years, and how the pieces appear to be falling into place. There are a couple of businesses attempting to get this going that the EDC can assist and help fill in the gaps. Several land owners are working on becoming “Certified Forests” and are developing/implementing a

forest management plan (either thru the Conservation District or via an independent contractor). The Conservation District is proposing a program which the EDC can assist with and co-sponsor to bring in training, workshops and analysis to better understand the flow of this industry segment.

**A.I. Bill:** Connect Carson with Patty Miller. DONE

**M/S/P:** Allocate up to \$1000 to get a “Sustainable Forest” project started – the equivalent of a “cluster analysis” on the lower end of the cost scale.

2. Fuel - Import/Export Study – Ralph

**M/S/P:** Survey the small number of petroleum distributor businesses in the county to solicit the “volume” of petroleum products (gas, diesel, and propane) that has been “imported” into the county each of the previous 5 years.

2. Almanac Update – additional areas to include – sources of data.

**A.I. Bill:** Pull together a proposal for dollars to understand existing alternative energy usage within San Juan County and how to expand its use.

8. Announcements

1. Next mtg Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, Orcas Hotel Parlor Room  
9:30-12:00

Agenda should include Sally Harris, CTED Northwest Regional Manager and Scenic ByWay update from Liz.