



**SIERRA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Meeting Notice and Agenda for May 13, 2015

The Sierra County Board of Supervisors Committee on Economic and Business Development will conduct a meeting at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Sierra County Courthouse, 100 Courthouse Square, Downieville, California.

1. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests
2. Standing Orders
 - a) Approval of Agenda for May 13, 2015
 - b) Approval of Minutes of August 20, 2014 Meeting
 - c) Announcements
3. Committee Members' Reports

Committee Members may report on other committee meetings and/or related activities. Committee members or members of the public may ask questions for clarification but no action will be taken on matters not on the posted agenda.
5. Public Comment

The general public may address the Committee on Economic and Business Development on any matter not included on the posted agenda. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action or discussion shall be taken or conducted on any item not included on the posted agenda.
6. Discussion, Updates and/or Action Items
 - a) Presentation by B.J. Jordan, Director, Sierra County Arts Council on the Sierra Valley Barn Quilts project
 - b) USA Cycling Amateur National Championship event
 - c) Proposed World Cup Bicycle Race 2016
 - d) Meeting with Pacific Crest Trail Association of April 21, 2015
 - e) 2015 public events and public event policy in Sierra County
 - f) Mission, goals, structure and functionality of Economic and Business Development Committee
 - g) Recommendation to Board of Supervisors on declaring vacancies on the Committee and soliciting replacements
 - h) Old Business: Discussion on grant opportunities presented at last meeting and determination if recommendations are to be made to Board of Supervisors
7. Next Meeting - Agenda and Schedule
8. Adjournment



SIERRA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Minutes of April 15, 2015

Sierra County Courthouse
Downieville, CA

The April 15, 2015 meeting of the Board of Supervisors' Committee on Economic and Business Development was called to order by Chairman Huebner at 10:04 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Sierra County Courthouse, Downieville, California.

1. **Roll Call and Introduction of Guests**

Members Present: Beard; Breed; Christian, Clark, Dobija; Hall, Huebner; Whitley;

Members Absent: Payen, Williams, Yegge; it was noted that Member Wagner was enroute.

Staff Present: Tim Beals, Planning Director; Miriam Dines, Office Manager; Mary Jo Rust, Public Works; Brandon Pangman, Planning; Larry Allen, District Attorney.

2. **Standing Orders**

a) Election of Chair for 2015: Peter Huebner nominated Patty Hall to serve as Chair for 2015; seconded by Sharon Dobija. Motion was carried unanimously by roll call vote. Member Patty Hall assumed the chair.

b) Election of Vice-Chair for 2015: Sidonie Christian nominated Sharon Dobija to serve as Vice-Chair for 2015; seconded by Peter Huebner. Motion was carried unanimously by roll call vote.

c) Approval of Agenda for April 15, 2015: Pat Whitley moved to add Randy Wagner's Report to the Agenda; Sidonie Christian Second. Motion carried with Peter Huebner and Jim Beard opposed. Sharon Dobija moved to approve the Agenda as amended; Peter Huebner seconded. Motion was carried by acclamation.

d) Approval of Minutes of August 20, 2014: Peter Huebner moved to approve the Minutes; Sharon Dobija seconded. Motion was carried by acclamation.

3. **Committee Members' Reports**

Sharon Dobija reported that she and Patty Hall attended a meeting in El Dorado County last August on bio-mass and that every state and federal entity was represented.

Jim Beard announced that there is a large car show planned for Saturday, June 6, 2015 in Loyalton, sponsored by the Eastern Sierra County Chamber.

It was announced that the Sierra Valley Lodge is opening May 1, 2015.

4. **Public Comment:**

No public comment was given.

5. Discussion and/or Action Items

a) Update and discussion on USA Cycling Amateur National Championship Event

Mr. Beals distributed an informational packet regarding the USA Cycling Amateur National Event and discussed how Sierra Valley is becoming a more popular venue for cycling events, gave a brief history of a few annual events that have been conducted in Sierra Valley for a number of years, and discussed the increase in resources and opportunities for promotion of recreation and tourism through this interest. This event is slated for late June and will impact SR89 and SR49.

Judy Laverty-Capach, Special Events Program Manager for North Lake Tahoe Chamber, addressed the committee, explaining the effort to convince the USA Amateur Cycling to hold their event here in the Sierra. She explained the changes to the race that ended up routing it into Sierra County, stating that it will bring approximately 1000 cyclists through in a 2 day time period. The "junior" portion of the event is in Sierra County, and that translates to families of the racers.

Ms. Laverty-Capach reviewed the race courses as presented in the proposal packet. The "time trial" is may be moved to Sierra County and if so Loyalton would be the starting point.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding resources for visitors, the need for a special events policy, and the question of what is needed from this committee. Pat Whitley stated that it would be good if the City could work with the County on a special events policy so that the policies can complement each other.

Ms. Laverty-Capach stated that Placer County would be appreciated if Sierra County could contribute 10% toward the CHP costs for the event, totally \$11,000. Further discussion on what options the County can do to embrace and support the event that is not directly related to a cash contribution which is not in the budget.

