

M A D E R A C O U N T Y
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION
B O A R D O F C O M M I S S I O N E R S
October 12, 2022
MINUTES

This meeting was conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. Social distancing per the Executive Order were used the meeting. Members of the public were advised at posting of the agenda that comments were accepted via email at info@maderacountyedc.com.

PRESENT: *Ollie Ridge, Brett Frazier, Brad Ditton, Darin Soukup, Anthony Corales,
Tracie Scott Contreras, Robert Poythress, Santos Garcia*

ABSENT: *Paige Hill, Wade Wheeler, Laura Young, Waseem Ahmed*

STAFF: *Bobby Kahn, Darren Rose, Lois Leonard, Maritza Garcia*

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chair Poythress.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3.0 INTRODUCTIONS & RECOGNITION

Chair Poythress introduced the new Executive Director, Darren Rose. Executive Director Bobby Kahn is retiring. Commissioner Scott-Contreras introduced Maiknue Vang, who will most likely be the Workforce Investment Board representative after Commissioner Scott-Contreras retires in February 2023.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

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

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes

-July 13, 2022

5.2 Madera County Economic Development Financial Report

- September 2022

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

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Madera County Transportation Measure T presentation and request for endorsement

Tricia Taylor, Executive Director Madera County Transportation and Georgiena Vivian, President of VRPA gave a presentation on Measure T that will be before the Madera County voters on November 8th. On motion by Commissioner Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Ridge MCEDC will endorse Measure T. Motion carried.

6.2 AB361 Changes to the Ralph M. Brown Act Opening Meeting Laws

On motion by Commissioner Frazier and seconded by Commissioner Scott-Contreras MCEDC will adopt Resolution 2022-10 authorizing Remote Teleconference for all Commission and Executive Committee Meetings in accordance of Assembly Bill 361 for a period of 30 days. Motion carried.

6.3 MCEDC signers on bank account

On motion by Commissioner Frazier and seconded by Commissioner Ridge, Executive Director Darren Rose will be added as a signer on all MCEDC bank accounts removing Bobby Kahn and Commissioner Flores who recently gave his letter of resignation representing Industry. Motion carried.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

None.

9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORT/INFORMATION

9.1 Commissioners Reports

Commissioner Frazier-(Board of Supervisors)- *reported the board approved a \$246/acre fee for irrigated acreage as well as the penalties. Ag will look different for a while.*

Commissioner Scott Contreras-(Workforce Investment Board)- *reported the unemployment rate is low at 3% and labor participation is slightly up. Businesses are still recruiting. They had a recruitment for a new restaurant franchise. Working on a modification of their 4 year strategic plan and will have several virtual workshops for input from job seekers and businesses. They received a \$100,000 grant from the Kaiser Foundation to provide services for who those who do not qualify for their other programs. They received a one year extension for the wild fire grant, where they continue to do clean up and recovery work along the Scenic By-Way and other areas in the National Forest. They received additional funds for Quality jobs and Equity for individuals who were impacted by COVID..*

Commissioner Ridge-(Madera Ranchos Chamber)- *reported the chamber has a new member, Arsenio's Mexican Restaurant. They had a successful member mixer last week that was well attended. Planning their Christmas tree lighting where they take 100 gifts/packages to the Veterans Hospital and they have a tree in their office so members can give Christmas gifts to kids in the CASA program. They are planning for their March 2nd crab feed.*

Commissioner Poythress- (Madera Chamber) – *reported the chamber will hold their annual Pomegranate Festival on November 5th.*

Commissioner Corales - (Utilities) – *nothing to report for this meeting but would like to do a presentation at the next meeting. He will attend in person.*

Commissioner Garcia - (City of Madera) – *reported they have been working with Madera Community Hospital to help them financially while they deal with the delay in their merger. Assembly member Bigelow and Senator Caballero were able to get a \$5 million allotment from the state to help them. The merger is pending approval and review from the state. They're hoping it will be settled soon.*

Commissioner Ditton - (Bass Lake) – *reported things are winding down at Bass Lake. It was a successful summer. There was a bike race at the end of September and Miller's had a beautiful fireworks display. Miller's and Forks stayed open until October 3rd. The water level was held pretty high but now it is dropping rapidly.*

Commissioner Soukup- (Oakhurst Chamber)- *reported the annual Fall Festival was a great success with a lot of people in attendance. Women's luncheon will be held on November 8th – at the Oakhurst Grill/Whiskey 41 lounge. Event will actually be held from 4:30-6:30pm.*

9.2 Executive Director- *Darren reported he will spend the next couple months getting to know everything and get as much information and detail from Bobby. Getting status on current, past and upcoming projects. Will be meeting with members of the JPA as well as outreach with chambers Met with Commissioner Scott-Contreras to learn about workforce.*

9.3 Manager of Business Development & Marketing- *as reported.*

9.4 Business Assistance/Office Manager- *reported there will be a new grant beginning November 1st that will be less restrictive than the current grants. The new grant will help businesses that can document they have been impacted by COVID.*

10.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on January 11, 2023.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Leonard, Recording Secretary