

UPPER RIO GRANDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

April 12, 2011

Regular Monthly Meeting
Biggins Restaurant, South Fork, CO

The regular meeting of the Upper Rio Grande Economic Development Council (URGEDC) was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by President Marty Asplin. There were 25 present.

Mr. Jim Clare made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting seconded by Shon Davis, the motion carried.

Suzanne Benton presented the treasurer's report with a balance of \$7323.20 and thanked members for paying dues and encouraged those who have not, to get their dues paid. Shon Davis made a motion to accept the treasurer's report with a second by Jim Clare, motion passed.

President Asplin reported that the board had approved a \$500.00 donation to the Korean Leaflet Project.

Other unfinished business included a report by Mr. Asplin on the Civic Engagement meeting and amendment process that was held recently in Alamosa. The three hour meeting was to help encourage the legislature to work on restrictions for the State of Colorado Constitution, so that the amendments that are offered to be added to the Constitution will be meaningful without unintended consequences.

The Governor's Bottom-Up Economic Development Plan Initiative Meeting that was recently held in Alamosa has asked each county for five top goals. Marty asked that each one present take five minutes to fill out the form and Mary Beth Miles will collate the answers so that the county team can send these top five to the Governor by April 30th. (See attached worksheet)

President Asplin then introduced Jenny Inge, owner of *Rare Things* in Creede to give the program. Ms. Inge is with the Upper Rio Grande Events & Recreation Complex, a 501 (c) 3. The plan is for this to be an all-season multi-purpose facility that will support a broad range of recreation and learning experiences.

The facility will be located near the airport corner with good visibility from all directions. Design of the building will be with local readily available materials. Four sections are planned. The first to be built will be the events arena next to an outdoor arena. Included in this phase will be ability for 4-H events, livestock events and others. A recreation building including a swimming pool is also on the list as well as a greenhouse and other buildings.

The completed project after Phase 1 will employ 4-5 full time jobs. Cost of the 70,000 square foot arena is estimated at \$85.00/square foot and the recreational building cost is estimated at \$285.00 per square foot. They have identified 40 partners so far and are even working with a YMCA out of Springs to be a part of the Y system.

Currently they have a director hired and are looking for an administrator. This year they plan on putting 4 or 5 grants together.

President Asplin thanked Jenny for the presentation.

Jim Clare reported for Monte Vista. They had a Community Development Corporation (CDC) annual meeting and had three good speakers. One was the Monte Vista Schools Superintendent giving information on the new school building that will start construction in May. The CDC is working on a pocket map of Monte Vista to give to anyone working on the project. This map will list businesses and restaurants and places to stay. There is concern of the CDOT (Colorado Department of Transportation) work to be done on US 160/285 next summer in Monte Vista. Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will be destroying and rebuilding U.S. 160 through the downtown from Broadway to the Mansion. The city will replace old pipelines and upgrade systems while this is in progress. The CDOT project will be \$4 -4.5 million plus the City infrastructure costs of approximately \$750,000.

Marty reported that the town of Del Norte will have an earth clean up day on April 21st, which will include school kids helping. The architect has been hired to come up with plans for the old coop building. The trails organization is working on signage and making the trails system more visible in the Town including work at the junction of Hwy 160 and County Road 14. Lastly, Del Norte has a rash of liquor license applications ó three in all, so not sure what that means.

Mayor Ken Brook reported that South Fork is organizing the town; a new town manager has been hired. The manger is Mr. Bill Matthews. The town purchased their own snow removal equipment, and will replace the roof of the community building soon. The Wharton Bridge study and design will be presented to the town the end of April. The design includes golf cart and pedestrian lanes along side of the vehicle lanes.

Shon Davis reported that Alamosa has lots of construction going on at Colorado Sports, the City of Alamosa town hall, the Mental Health building and Sangre de Cristo schools. He also reported that the FFA convention will be the first part of June and then a coach's convention later in the month. Rooms are full and are being filled in Monte Vista to accommodate these events. Over 2000 FFA delegates are expected for the convention.

Rio Grande County Commissioner Dennis Murphy reported that the county is working on funding for lighting at the airport with an application for a grant to help cover the cost. He also reported that the Korean Leaflet Project is moving along well and will have representation from the Pentagon. This will be in mid-June. Mr. Murphy also stated that Road and Bridge is busy with repairs but there will not be any new paving done this year. The county is looking for a museum coordinator to help with the museum. The opening day for the Museum is the first of May. The multi-purpose building to be added at the McMullen building was discussed.

Marty reminded folks of a meeting about the transmission line at Blanca on the 19th of May at 6:30 p.m.

Jim Clare reported there will be five tours or groups for speed cars to ride the rails in the valley this summer. These folks have money to spend and Jim encouraged everyone to show hospitality to not only these folks but any and all tourists.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hagedorn
Secretary