

9 June 09
Upper Rio Grande Economic Development Council
Regular Business Meeting
Hungry Logger Restaurant South Fork, CO

The meeting was called to order by President Don Van Wormer. Don promptly handed the Presidency over to TJ Brown who proceeded with the meeting.

Scott Stecken, with South Fork Music Association, was introduced and added to the Agenda.

The minutes of the previous meeting were then approved on a motion by Don Van Wormer and a second by Jim Clare.

Mike Hurst updated the group on the Fiber Optic project for the Valley. The terms of the grant request are still being formulated; the biggest change is that they are going to ask rural Colorado to have larger groupings of participants, which means the geographic area is going to become large and possibly cumbersome. He will continue to update information as changes become available.

Suzanne Benton then gave the Treasurer's Report, explaining activities were minimal.

Suzanne explained the current efforts to form a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), which will help administer USFS funds given to the counties, a portion of which they now have to give back. Based on the money that will be available, the RAC for our area will include Rio Grande, Conejos, Mineral, and Hinsdale Counties. Saguache County has enough money to form its own RAC. Rio Grande County needs to provide three or four volunteers. Suzanne said she had applications available for anyone interested.

The membership was updated on progress and ideas involving ASC and DOLA to help with event marketing for Valley-specific projects in our region.

Scott Stecken from SFMA, who was one of the founding members, updated us on this summer's Rhythms on the Rio. They have moved it forward two weeks in the hopes of better weather; it will be 22 and 23 of August. They have a national touring manager who is working with their board and is a link to professional productions crews and two national bands. They may possibly hold the event on the 10 acres in front of Willow Park. They are hoping to control expenses by trying to get the bands to donate or perform at cost with the Association only being responsible for the band expenses. This year they will model the event after the Festival in West Cliff and FIBArk in Salida. The intention for the two-day Rhythms on the Rio is to utilize the full genre of music styles. Scott handed out literature defining all the different sponsorship levels they have. They will be interacting with all the internet marketing groups. A marketing person from FIBArk is going to help them this year.

In the Monte Vista update Don said his council has directed him to argue the state ruling about chlorination due to citizen requests to not do it. They have selected the contractor for the Ski Hi seating project. They have committed attendees for Rally in the Valley from eight states. The new recreation director is on board and they will be holding their 4th of July celebration on the 3rd of July. The Valley Wide Health Care project is progressing with \$500,000 from Valley Wide and the Town received a \$1 million grant.

Del Norte has released an RFB for the new well. Run, Rock and Roll, which this year had a triathlon comprising a 5K run, a scramble to the top of Lookout Mountain and a 30K bike ride, was a success. High Valley Community Center had their grand opening, and the Rio Grande Hospital will hold their annual fund raiser on July 18. The hospital is hoping to build a walkway between the two buildings, and the DNEDC had two requests for beautification funds.

South Fork is exploring other sites for the Little Wing Amphitheater. Logger Days will be held the 18th and 19th of July.

Rio Grande County paved one mile on County Rd 15 from Alder Creek to Bear Creek. The increasingly tightening budget from state and federal cut-backs is limiting them in many of their projects and services. They are still working on getting the Mega Shed in Rio Grande County. The new Rio Grande Health Agency will create a need for IGAs with all of the towns and a creation of a new board.

Todd Wright then spoke about the Wharton Town Center Project in South Fork and the Smart Code they hope to adopt. He said meetings had been well attended by the county commissioners and explained a large map of the town center area that showed the different zoning and streets as they are designed using the Smart Code. It uses Euclidian design rather than the normal zoning of residential, commercial, etc. The idea to what's being adopted will serve as a master plan for developers who do work in this area. Their group toured Salida and the South Main Project in Buena Vista as samples of mixed use synergy. They are currently working on a budget for the Wharton Street Bridge realizing that the town under-utilizes the river as a focal point. They have met with Erin Minks and Deb Downs for funding ideas. Taos, New Mexico has done a Smart Code project, but this will be a first in Colorado. The idea is a better density of people to reduce infrastructure costs. They plan to set up a special taxing district for safety and maintenance to be funded by developers and hope to work with CDOT to control speeds on Hwy 149 where the entrance to town center will be. They are finding that this new technology is even ahead of the attorneys and are having to create ordinances to match the plan. They expect the project to take from 10-50 years for a complete build out.

A letter of support to the South Fork Town Board for their adoption of the Smart Code will be submitted based on a motion by Norm Clarke and a second by Jim Clare.

The next meeting will be in Del Norte, 14th July, Boogies Restaurant, 7 a.m.

Meeting adjourned. Submitted, Marty Asplin, Secretary