



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

Meeting Notice and Agenda for September 23, 2015

The Sierra County Board of Supervisors Committee on Economic and Business Development will conduct a meeting at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 23, 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 September 23, 2015
 - b) Approval of Minutes of June 23, 2015 Meeting
 - c) Announcements
3. 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.
4. Committee Members' Reports

Committee Members may report on other committee meetings and/or related activities/events. 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. Discussion, Updates and/or Action Items
 - a) Update from Jim Turner on SPI Business Park and Co-Gen
 - b) Discussion on potential geothermal project/grant opportunity
 - b) Update and continued discussion on public events policy in Sierra County
 - c) Discussion and action on impact of tourism
 - d) Continued discussion and action of mission, goals and structure of Committee including apparent vacancies on the Committee
6. Next Meeting - Agenda and Schedule
7. Adjournment



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

Minutes of June 23, 2015

**Sierraville School
Sierraville, CA**

The June 23, 2015 meeting of the Board of Supervisors' Committee on Economic and Business Development was called to order by Chairman Hall at 10:00 a.m. at the Sierraville School, 305 South Lincoln, Sierraville, California.

1. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Members Present: Beard; Christian, Dobija; Hall; Whitley

Members Absent: Clark, Huebner, Wagner, Pegge

Staff Present: Tim Beals, Planning Director; Miriam Dines, Office Manager; Bryan Davey, Transportation Planner/Engineering Technician

Also present: Jan Buck, Sierra Booster

2. Standing Orders

a) Approval of Agenda for June 23, 2015: Patricia Whitley moved to approve the Agenda; Sidonie Christian Seconded. Motion was carried by consensus.

b) Approval of Minutes of May 13, 2015: There was discussion regarding the Geothermal Grant based on the May 13, 2015 meeting with Sharon Dobija looking for clarification on what she was "volunteered" to do. It was clarified that the plan is to review documents that exist, propose a project scope which would be something like evaluation of the existing well on County property at Filippini Road. This review would lead to recommendations and work to inspect for "soundness" and productivity; revisit the marketing study that was conducted previously and update it and make a determination of what the market is asking, then bring in a user to do a project.

Sharon Dobija also requested clarification on the Sierra City Ranger Station and what, if any, commitment was made by committee members to look into this. Mr. Beals clarified that currently it is conceptual and in the purview of the Forest Service to evaluate possibilities.

Sidonie Christian requested that the minutes be amended to include the opinion of Sierra County Arts Council Director, B.J. Jordan, that it would be beneficial if the County had a staff person for Economic Development issues. After a discussion about the propriety of adding a line to the

minutes, Sharon Dobija moved to approve the Minutes as amended; Sidonie Christian seconded. Motion was carried by 4/1 with Pat Whitley voting no.

c) **Announcements:** Jim Beard announced that there will be an event on July 18, 2015 at the Greenhorn Guest Ranch which is a Veterans' fishing day sponsored by the Veterans' Affairs office in Plumas County from 7 a.m. to noon. This is an opportunity for veterans to come and meet with those who might assist them.

Mr. Beals requested an update on the Recycled Relics Car Show. Jim Beard and Pat Whitley discussed the show stating that many people participated, some registered and some not. There was only 1 complaint and it related to having to walk too far to eat. Terry LeBlanc and Mike Wellbourne did a phenomenal job on the event and they put out a survey to receive input on the event, which is where the 1 comment about the food came from. They also noted that Larry Breed really helped them. There was a minimum of 300 people in addition to the cards that attended.

There was brief discussion about whether the Big City Rod Run would be cancelled, and the committee expressed hope that this will not be the case.

Mr. Beals announced two public meetings that he will be attending in Plumas County to address the United States Forest Service Management of the Lakes Basin. He is interested in evaluating the possible expansion of the Lakes Basin National Recreation area which currently stops at the forest line to include the Sierra County part of the Lakes Basin in the Tahoe National Forest.

The state fair exhibit was briefly discussed. Mr. Davey, in attendance from Sierra County, announced that the first build out was last weekend, the major building is completed and that the volunteer group working on the exhibit has really outdone themselves.