Sharon Dobija moved to form a Subcommittee consisting of Pat Whitley, Kathy Breed, Pam Cawiezell, and Sharon Dobija to work with the chambers, and to evaluate options to support this race, and to form a form recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for support of this event; Peter Huebner seconded. Motion carried by acclamation.

b) Update and discussion with John Steffanic, CEO of Plumas-Sierra County Fair, regarding economic development and development of event venues

Mr. Steffanic introduced himself, noting that he was glad to be here for the previous conversation regarding the bicycle event. He stated as far as an events policy goes Plumas County developed one and the problem is that it was designed by bureaucrats and what makes their lives easier. When county costs for events are \$1,000 many events will be automatically eliminated.

He discusses events in general, stating that on the smaller events they are not event experts and will need help navigating the permit process, but if you're dealing with reputable event promoters they generally know what they are doing, how many resources and what types are needed so instead of county workers trying to determine how many sani-huts to require, let the promoter determine that based on their experience trusting that they don't want their event to have infrastructure problems.

He summarizes his presentation by stating that events can have an immediate impact on the economy and that resources need to be committed to enhance events. Important to the development of event economy is 1. resources for camping; 2. buy in from the community 3. a navigable permit process.

The Plumas Sierra County Fair was discussed briefly and he reported that the first day of the fair is Bounty of the County Day. The theme of the fair this year is "Farm to Fair."

The Committee recessed for a 5 minute break at 11:53 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:06 p.m.

c) Update and discussion on County Broadband Service Coverage

Corby Gardner addressed the Committee regarding the Plumas Services application to bring coverage to part of Sierra County, Sierraville, Loyalton and parts of Sierra Valley specifically. A grant application was submitted at the end of February for funding through AB 1262 and they will find out if it has been funded in July. In the meantime they have installed a few broadcast points, one in Loyalton. If there is a direct line of site to a broadcast point you can get internet. If funded, more points will be added. The emphasis is wireless.

Discussion ensued regarding western county issues with network access.

Randy Wagner stated that with regard to AT&T, the fact that they've made an encroachment permit application for fiber crossings on A-23 and A-24 is leverage that the County might have to get them to the table. He also stated that it is a best practice in the state to have a "Dig Once" policy, that is when someone digs into the ground once for any particular reason, everything should be installed that might be needed in the future.

Mr. Wagner brought to the Committee's attention that Assemblyman Wood would be going to the Assembly floor on this issue next Tuesday, and if he has a strong level of support for this legislation, he will promote this issue more, and that a letter from a County Supervisor would carry plenty of weight. He also noted that this legislation supports rural counties far more than urban settings.

i) Discussion and recommendation on impact of medical resource limitations as relates to weekend visitors

The Committee determined to consider Item I next as it happened that Mr. Pangman, a member of the WSMC Board of Directors was in attendance. Peter Huebner clarified that this item was regarding the commitment made by WSMC when they scaled back hours to ramp up services for special events and we would like to know what exactly that means. Mr. Pangman addressed the Committee stating that he does not represent the entire board of WSMC but would take the question to their next meeting and return to the Committee.

By consensus the Committee determined to recommend that the Board of Supervisors communicate with WSMC to get a definition of what was meant by their assurance to this community that services would be "ramped up."

k) Economic Development Committee update from SedCorp

Mr. Wagner discussed support materials that he provided for the meeting including an update on the City of Auburn Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Plan Update as well as the message regarding contact Assemblyman Wood's office on the AB 1262 letter of support. He stated that he works to help make Sierra County aware of the process and efforts by counties and cities in the SedCorp jurisdiction to help us determine where strategic focus should be placed. He doesn't know if his relationship with the Committee will continue because the Board is looking at separating from SedCorp, however he conveyed that he has enjoyed serving on this Committee and wishes us well.

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f) Update and discussion on anticipated Pacific Crest Trail hiking season and other PCT issues

Mr. Beals reported that there is a meeting scheduled for April 21, 2015 in Sierra City with Karen Hayden, District Ranger and the PCT coordinator out of San Francisco regarding issues over Sub-Part D OHV Management Plan regarding snowmobile use.

The impacts of hikers are significant in Sierra City and the numbers are expected to rise noticeably this next season. The Breeds have helped the post office deal with overflow of packages. The County has put a cardboard collection box at the post office to help deal with the recycling issues. One of the big issues is an alternate location for a campground and it has been suggested that the Wild Plum Guard Station be developed as such.

Lengthy discussion ensued to accommodate the hikers with regard to solid waste, trash, and transit. Sidonie Christian questioned why some of these services aren't being provided at a cost, such as holding the packages.

No action was taken.

e) Update and discussion on grant opportunities: Geothermal, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and drought related funding source.

Mr. Beals reported that there are a numerous grant sources and opportunities at this time, related to geo-thermal, drought, farm bill, IRWMP processes, and he expanded on a number of opportunities. This presentation led into Item h on the agenda regarding Project Paper Party.

William Copren, a member of Trout Unlimited, discussed the process of applying for matching funds to build a bridge, and then a second bridge to deal with water quality issues, stating that the application process took 2 1/2 years and total, complete commitment. It took 4 weeks to write the final grant with County staff.

No action was taken.

By consensus Items g and j are held over until the next meeting.

A brief discussion ensued about the Committee and as a result specific issues related to the size and structure of the committee will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

7. The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in Downieville.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Prepared by:

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