

Cities-County Economic Development Committee (CCEDC)

Notes for Meeting: November 2, 2017, at the Glenn County Board of Supervisors Conference Room

Meeting Facilitated By: Glenn County Supervisor Keith Corum

Attendees: Glenn County Supervisor Keith Corum, Jody Samons, Connie Scott, Bruce Roundy, Jason Schwenkler, Melile Watts, Kandi Manhart, Wayne Peabody, Courtney Farrell, Annie Rafferty, Samantha Becker, Pete Carr, Charlie Gee, Jeff Williams and JJ Berndt.

Summary:

Glenn County Supervisor Keith Corum called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Self-introductions not necessary
- 2) Public Comment
 - a. None
- 3) Meeting Notice and Posting Date (as required by the 1994 Brown Act)
 - a. Posted October 23, 2017, at Glenn County Memorial Hall
- 4) Review Notes from the Prior Meeting (on August 24, 2017)
 - a. Emailed on October 23, 2017
 - b. Hardcopies available at the meeting
 - c. Corrections: On page 3, Section ii. Pete Carr, on number 4, it should read “Mead (honey wine) processing facility planned for property south (not north) of R&R Sales.
- 5) Ongoing Efforts/Round Table Reports/Projects
 - a. **Pete Carr – City of Orland**

Orland is “Bee City, USA”, which is an affiliation they have, and “Queen Bee Capital of North America” is their declaration. They had an “Octobeefest” on October 13th, which was an evening of mead tasting and music and was held at The Hive, the new bee and honey business in town. This served as a fund raising event for the “Queen Bee” promotion. The current location of R&R Sales will be a new Mitsubishi car dealership on December 1, 2017. The hotel continues to be a source of frustration, as it has been over eighteen months that La Quinta and a

real estate broker announced they would be building a hotel. All of the zoning and environmental paperwork have been completed for about seven months, so the City is in the waiting stage. The annexing of several properties west of I-5 for commercial use is still a high priority and an active project, but the city is waiting to see what the property owners really want.

b. Wayne Peabody – City of Willows

Mercado Meat should be completed within the week. Northern Valley Indian Health's new building is about six weeks ahead of schedule on their construction. Their current building is being looked at by other government agencies for office space. South of town, EDA is still an ongoing project. City officials may be heading to Washington D.C. to request additional help from legislative partners there. The OTC grant has been moved to the underwriting stage for the EDA project, and the Cal Water project is in the phase of acquiring the South Water Company for future development there, and will be taking that issue to the City Council in December. The Recreation Director will be retiring the first of the year, and a new Recreation Director will be hired after July 1, 2018. At City Hall, they are putting together a marketing and social media platform to promote the city. The cold storage feasibility project group had a kickoff meeting last week, and they have talked with an investor that is interested in the project. Jody Samons added that Mercado Meat provided all the meat for the Willows FFA tri-tip dinner, and they had more compliments on the meat than they had received in years. Supervisor Corum added that Mercado used to provide meat for Sani-Food. Jody also stated that on the Cold Storage Feasibility Project, she provided the consultants with the original proposal that went to the investor, and the copy of the grant application, and they intend to look at all seven sites that the group had proposed. Wayne Peabody also mentioned the large quantity of rice straw that is accumulating at Cal Ag west of Willows. Concerning the Basin Street Project, Wayne mentioned that a tentative map has been approved for residential, and they are updating a traffic study for that area for another access point in to that area, as the city wants to build homes there in anticipation of the need for housing from the Cal Ag project.

c. Connie Scott - Glenn County Business Services Office Activities

Connie Scott, Employment & Training Worker II, reported for Yassi Lam, who was attending a training meeting. Connie reported that the WIOA and Business Services staff are attending a training today to learn more about the statewide certification process to be a Comprehensive AJCC or America's Job Centers of California. Business Services has been busy with Job Fairs – there are jobs available but finding work-ready individual's remains challenging. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded Microenterprise Technical Assistance, Business Assistance Loans and Housing Assistance (first-time home buyers and

housing rehabilitation loans) ended October 31, 2017. HHSA will begin the closeout process for this 2014 CDBG grant; if you know someone who needs help, please continue to refer them to HHSA. For business assistance, please refer individuals to Yassi Lam at 934-1494. For housing assistance, please refer individuals to Luz Melgarejo at 934-1480. We're happy to help, will try to tap into other funding sources and/or resources. Registration is now open for the 2018 North State Economic Forecast Conference in Oroville. Dates are January 17 and 18. Pre-conference workshops on January 17 will cover topics such as Introduction to Grant Writing and Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety. The main conference on January 18 will provide an overview of national, state, and regional economic trends and breakout workshops will cover topics such as agriculture, small business, healthcare, and government.

