

13 Dec 11
Upper Rio Grande Economic Development Council
Regular 7:00 a.m. Meeting
Boogies Restaurant, Del Norte, CO

Present: Doug Davie, Don Van Wormer, Jim Clare, Shon Davis, Dusty Hicks, Marty Asplin, Bonnie Asplin, Carla Shriver, Dennis Murphy, Suzanne Benton, Bill Matthews, Cheryl Jones, Donna Wehe, Brent Logan, T.J. Brown, Mike Hurst

Marty called meeting to order 7:15 AM

No Changes to the agenda

Minutes: Bonnie had 2 clerical errors she noted she would correct, on a motion by Jim Clare and 2nd from Shon Davis the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Suzanne reported on revenue and expenses for the month and reminded people to pay their dues, on a motion from Bonnie Asplin and 2nd from Shon Davis the treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

New Business: Marty passed out a questionnaire from the Rio Grande Hospital. The completion of the questionnaire helps the hospital fulfill its requirements of gathering input from the region as a 501 C3 that provides healthcare services.

Old Business: No other board members were recruited for duty.

Program: Jeanna Paluzzi reported on her latest efforts as the SLV Community Energy Coordinator for the Colorado State University Extension. She reported a busy year of projects, meetings, and collaboration. A work team has been developed with the center for Agricultural renewable energy, this is designed to collaborate throughout the state on helping the agriculture sector implement renewable energy projects. There will be a presentation at the Rocky Mountain Ag Conference on February 9th. A grant has been awarded to do 50 Irrigation Efficiency Audits. The low income weatherization program is facing 60-70% cuts at the federal level next budget cycle, this program may not last but did have a presence in the valley in the recent year. Jeanna has been largely staying away from Solar Power in the valley as she feels there is sufficient outside interest she wouldn't be effective. The Rio Grande Canal has passed as feasibility study for micro hydro at several headgates. There appears to be "several different pots of money" for micro hydro projects to help with both construction and feasibility.

Beetle Kill Pine represents a huge untapped renewable energy source. Jeanna is currently searching for and identifying large commercial buildings with older boilers that would benefit from a retrofit to an outdoor wood burning furnace.

Bill Matthews inquired if geothermal was on the radar: Jeanna responded that with current technology and the lack of an air conditioning season, traditional heat pumps (most common form of geothermal)

aren't economically effective in our region. Further, generation of power from geothermal sources is still very inefficient.

Rio Grande County and Alamosa County cooped on a Energy Performance Contract. They have guaranteed savings and Siemens conducts the audit and installs the upgraded equipment.

Town Reports: Don- Monte Vista- Parts plus bought the Old Jack's Market building, Sunshine Acres a baking store has moved into Jonny B Good's, the Monte Vista Police Department moved out of their old building and into the old clinic, a \$350,000 grant was awarded to build a skate park. Things are positive on the whole for Monte Vista

Del Norte- Marty- most of the solar project is installed, a new roof was installed for the upper reservoir, the other projects march on

South Fork- Bill- the search is on for a marketing director, a sale of the Probuild building is supposedly in the works, Disney might be filming a remake of the Lone Ranger movie this spring, the town continues their efforts with developers

Alamosa- push to get bid for Rural Marketplace Convention

Rio Grande County- the county has been busy with the energy audit, lighting upgrade, the Astronaut Rominger Airport has a chance to secure an AWOS (Automated Weather Observing System) and include this with the work and grants for the lights, an efficiency audit is scheduled for the beginning of 2012

Th th th that's all folks,

T.J. Brown