

**Pagosa Springs CDC Work Session Notes**

**August 22, 2017**

**In Attendance:** Jason Cox, Nicole DeMarco, Jimmy Munozcano, Neal Johnson, Laura Mijares, Jodi Scarpa, Mary Jo Coulehan – Chamber of Commerce, Laura Lewis Marchino – Region 9

**Absent:** Michael Whiting, Mike Heraty, Sherry Waner

**Guests:** Mary Shepherd, Rich Lindblad – SBDC, Mike Dreyspring – LPEA, Mary Hunt – USHealth Advisors, Marshall Dunham – Pagosa SUN, Andrea Phillips – TOPS, Russ Elliott – consultant

The work session began at 11:15 a.m.

The group reviewed the notes from the July 25 work session. Mary Jo noted that she removed the names of the businesses from the notes involved in the microloan discussion. There were no other changes to the notes.

**Financials**

* P&L was reviewed. Jimmy recommended collapsing the detail information so that the names of the microloan clients were not displayed. Mary Jo will adjust.
* In discussing the expense items, since the Chamber is the largest expenditure, Mary Jo wanted to make sure that the board was ok with the Chamber’s performance and to clarify that we are more than note takers and caterers. We are the CDC’s boots on the ground and want to make sure that we are assisting the CDC in accomplishing *their* goals by performing duties such as securing the Economic Forum and Broadband progression.

The budget discussion will occur later in the meeting.

**Chamber Update**

* Gave an update of the Economic Forum. We had 48 attendees. Members said that they have heard good reports on the forum. We should look at having one more before the end of the year.
* Mary Jo reported that she met with one couple that are moving their plumbing business to Pagosa. They have found housing and should be in Pagosa by September. She also continued to meet with a small manufacturing company coming to town. They have decided to open their business in the Cloman Park area due to the existing zoning regulations and it is designated an Enterprise Zone. They will need to still work part time in New Mexico wile construction begins. They are in contact with a construction consultant to help with permitting.
* Region 9 has asked the CDC to present at their next board meeting which will be September 28 at the LaPlata County Fairgrounds. The meeting is from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Laura can work with Jason’s schedule if he needs to be placed at some particular time on the agenda. Jason should speak about CDC and Archuleta County’s activities, projects, successes and challenges.
* Mary Jo went over the questions from James Dickhoff for a Smart Water Workshop that he will be attending. Laura thought Region 9 would have the answers to growth or declination of particular industries. Mary Jo will research further and respond to James by August 31.

**Budget & Next Steps Discussion**

* Jason brought up the idea of a project manager based on his and Mary Jo’s discussion with town management last Friday. The Town may be willing to help secure more funding for a director or manager based on conversation from town trustees. Jason felt the project manager could manage broadband, housing, business expansion/retention. Neal and Laura Lewis Marchino felt that this makeup would be too difficult to manage and perhaps set the person up for failure. The group felt it was better to give housing to the housing group. We should focus on broadband and get that project moving forward significantly and hire a manger for this project. Jimmy questioned whether the Chamber could take on some of the work since they were already involved. Laura L-M recommended that some money be put into the budget for a Rapid Response Team.
* Rich requested to be present at the CDC meetings. He could give an update of his consulting efforts on behalf of the SBDC.
* Data Discussion: Jimmy questioned what is the end result and what are the data points? It was determined that we should ask the TTC to spearhead the project and we could contribute to the project instead of managing it. However, we could include in the budget $1500-$2000 for Reference USA. The Chamber could manage the program.
* The membership income should be dropped by $5K.
* We increased the government request by $5K each to cover money going to SBDC ($4K budgeted), reworking of the website. There is still funds in the budget for Leading Edge scholarships.
* Mary Jo will rework the budget and get it back out to the board within the next 2 weeks.

**Broadband Update**

Russ Elliott, former owner of Brainstorm and consultant came into the meeting to discuss his background and give an idea of some possible next steps.

* Russ espoused the need for this project to be a collaborative approach and more than just Archuleta County.
* There is a mandated rule with 1st Responders on how to deploy the new 700 mgh 1st Net. Will be getting with emergency services providers.
* Russ feels that we need to get “anchor” broadband institutions together. He feels he knows the players and can get them into the same room. We should also include the Southern Ute tribe and the SWCOG. He also has knowledge of funding sources.
* In trying to nail down what points would go into the RFI, Russ felt that it should be a community shared vision, ascertain what are the types of technology available, and coordinate the implementation of the plan.

The work session adjourned at 1:10 p.m.