d. Jody Samons – Glenn County Business Services Activities

Jody Samons reminded the committee that the Community Development Block Grant funding ended October 31, 2017. However, if any business needs assistance, please refer them to Yassi Lam or Jody. Jody mentioned that the Business Incubator is progressing. As part of the Slingshot Grant, she was able to tour the Hacker Lab in Rocklin. Construction on the Glenn County Farm Supply in Artois is moving forward, and they have received the permit to demolish the large tin building just north of the construction. Crop Production Services in Hamilton City is waiting for their final permits to be issued. They are still in discussion with the railroad. Jody is working with Cal Ag and Casey Industrial to help them with whatever they need at this point in time. Casey Industrial has about ten upper management staff here in town. They have filed for a leveling permit, and they will move forward on the foundation work as soon as they receive the plans. She also set up a meeting between Matt Gomes and the Casey Corporation to discuss permits, inspectors and other matters. Mark Nemanic from 3Core has given Jody a referral on a company from Alabama that wants to work with the Casey Corporation on evaluating the availability of construction workers in the area. Jody also worked with Cal Ag on the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA), the sales tax exclusion grant. Cal Ag was granted 7.78 million dollars in exclusion for sales tax on equipment they are purchasing out of Germany. Cal Ag is also on the agenda in mid-November for a Cal Competes two million dollar income tax credit. CPS in Hamilton City was denied their tax credit in phase III. Jody suggested they re-apply for the tax credit. Jody also noted there will be a meeting on November 13th with Hinderliter, de Llamas & Associates, an accounting firm that will be meeting with representatives from cities in the county to discuss how to maximize revenue in the county. She also mentioned work that is continuing on the "One Stop" process for permitting, planning and

development. Jody noted that Director Christine Zoppi has assembled a housing committee to address the housing shortage in the county. They are working on the “No Place Like Home” grant and other items to address the housing issue. Farmers Brewing is still progressing. Jody viewed a webinar on the “Value Added Producer” grant, and encouraged the owner to apply for this to assist with some of his start-up expenses. Andrea Campos from Nortec, with the North Valley Energy Watch, helped pay for new folders that mirror our Capital display. These will be used to distribute our literature to potential clients.

e. Jason Schwenkler & Courtney Farrell-Geographical Information Center-Broadband

Jason Schwenkler said they are looking for projects in the North State. Jason and his staff of two are busy writing grants for broadband. He mentioned the State of California is trying to achieve 98% availability of broadband by 2025, so they are looking for projects. Jason emphasized that his office is informing the state that broadband involves more than just putting up wireless towers, and that the state’s funding rules don’t meet their needs. Jody Samons added that the GIC partnered with Public Health Institute, Grant Management Associates, and Social Entrepreneurs to submit a proposal, which was awarded with zero dollars. However, when we need a grant written, we can attach a project sheet to identify who is paying for the project and who will be working on the project. A question was introduced, asking Jason if he needs examples of the need for broadband in this area, as they have 1800 growers that need to start reporting on line, and internet is a concern due to speed. Jason said that they would like folks to use Cal Speed, since it is the only way to show actual experience in an area. Jody mentioned the Innovations in Agriculture event at the Glenn County Fairgrounds next week.

6. New Business:

a. Featured Speaker: J.J. Berndt, Grow Manufacturing Initiative

Grow Manufacturing is a local initiative in Butte County. Their primary objective is to bridge the communication gap between manufacturers and educators to insure that educators are teaching the most updated curriculum on the most updated equipment with supportive software. Since their start in 2013 with a group of Butte County manufacturers, they are now supported by over 102 different manufacturers, resources and suppliers in the area. They have a board of fourteen presidents and CEO’s of local manufacturing companies who oversee them, and meet quarterly. JJ feels they have great collaboration between GMI and Butte County. GMI, local manufacturers, and local schools have developed a

