

**Pagosa Springs CDC Work Session Notes**

**September 26, 2017**

**1st Southwest Bank**

**Board in Attendance:** Jason Cox, Nicole DeMarco, Jodi Scarpa, Neal Johnson

**Board Absent:** Mike Heraty, Michael Whiting, Laura Mijares, Sherry Waner

**Staff & Guests:** Sanjiv Doreswamy – Region 9, Mary Jo Coulehan- Chamber staff

The work session began at 11:10 a.m.

The group reviewed the work session notes from August 22, 2017 and had no changes or additions.

**Financials**

* Jason reviewed the financials YTD.
* Mary Jo told the board that the CDC budget request has been submitted to both the town and the county.
* Nicole asked if Michael had made his budget request. He did speak about it at the joint T/C meeting this morning.
* Jason also explained how the “pot” of money would work – that the Broadband project may not get an exact $200,000 if approved but could get more or less. It would work like the PROST fund which is a pot of money and the participating groups would put requests in for what monies they need. It would work like a construction loan.
* Neal asked what would happen to those earnings while we were waiting to utilize the funds. The thought was that both the town and the county have wise investment practices. Neal will call April or Larry to find out how the process might work.
* Neal indicated that the request for broadband funds seemed like a “double ask”. Jason explained that one request ($50,000) which was in the CDC budget was for a project manager; the $200,000 request was like a request for a capital project or money to get work done, matching funds or infrastructure built. Making this request to fund a coordinator will show the importance of the project and set the stage for future broadband projects and potentially a part-time project coordinator.
* Sanjiv noted that Align Tech out of Durango was going to the Region 9 loan committee for a funding request. This financial request for work would be dedicated to Archuleta County.

**Chamber Update**

* Mary Jo referred the board to her monthly report. It was a busy month in August with the Economic Forum and in September with the various broadband meetings (refer to broadband update) and budgeting.
* There was a discussion about membership and that the Chamber is also including CDC membership in their sales pitch. Various potential members were discussed. Sanjiv offered to speak to some of the businesses that were based out of Durango such as Bank of the San Juans.
* Mary Jo gave a brief Club 20 update from the fall meeting, especially noting the presentation and confusion that resulted from a presentation by AT&T on the First Net (First Responder) program that the state must opt in or out of soon. MJ will join a Club 20 Executive Committee conference call later today for a discussion of the issue. AT&T wants Club 20 to support the opt in decision.
* Jennie Green has invited members of the CDC and Chamber boards to attend the TTC’s Strategic Planning session to be held on October 11 from 9-2 with the location to be determined. Jason and Neal thought they might be able to attend.
* Jason will give an update about the Pagosa Springs CDC at the upcoming Region 9 meeting on September 28 in Durango.
* Mary Jo read Laura Lewis-Marchino’s email about Archuleta County being accepted as a Rural Jumpstart community. The regulations related to this program are very strict.

Rich Lindblad poked his head into the meeting and challenged the group to work on the Quality Resort to convert some or all of the units and offer workforce housing. There is also a 39 acre parcel of land that could be developed into a solar project.

**Broadband Update**

* Jason gave an update on the September 7 meeting with CenturyLink, Skywerx, LPEA, and others. He felt it was very positive and it opened up the conversation for the different entities to bid on various projects that could arise in Archuleta County. CenturyLink gave NDA agreements for Mary Jo and Jason to review.
* Mary Jo reviewed the meeting on September 12 with Hinsdale County and the director of the state broadband initiative, Tony Neal Graves. It was a good meeting and we traveled to the upper Piedra where Tony could see for himself the businesses that were affected and the total lack of Emergency Services. Mary Jo also asked for help in getting conduit laid during the 2018 paving project from the Hwy 84/160 interchange up to Treasure Falls. She will follow up with Tony to see if CenturyLink and CDOT have had any discussions.
* Jason spoke about the next steps and the need to create a broadband RFI. Russ Elliott would be a good technical resource. Jodi reported that the hospital’s grant writer, while she was knowledgeable about broadband, was very busy at this time and fairly expensive. The Chamber has offered to take a stab at the RFI which is outside the scope of the current CDC/Chamber contract. Mary Jo will give a proposal of the cost and approximate time invested. She hopes to have the RFI done by the end of October. Then we can look at going after December or early 2018 funding.
* The vision is to hire a project manager and investigate broadband funding opportunities.
* Nicole asked how we would broadcast the request. Jason responded that there are various methods: locally, regionally through the state and sites specific to technology and telecommunications.

Nicole asked about the next steps for the data analytics project. Jason indicated that we will ask for some funding from the tourism group and there is a request in our budget to the Town and County and Mike also committed to securing some private funding. As to who would oversee the project, that part of the project is unknown – perhaps the TTC or an ad hoc committee from various groups interested in the data or those that have invested in the project.

Jason brought up the resignation of Jimmy Munozcano and the need to replace him. LPEA has expressed an interest of joining the board. Mary Jo will speak with Mike Dreyspring with LPEA about being appointed to the board.

The board has received a draft of the Chamber/CDC contract for 2018. The board is asked to review the details and add/subtract/edit any tasks. The contract will need to be reviewed and approved at the November CDC regular board meeting.

Mary Jo asked for direction on the SBDC funding for 2017. Two thousand ($2,000) has been allocated for 2017 and a check should be processed. Sanjiv also announced that Mary Shepherd has been appointed as the new “deputy director” for the Ft. Lewis SBDC. The state SBDC is looking for a more regional approach. Mary will go through some training and she already knows how to do the reporting. We will help as we can and support her efforts.

With no further business, the work session adjourned at 12:23 p.m.