3. Committee Members' Reports

No Committee Reports were given.

4. Public Comment:

No public comment was given.

5. Discussion, Updates and/or Action Items

a) Update and discussion on USA Cycling Amateur National Championship even and other 2015 events

Pat Whitley reported that the City has "Welcome to Loyalton" banners with bicycle artwork that they had made that are generic enough to be able to be used for future events. One is at the school and one is downtown. The Incorporated Senior Citizens are involved in providing transit between downtown and the school. Restrooms have been placed behind the museum (Middle School) and the school district rented the school and those restrooms are available.

Jan Buck discussed coupons for the event that the businesses made, however she hasn't been able to get them printed yet.

The committee consensus was that this region is getting a lot of attention and recognition, and although we aren't able to compete with the promotional side of the Tahoe Convention Bureau, we have the scenery, the pastoral setting and this opportunity needs to be grasped.

b) Update and discussion and County Broadband Service Coverage

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Scott Schlefstein
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Cancelled

Mr. Beals reported that the Department of Transportation issued an encroachment permit for installation of fiber along Westside Road (A-23) and Calpine Road, in anticipation of future expansion. Brief discussion ensued on fiber-optics expansion and also the potential for a Verizon tower for cell service in Sierraville.

Chairman Hall recessed the meeting at 11:55 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:03 p.m.

c) Update and discussion on Geothermal Grant opportunity, IRWMP Grant opportunities and other related economic opportunities

Mr. Beals discussed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Grant opportunities , reporting that Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan is in the process of reviewing grant application concepts in the event that they get a rounding of funding for projects. Sierra County, Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District, Sierraville Public Utilities District all are potential applicants and submitted applications for prioritization for various projects from weed abatement projects to infrastructure projects. Feather River IRWMP is competing for Department of Water Resources funds. These are all drought related funds.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy has a sizeable amount of funding for grants available through Proposition 1 and Proposition 84. Applications are due September 1. Fire Districts, County Special Districts and non-profits are eligible to apply for project funding. Federal agencies are not. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is clear that the CEQA process must be completed. Funding under these grants is 100%, no match is required. The crux is whether the agencies applying have the internal resources necessary to complete the applications and manage it.

On a County level Mr. Beals reported that Sierra Hot Springs has submitted an expansion project for improvements and further development of the hot springs property, improving it as a destination facility, including a conference center, restaurant and improvements to the baths and grounds. Big Springs Gardens is also working on a new proposal, however it will be more low key. The Firm Foundation Academy project is still under review by the board, and the Sierra Valley Lodge has a unique situation with a proposed application which at the current time seems at odds with the community.

The snow grooming contract expired and so the County will be going out to bid again, and will likely be approving bid specifications soon for another 3 year cycle.

Also, there a project proposed in Sierraville for development of a high elevation alpine cheese creamery. The dairy component would be on property in the Sierra Valley and the creamery component would be at the Sierraville School. It is conceptual at this point.

d) Update and discussion on public events policy in Sierra County

Sidonie Christian asked whether it would be useful to gather policies from other entities and do an initial draft with one foci being to regulate and make sure that events that come in do not present a burden or a liability to the County. Ms. Christian stated her willingness to begin work on an initial draft to help give the Board of Supervisors something to start with. Patricia Whitley moved to request authorization for the Committee to proceed with working on an events policy; Sharon Dobija seconded. Motion carried by consensus.

e) Continued discussion of mission, goals and structure of Committee

This discussion was continued until the next meeting.

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f) Discussion and recommendation to Board of Supervisors on declaring vacancies on the Committee and soliciting replacements

The Committee took a moment to reflect on the contributions of Kathy Breed to her community and the County.

After discussion regarding membership and attendance the consensus of the Committee is to function for now at 9 members, and to request that the Board take action to remove Member Payen from the committee and at this time direct the Clerk of the Board not to advertise vacancies.

6. The next meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in Sierra City. The Committee will try to meet at The Mountain Creek.

7. Sidonie Christian moved for adjournment; Jim Beard seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by:

Miriam B. Dines

Cancelled