

**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**  
January 13, 2023  
**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](mailto:info@maderacountyedc.com).*

**PRESENT:**    *Ollie Ridge, Jordan Womhoff, Brad Ditton, Darin Soukup, Anthony Corales, Tracie Scott Contreras, Robert Poythress, Santos Garcia, Paige Hill, Waseem Ahmed*

**ABSENT:**    *Wade Wheeler, Laura Young*

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

**1.0    CALL TO ORDER**

*The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair Poythress.*

**2.0    PUBLIC COMMENT**

*None.*

**3.0    INTRODUCTIONS & RECOGNITION**

*Self-Introductions were done with Commissioner Scott-Contreras introducing her replacement once she retires. Maiknue Vang will be the representative for the Workforce Investment Board after Commissioner Scott-Contreras retires at the end February.*

**4.0    CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA**

*No changes to the agenda.*

## **5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes**

-Oct. 12, 2022

### **5.2 Madera County Economic Development Financial Report**

- December 2023

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

## **6.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **6.1 AB361 Changes to the Ralph M. Brown Act Opening Meeting Laws**

*On motion by Commissioner Scott-Contreras and seconded by Commissioner Ridge, MCEDC will adopt Resolution 2023-1 authorizing Remote Teleconference for all Commission and Executive Committee Meetings in accordance of Assembly Bill 361 for a period of 30 days. Motion carried. AB 361 is set to expire with AB2449 rules in its place.*

### **6.2 MCEDC Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Audit Review and Approval**

*On motion by Commissioner Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Ridge, the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 audit is approved as presented. Motion carried.*

## **7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

*None.*

## **8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

*None.*

## **9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORT/INFORMATION**

### **9.1 Commissioners Reports**

**Commissioner Poythress (Madera Chamber)** - *reported with the hospital closure there have been a lot discussions on what can be done. It will be a while before there is acute care in Madera.*

**Commissioner Ridge-(Madera Ranchos Chamber)** - *reported the chamber has four new members. They had a successful tree lighting and raised money to give 100 gift baskets to the hospital. Their annual crab feed will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Dante Club. The CEO from Adventist Health will speak at their next meeting.*

**Commissioner Hill-(Chowchilla Chamber)** - reported their new Executive Director has hit the ground running. They will have their annual chamber dinner this weekend. They held their Christmas tree lighting and parade with many businesses participating. Chowchilla is celebrating their Centennial this year. Lots of events are planned in celebration.

**Commissioner Scott Contreras-(Workforce Investment Board)**- reported they have been busy with the hospital closure. They have had 11 orientations for the 300 people who have lost their jobs. Hoping to assist as many as possible. A job fair was held today with 11 employers looking to hire. They are also assisting those from Pak n Save that have lost their jobs and have not found another. Orientations to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>. January 18<sup>th</sup> they are holding a job fair for an Ag manufacturer looking to hire people after their move here from Southern California. They are wrapping up their 4 year strategic plan. Their board has approved it. It is out for public comment then will go to the jurisdictions for approval. It is due to the state by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Commissioner Ditton - (Bass Lake)** – reported the Bass Lake Mobile Home Park and RV Park are closed due to flooding. The lake is raising but not enough to be alarmed.

**Commissioner Garcia - (City of Madera)** – reported they are working with Costa's office on the hospital closing. They are having a lot of meetings working on the hospital closure. Dutch Bros opened their location last week.

**Commissioner Ahmed - (City of Chowchilla)** – reported they had a great turn out for their tree lighting. They will be celebrating the City's 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary all year. Police Chief Dave Riviere retired after 32 years and they installed the new Chief, Jeff Palmer.

**Commissioner Soukup- (Oakhurst Chamber)** - reported there is lots of water and it was announced today that we are at 100% in snow pack. The reservoirs look good. The chamber will hold their annual installation dinner and their business awards dinner on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm at the Community Center.

**Commissioner Corales - (Utilities)** – PG&E is working on getting updated contact information from customers to allow them to share updates on events. There is a billing increase on both gas and electric between 21-25%. He will be out doing a temporary assignment so an alternate will attend our next meeting.

- 9.2 Executive Director-** Darren reported he is just about half way through his 4<sup>th</sup> month. Thankful Bobby Kahn is helping him along. Dutch Bros had their ribbon cutting after issues with PG&E. In-n-Out should be breaking ground this week and open end of quarter one.

*He's working on 12 expansion projects throughout the jurisdictions. Auto Zone should break ground Q2 in Chowchilla which will bring several hundred jobs. AG manufacturer that the Fresno EDC directed to Madera. Working on the annual report that should be out by the end of the month. Will begin planning of the State of the County to be held in spring. He will attending West Pak in Anaheim with CCVEDC on February 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>. Will attend the virtual Broker meeting with CCVEDC at the end of the month. And will attend the ICSC event in Monterey. Lots of challenges with the low vacancy rate, we need to build out. Which leads to issues with enough power from PG&E. They are looking into increasing capacity in 2023 to 2026. He is having fun but has a lot to learn.*

**9.3 Manager of Business Development & Marketing-** reported she is working on the annual report and updating properties.

**9.4 Business Assistance/Office Manager-** reported the County ARPA grant has plenty of funds. Not getting as many applicants are the CARES act grant in 2020.

## **10.0 NEXT MEETING**

*The next meeting of the Commission will be held on April 12, 2023.*

## **11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Leonard, Recording Secretary