

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD  
TUOLUMNE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

LOCATION

TCEDA Offices  
99 N. Washington Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

Friday, September 8, 2017  
9:30 am

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman John Gray brought the regular meeting of the Tuolumne County Economic Development Authority (TCEDA) to order at 9:35 a.m.

2. Roll Call:

The following Board Members were present: Chairman John Gray, Vice-Chairman George Segarini, Member Jim Gianelli, Member Sherri Brennan, Member Connie Williams, Member Dave Thoeny (arrived at 9:44 am) and Member Barry Hillman (arrived at 9:45 am).

Also present were Economic Development Authority CEO Larry Cope, Secretary Malorie Sperry, County Administrator Craig Pedro and City Administrator Tim Miller.

Guest present:

Sarah Carrillo, Tuolumne County Counsel  
Carol Doud, Citizen Member

3. Flag Salute: John Gray led the Flag salute.

4. Oral Communication:

5. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of the May 12, 2017 TCEDA Governing Board's regular meeting minutes.

John Gray asked for any public comments. Connie Williams pointed out an error in the minutes. The word "fiduciary" should have been used instead of the word "judiciary" on the third page of the minutes.

**Motion: George Segarini moved to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2017 TCEDA Board Meeting with the correction. Sherrie Brennan seconded the motion. The Board approved by a 5-0-0 vote.**

6. Old Business: None

7. New Business: None

8. Director's Report:

Larry Cope passed out his CEO's Report and explained his new reporting system to the board. He discussed some of the activities, events and trade shows he has worked on the last few months.

Larry gave an update on the InnovationLab activities. He informed the board that he donated some of the older and currently unused InnovationLab equipment to local schools. A few pieces of new equipment have been donated to local schools also to help with their STEM programs. Some additional unused equipment are on long term loan to WorkPlace Sonora (a local co-working location). He has also been updating and adding new equipment to the InnovationLab to prepare it for its future as a InnovationLab, Maker Space and Incubator.

Larry updated the board on transference of the Central Sierra Economic Development District (CSEDD) management duties to Mother Lode Job Training (MLJT). He said the process is going smoothly and Dave Thoeny, MLJT Executive Director, has made it an easy transition. Dave announced that Amador County has decided to rejoin the CSEDD after some discussions with Amador County elected officials and a presentation at an Amador County Board of Supervisors meeting this summer by Larry Cope and himself.

Larry also updated the board on the new technologies that he had been implementing at the TCEDA offices.

Connie Williams asked for an update of any businesses going in the County or City. Larry gave a brief update of what he could disclose to the group at this time.

g. Board Report(s):

- George Segarini informed the board that the recent letters to the editor regarding TCEDA are concerning to him. Although there has been a decision to stay out of a debate for the time being, he feels that if the letters to the editors continues the board may need to respond with their point of view. There was some discussion about how to handle the situation. There was consensus that if the letters to the editor continue, that the board may respond as a group to present their facts. The group agreed that it would be valuable and more beneficial if clients who have benefited from TCEDA assistance would voice their support.
- Connie Williams reported that a business called Winter's Tavern will be going into the old Europa space in downtown Sonora. Larry confirmed and discussed his attempts to work with them.
- Sherri Brennan informed the board that the County Board of Supervisors approved supporting a new gaming compact between the Black Oak Casino Resort and the California Gambling Control Commission. Sherri felt that the meeting she attended in Sacramento went very well and the state officials were very pleased to see the cooperation between the casino and local governments. Sherri also touched on the conversation the county has been having regarding the homeless issues, the PIT (point in time) homeless count report that ATCAA will be conducting and the funding that Sonora Area Foundation provided for this year's count. This will be an important study, especially how it relates to future grant funding to address the situation.
- Jim Gianelli expressed his sadness and concern over the state of the economies of the cities and areas affected by the recent hurricanes. It is a good reminder of what we can control during a natural disaster and how to prepare for those things that we can't control. For tourism and the economy, our forest is the most important thing to our area. Sherri informed Jim that there may be some more positive things happening in the future for forest management. Jim asked if there was a way to get an update from the County at the next TCEDA meeting. The board agreed they would like to get an update.

- Dave Thoeny gave an update of the work Mother Lode Job Training (MLJT) is currently doing in the community and surrounding areas. He has been focusing on broadband, tree mortality and workforce. He is trying to make MLJT more demand driven and looking at what the community and employers are looking for. He will be hiring someone to work on business outreach for Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties in the next few months and picking the right person will be important. MLJT will also be partnering with TCEDA and Columbia College to work on the before mentioned business outreach. The MLJT office in Calaveras County moved into the Business Resource Center with the Chamber of Commerce in San Andreas this last spring and Amador County is considering doing the same arraignment in their county because of its success in Calaveras. Dave has also had conversations with Randy Hanvelt about the possibility of doing a similar thing here in Tuolumne County with Chambers, Workforce and Economic Development. Connie Williams asked Dave about how he tracks the work that he does and how he is required to report back to his superiors. Dave explained to Connie that the MLJT tracks job seekers in the months after they have gained employment. They look at things such as if the employee is still employed, if they have gained skills or have had wage increases. They are still developing ways to track business outreach, like what TCEDA does, but it will probably focus on business satisfaction of that outreach.
- Barry Hillman updated the group on HealthLitNow (now in Tuolumne and Calaveras County). Amador County is now interested in implementing the program. The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuks might be interested as well. There is continued enthusiasm and growth with the program. Barry thanked Dave and MLJT for the grant HealthLitNow received from them he also thanked Larry for the assistance he has provided and stated that without his assistance the program would not be as successful as it is.
- Tim Miller informed the group that the construction work on Mono Way and Greenly Road is still going on. It is projected to be completed in late October.
- Craig Pedro discussed the Law and Justice center as well as other projects going on in the County. He also informed the group that he has been having discussions with Calaveras County as they look to hire an economic developer. He has explained to them the way TCEDA was set up and how he feels it's important to have an economic development board with County, City and private business representatives much like we have in Tuolumne County. Calaveras County is

currently looking at hiring an Economic Developer exclusively as a county employee.

10. Adjourn

Chairman John Gray adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.

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