

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

LOCATION

TCEDA Offices
99 N. Washington Street
Sonora, CA 95370

Thursday, November 9, 2017

7:35 am

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman John Gray brought the regular meeting of the Tuolumne County Economic Development Authority (TCEDA) to order at 7:35 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 Dave Thoeny, Member Barry Hillman and Member Connie Williams.

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

Guest present:

Carol Doud, Citizen

Michael Cunningham, Citizen

Hank Russell, Citizen

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

4. Oral Communication:

Hank Russell addressed the letter to the editor in The Union Democrat regarding TCEDA. Hank expressed his interest to write a letter of response or to encourage the TCEDA to write a letter in response. John Gray asked to meet with Hank separately to discuss what the board has agreed on in the past regarding the letters.

Carol Doud informed the board she has reached out to Mr. Perkins and he declines to meet with her and her group. Craig Pedro and a couple of board members also indicated that they reached out to Mr. Perkins and he has declined to meet with any of them.

5. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of the October 13, 2017 TCEDA Governing Board's regular meeting minutes.

John Gray asked for any public comments.

Motion: Jim Gianelli moved to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2017 TCEDA Board Meeting. George Segarini seconded the motion. The Board approved by a 7-0-0 vote.

6. Old Business: None

7. New Business:

- a. Downtown RFP (Discussion and possible action)

Larry Cope passed out the two proposals that were received in response to the Downtown RFP. One was from Wes Ervin and Associates based out of Citrus Heights and the other was from the Valley Sierra Small Business Development Center (SBDC) whose main office is located in Modesto.

The SBDC proposal was for \$10,000, which was within the budget that TCEDA was planning on spending. The Wes Ervin proposal was over \$26,000. After thoroughly reviewing each proposal, Larry's recommendation is to enter into a contract with SBDC.

There was group consensus that SBDC would be the best choice for the RFP. The TCEDA has partnered with them on many projects over the years and they have always been successful in every partnership. There are SBDC representatives that live locally, and they are familiar with the business owners in the city and county.

Motion: George Segarini moved to approve entering into a contract with SBDC for the Downtown Project. Barry Hillman seconded the motion. The Board approved by a 7-0-0 vote.

- b. Review of Updates and/or Changes to the 2017-2022 Five-Year Workplan (Discussion and possible action)

Larry reminded the group that the only changes to the 2017-2022 Five-Year Workplan is the measurable outcomes section on each of the action items, which the board had previously directed the staff to change. There was group consensus that the changes made were as previously directed.

Motion: Jim Gianelli moved to approve the changes to the 2017-2022 Five-Year Workplan. Dave Thoeny seconded the motion. The board approved by a 7-0-0 vote.

8. CEO's Report:

Larry passed out his CEO report and briefly went over it.

He talked about the generous donations that Black Oak Casino Resort has provided for the Society 3 Pitch events in San Francisco. The donations are a great marketing tool to bring potential business owners to our area. John Gray suggested writing a letter to Black Oak Casino Resort to thank them for the donations.

The subject of housing came up and the group engaged in a discussion on the difficulty of bringing in new housing. They discussed the many factors that contribute to the problem such as infrastructure, second home owners, the permitting process, the cost to build and the California State regulations that the county must abide by. Sherri Brennan informed the group that this is an issue that the Board of Supervisors has been working on for years. They are doing what they can to make responsible cuts in fees and continue to look for ways that the county can help.

9. Board Report(s):

- Sherri Brennan informed the group that she, along with Randy Hanvelt, will be giving a tour of our forests to some representatives from Washington DC. The goal is to focus on forest resiliency and they will be talking about things like watershed projects, land stewardship subjects, air and water quality due to catastrophic fires and more. She is hoping for a good meeting that will help move things forward.
- Dave Thoeny expressed his gratefulness to the board that they are able to use the TCEDA meetings to have meaningful conversations which generate synergy and provides opportunities to work together and help each other out.

- Barry Hillman thanked Dave Thoeny for arranging a meeting with Adventist Health to discuss the HealthLitNow program. Dignity Health has recently donated \$50,000 to the program and Barry updated the group on some other donations he's received. HealthLitNow will now be able to provide scholarships to well deserving individuals.
- John Gray met with South West Interface Fire Team and looked at fire breaks that they have established in the area. He talked about the importance of the fire breaks and the funding from NDRC to help expand them. He also noted that he spoke with Cal Fire about the useful mapping program they use for fires that indicates fire history, topography and other significant findings that are a tremendous benefit for fighting fires.
- Connie Williams briefly talked about the grant that was received for the Vision Sonora project at the Red Church intersection.
- Tim Miller gave an update of the Mono Way and Greenly Road intersection project. The work is almost done but weather may delay the completion.
- Craig Pedro informed the group that the county has approved a contract for the construction of the new County Jail. Funding will come from a loan as well as 2 grants. A new jail is desperately needed as the current jail is in poor condition. He also informed the group that the Board of Supervisors are focused on making the forest a vibrant place again, being that the workforce in the forest has diminished.

Next Meeting: February 2, 2018

Time: 9:30 am

Location: TCEDA Offices

10. Adjourn

Chairman John Gray adjourned the meeting at 9:03 am.