strong working relationship. In Tehama County, GMI has worked with the schools to encourage them to teach “Solid Works”, a software program used by manufacturers, to prepare their students for careers in advanced manufacturing. GMI will be hosting a manufacturing expo on November 16, 2017. They are expecting over 3,000 students and over thirty five local manufacturers in attendance, including Rumiano Cheese. As they are a part of Nortec who works in eleven counties, GMI is expanding into more rural areas. JJ spoke with Siskiyou County on Grow Manufacturing. College of the Siskiyou’s wants to further develop their advanced manufacturing program. GMI has recently started a Shasta GMI branch that teaches “soft skills”. Annie Rafferty from The Training Place added that businesses need to provide training and development on how to manage people and how to communicate with others – “soft skills”. The Training Place works with teachers to have the student attendees work on an assignment at the expo, as opposed to just going from table to table getting the “free stuff”. The Training Place has worked with manufacturers to identify what soft skills their particular business may need, and then be able to train students in those skills. They also work with employers who are identifying skills they are looking for and asking Annie and her group for help. The Training Place, in partnership with GMI and their partner manufacturers, has customized many different training programs that help the employer answer the question of “what is soft skills?” and what are the skills we want our employees to master so that we can work efficiently and manage our productivity. GMI is hoping that early exposure to the school children of the opportunities in manufacturing will encourage students to consider a career in manufacturing. Bruce Roundy asked if they have talked with Glenn County schools to see if they offer soft skills training. JJ answered that the students are required to do a pre-tour and post-tour paper on a career they are interested in prior to participating in the shadowing program. Once they participate in the shadowing program, they can then decide if this is something they want to pursue as a career. GMI will then work with the school to help change the student’s curriculum to make sure the student is getting the proper classes to work in this career choice. Annie added that Charlie Pooler is the Deputy Sector Navigator holds the role for the North state for the Community College Chancellor’s office for advanced manufacturing. Part of his duties are to receive input, write it into the curriculum, engage with the K-12 and community college systems to insert this curriculum into the programs. One of the programs is the 21st Century New World of Work. There are thirteen competencies within this program and has digital badging, which allows the students to show their progress with digital badging. In each industry sector, there are high touch soft skills that have been led state-wide. Each region

has a representative for each industry that is engaging with the industry to develop what the soft skills are for that particular industry. Jody Samons added that Advanced North State also has the same goals. They are in partnership with Butte County Office of Education, Glenn County Office of Education, and Chico State. They offer teachers get some additional training in the summer. Jody mentioned that there is a Grow Manufacturing mixer at Casa Ramos tonight at 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

b. Featured Speaker – Annie Rafferty, the Training Place, Butte College

Annie works closely with JJ on Grow Manufacturing. They have ten business sectors (agriculture, manufacturing, etc.) they work with at the college. She mentioned they apply each year for employment training panel funds, which come from funds that the employer pays into through their unemployment tax. That fund is set aside for training reimbursement. Annie’s group works with the employers to figure out how to train employees on soft skills while they are maintaining productivity, salaries and to figure out how much it will cost. They provide access to the training funds and figure out what the training will cost. Cost sharing is available when multiple employers come to the classes at the Skyway Center or when a vender will bring a new piece of equipment to the center to train multiple employers. “Training within Industry” is a methodology used during the war when it was necessary to train women to learn skills performed by men who were now in war. The training is called Job Instruction and provides the manufacturer a simple method to train a person on a particular job. Annie’s group has received money to help employers manage their margins and manage their training classes. Now, with the help of the The Training Place, employers have been able to access funds for training that they have been paying in to.

c. Kandi Manhart-Glenn County Resource Conservation District

Kandi mentioned four of their current projects:

- 1.** Colusa/Glenn Sub-Watershed Program - Working with 1800 farmers who monitor their water quality if they are commercial agriculture. RCD is rolling out online-reporting software to facilitate the process.
- 2.** They are working on a health project with the Natural Resources Conservation Services. Melina Watts will facilitate the grower-led group to work on best management practices on their farms. We are looking for partners to help share their technology in the ag industry. They will be hosting workshops to advance and stay innovative in the ag industry.

3. They have installed some fuel breaks on Highway 162 and Road 306, and are looking for ideas to fund maintenance for those breaks.
4. They are looking for funding to hire a full time RCD Connects with Kids educator to help provide education in the field and classroom, to learn about the natural resources we have here in Glenn County. Melina Watts spoke about the need for an environmental educator for this project. She would like to get together with a group of environmental educators and fifth grade science teachers to find out what this group wants. Once she knows the direction, she can fundraise for the project.

Next Meeting Date: February 22, 2018, at 2pm at the Glenn County Board of Supervisors Conference Room *(CCEDC will meet 4th Thursday in February, May, August, and 1st Thursday in November)*

Contact Teresa Chavez at (530) 934-1413 or tchavez@countyofglenn.net if you have information to disseminate to the CCEDC