

J O I N T M E E T I N G

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MADERA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AND

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCEDC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS THE CEDS COMMITTEE

M I N U T E S

July 10, 2019

PRESENT: Brad Ditton, Rob Poythress, Ron Flores, Ollia Ridge, Tracie Contreras,
Darin Soukup, Brett Frazier, Dee Salazar, Waseem Ahmed, Paige Hill

ABSENT: Mary Diebert, J Carol Graham, Andy Medellin

STAFF: Bobby Kahn

1.0 **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:25 p.m. by Chair Poythress.

2.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

3.0 **INTRODUCTIONS & RECOGNITIONS**

Self-introductions.

4.0 **CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA**

On motion by Commissioner Frazier and seconded by Commissioner Hill, the agenda is approved with an addition of Item 5.3- Eastern Madera County Chamber Alliance presentation. Motion carried.

5.0 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes
-April 10, 2019

5.2 Madera County Economic Development Commission Financial Report
- June 2019

On motion by Commissioner Frazier and seconded by Commissioner Scott-Contreras, the consent calendar is approved as presented. Motion carried.

5.2 Eastern Madera County Chamber Alliance

Lanie Suderman from the alliance provided an update on recent activities of the alliance. She said the most important item was the possibility of forming a Business Improvement District (BID) to create an ongoing source of funding. The funds will be managed by each respective chamber and can be used for local community improvements including beautification, workforce development/housing, marketing/promotion and transportation.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Audit

On motion by Commissioner Frazier and seconded by Commissioner Ridge, the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Audit cost of \$4750 for Monty Schultz is approved. Motion carried.

6.2 Madera Amtrak Station Relocation

On motion by Commissioner Poythress and seconded by Commissioner Scott-Contreras, MCEDC to take a support position on the relocation of the Amtrak Station from the current Road 26 to the proposed Avenue 12 site. Motion carried.

6.3 MOU with Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

On motion by Commissioner Scott-Contreras and seconded by Commissioner Ridge, to approve an MOU with DTSC to underwrite DTSC's Clean program. Motion carried.

6.4 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs)

On motion by Commissioner Frazier and seconded by Commissioner Scott- Contreras Madera County Economic Development Commission will adjourn to the CEDs committee meeting at 3:57 pm returning to the MCEDC Board of Commissioners meeting at 4:13 pm. Motion carried.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

8.1 Letter in support of Proteus Grant Application

9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORT/INFORMATION

9.1 Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Poythress -(Madera Chamber)- *reported Lifetime Achievement awards dinner will be held on August 15. This year will be the first time for a new category- "4 under 40". August 6th will be National Night Out. Chamber is now in the planning process for a trip to Thailand in March.*

Commissioner Soukup- (Oakhurst Chamber)- reported the chamber is working with the Alliance on the proposed BID. Annual membership dinner will be held in August. Fall Festival in October.

Commissioner Ahmed- (City of Chowchilla)- reported getting MCEDC help facilitating a renewable energy facility back on track. Hope that an application for the conditional use permit is filed by the end of 2019. Camarena Health center is opening. Council approved to move forward on a new EIR for Hwy 233/Robertson Blvd project.

Commissioner Hill - (Chowchilla Chamber)- reported the membership luncheon had over 100 people. Car Show and Farm Fest coming up next.

Commissioner Salazar/Wade Wheeler- (North Fork Chamber)- Wade Wheeler reported their annual Car Show will be held on August 17th. They are very excited about working with the alliance and the creation of the BID.

Commissioner Ditton-(Bass Lake Chamber)- reported the water level is high. The 4th of July Fireworks Show was a huge success. The business district remains busy. A couple of lake front homes recently sold.

Commissioner Flores -(Industry at Large)- reported July 1st was a ground breaking for a new company located in Freedom Industrial Park. Span Construction and Engineering will be the contractor. New business is opening across the street from him on Falcon Drive. In general, business is good. Still struggle to find good reliable employees.

Commissioner Frazier -(Board of Supervisors)- reported on the "On The Road" meeting in the Ranchos. Attendance was good. Next "On The Road" will be held on August 6th in Fairmead, District 2. Working on expansion of Hwy 41. Waiting for the EIR. Madera County wants to take over the management of the project. They can do design and right-of-way portion saving about 40% over Cal Trans cost. Also can do the work faster to speed the project completion. Ground breaking will be held for the Hwy 99 expansion on July 19th at Rotary Park beginning at 9am. SB1 money that will create 3 lanes from Ave 12. To Ave. 17. Valley Children's Health Care purchased a large piece of property that will allow them to expand Phase Two of the hospital. Exploring expanding services beyond pediatrics. Building permits are up-approximately 55 per month. County is doing well.

Commissioner Ridge -(Golden Valley Chamber)- reported the fireworks stand was profitable. It was difficult in finding enough chamber members to keep all of the shifts full. Two new businesses opened. A mailbox/smoke shop and an auto center.

Commissioner Contreras- (Workforce Investment Corporation)- reported they just completed a 4 year strategic plan. Will be having staff reach out and visit businesses. Starting soft skill training workshops. Participants can earn a certificate of completion to present to potential employers. Large expense to subsidize paid work experience employment programs. Provides clients with paid work experience. Revamping incumbent worker program. Training for businesses can be underwritten.

9.2 **Staff Reports**

Executive Director- Bobby discussed the International Council for Shopping Centers Trade show. More productive this year than in past years. Attended the Cal Chamber Legislative conference and Sacramento Host Breakfast. This was Governor Newsom's first host breakfast. Attended Select USA in Washington D.C. Took a different approach on meetings this year. Fewer but more productive. Will be reevaluating this and will suggest changes. Marking Mission to Atlanta that generated two leads Tran Pak ground breaking on July 1st was a very successful event.

9.3 **Manager of Business Development & Marketing-** Latest updated report was distributed at the beginning of meeting.

9.4 **Business Assistance/Office Manager-** Report as presented.

10.0 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Commission will be held October 9, 2019 in Chowchilla.

11.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobby Kahn
Recording Secretary