**January 11, 2017**

**Pagosa Springs CDC regular meeting held at Bordé Rio**

**Board in attendance: Jason Cox, Nicole DeMarco, Cindi Galabota, Mike Heraty,**

Board Absent: **Jeff Gavlinski, Jimmy Munozcano, Sherry Waner, Michael Whiting**

**Staff in attendance: Mary Jo Coulehan and Amanda Powers, Pagosa Springs Chamber**

Meeting called to order at 5:48 pm; Quorum was not established.

Jason Cox introduced the CDC board.

Meeting minutes were reviewed. Mary Jo stated she would send out corrected minutes from October. Minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum.

**Financials – Mary Jo/Jason**

Mary Jo stated that the P&L reflects all of 2016. Jason mentioned that the statement is accurate other than 4th quarter being billed this month. The microloan has accrued $430 in interest. Membership dues totaled $5,050; a $12,500 as a goal may not be plausible. Advertising came in under budget. Mary Jo mentioned that she spoke with a business banker with Wells Fargo and they are focusing on regional activities more. Jason stated that the CDC’s strongest partners will be local. In the future Jason would like to see $7,500 to $10,000 in membership. Mary Jo asked Nicole if SBDC asked the town for money yet. Nicole was not aware that they had. Jason clarified that SBDC asks the Town and County for a total of $7,000. Mary Jo stated that she believes CDC budgeted for $4,000 this year. She will look in to this and return the correct information. $31,000 was spent on Chamber administrative work per the contract. This was over budget by $1,100. Mary Jo explained that the $1,100 was roll over from 2015 fourth quarter. Jason confirmed that CDC came under budget for Region 9, sponsored events and travel expenses. He then explained that CDC reimburses its members $50 if they are Chamber members at the time of joining. The total net income for 2016 was a loss of $160 vs. a loss of $8,000.

**Region 9 – MJ**

Mary Jo explained that Laura did not have much to update on. Cindi asked about the progress on the donation to SCAPE on Ed Morlan’s behalf. Mary Jo explained that Jackie has been out of town lately and no progress has been made at this time. Jason explained that he will be signing the paperwork due for the enterprise zone tax credit tonight. Jason also mentioned that there is 1 SCAPE candidate from Pagosa.

**Chamber Update-Mary Jo**

The Chamber is continuing to be the administrative arm for the CDC. Mary Jo mentioned that going to the joint utilities meetings is a good place to recruit new members. Business inquiries have slowed down due to the holidays. Jason thanked Mary Jo for arranging the guest speaker Anne McCoy to speak at this session. Mary Jo explained that the numbers listed for relocation requests is not accurate, as Amanda received 70 more requests from the Visitor Center for October, November and December.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**New Business-Mary Jo**

Mary Jo spoke with 1 possible new business. They are looking to acquire a business in Pagosa that will help minimize some leakage from this community; it is a trade service. Jason mentioned that there is someone looking into starting a $8 to $10 million hemp project in the area. He mostly has experience with medicinal projects, but is looking to expand. Mary Jo state that he has not yet reached out to her.

**Loan Committee Update – Mary Jo**

Mary Jo mentioned that the loan that has been in the works recently has been approved and sent to First Southwest for approval. She is working with Taylor Horst on paperwork to submit to Region 9 for the closure of the loan.

**2017 Economic Outlook Survey Results – Mary Jo**

Mary Jo has sent in an email to get more results. Jason stated this is good material to share at the first quarter forum and Cindi agreed that this is something that should be repeated the first quarter of every year.

**Broadband Update and Next Steps - Eric**

Jason explained that Eric has been hired as a consultant for Broadband through the CDC. Eric mentioned that the crux at the moment is defining realistically what the community already has in place. The data needs to be assessed to figure out who is and who is not receiving broadband coverage before a plan can be made and what action needs to be taken. Eric showed a map of coverage and explained that without sending out surveyors all we can do is make suggestions based off of guesses. Jason discussed the fact that USA Communications owns the SCAN fiber that goes to the hospital on HWY 160 and the Town/County; however, there is only a verbal agreement to use this fiber that can be found. He thinks that one of the larger first steps will be finding a solution to this vague contract.

**Strategic Planning Session – Cindi/Jason**  
Cindi spoke with Bob Lynch about moderating the upcoming strategic planning meeting. He is interested and will be attending the next work session to help form an agenda. This session will be held during the February work session from 10 am until 2 pm. Jason would like to see the focus be on two to three major initiatives.

**First Quarter Forum**   
 Jason would like to have the first quarter forum in late February or early March. The economic outlook survey results could be discussed along with a real estate update from Mike Heraty. Jason would like Mary Jo to reach out to Elizabeth Garner again from the state demographer’s office. Further discussion and plans will be made in the upcoming work session.

**Ann McCoy – Harold, Senator Gardner’s Office**

Ann mentioned that Senator Gardner is currently booked until August. He will be back in the region after that time frame. He is working with the “Internet of Things” group and the natural resources committee. Eric asked if the Internet of Things group is a working group and Ann confirmed that it is. Mary Jo discussed that people feel nothing can be done through the senate. Ann state that she does not have any answers for that at the moment and probably won’t until after the summer. Mary Jo asked what our region can do to help with Senator Gardner’s decision making process. Ann mentioned that he wants agriculture input. Some staff members are focusing on hemp and medicinal oils. Jason stated that there are currently 4 cannabis growers in the area, soon to be 5. Ann said she would like to show Senator Gardner a hemp growing production. Jason also mentioned that geothermal and alternative resources from our county should be brought to his attention. Ann assured the group that Pagosa Verde and JR Ford are on the top of Senator Gardner’s list for those topics.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm. Next regular meeting on March 08, 2017, 5:30-7:30 PM at Bordé Rio.

Respectfully,

*Amanda Powers*

Amanda Powers, Administrative Assistant, 2/02/17