

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
April 12, 2023
MINUTES

PRESENT: *Ollie Ridge, Brad Ditton, Jody Machado, Maiknue Vang, Robert Poythress, Jose Rodriquez, Waseem Ahmed, Laura Young*

ABSENT: *Wade Wheeler, Darin Soukup, Paige Hill, Jordan Wamhoff*

STAFF: *Darren Rose, 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 Jody Machado, serving as alternate for Anthony Corales, Public Utilities, and Jose Rodriquez serving as alternate for Santos Garcia, City of Madera.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

No changes to the agenda.

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes

-Jan. 11, 2023

5.2 Madera County Economic Development Financial Report

- March 2023

On motion by Commissioner Ahmed and seconded by Commissioner Ditton the consent calendar is approved as presented. Motion carried.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023

On motion by Commissioner Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Rodriquez the budget for Fiscal Year 23/24 is approved as presented. Motion carried.

6.2 Nominations and Terms of Office for the MCEDC Board of Commissioners

On motion by Commissioner Rodriquez and seconded by Commissioner Ahmed, MCEDC Board of Commissioners will approve the nominations and terms of office for the Board of Commissioners for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. Motion carried.

6.3 Election of Officers

On motion by Commissioner Ahmed and seconded by Commissioner Young, Commissioner Poythress will serve as Chair. On motion by Commissioner Young and seconded by Commissioner Ridge, Commissioner Ditton will serve as Vice-Chair. 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 on the May 4th National Day of Prayer Breakfast and the Business Extravaganza in June. The county is dealing with road damage from the recent storms on a priority basis.

Commissioner Ditton - (Bass Lake) – reported The Forks opened March 31st. Most of the snow is gone, but lots of damage in the area. The community worked together to clean up. Bass Lake Fishing Derby is April 29 and 30th. And the Yosemite Marathon will be held in May

Commissioner Ridge-(Madera Ranchos Chamber) - reported on the chambers very successful crab feed with over 200 people. They will have their next mixer on May 4th and will have their Fireworks stand in July. New businesses are coming on the 41 byway.

Commissioner Rodriguez - (City of Madera) – reported they are working with the Kiwanis Club to bring back the Fireworks Show at the Fair Grounds after having to cancel last year's event.

Commissioner Ahmed - (City of Chowchilla) – reported on their upcoming fire training, curb side clean up from April 17-21st. And they recently approved another balanced budget.

Commissioner Young -(Coarsegold Chamber) - reported the Annual Rodeo will be held May 5-6th. The Peddlers Fair will be held Memorial Day weekend. And their next mixer will be held on June 1st. They recently had their installation at Yosemite Lake Park.

Commissioner Machado - (Utilities) – PG&E is looking for leads on their new program, Business Simplified Savings Program for customers using less than 50 kw. Also the tariff program for solar expires on the 15th of April.

Commissioner Vang-(Workforce Investment Board)- reported she's been in her new role for about 2 months. They are busy between January to June with monitoring and job fairs. Held a job fair March 30th in Oakhurst where they saw the lowest number of job seekers they have ever seen. Could have been weather related. The next job fair will be held on April 13th, where they will have 57 employers looking for people. They will continue to work with those employers after the fair if needed. They are working on a MOU with Valley Community SBDC to provide services in Madera. They continue to work with employees impacted by the hospital closure. Several have signed up for educational training to help with placement.

- 9.2 Executive Director-** Darren reported all three jurisdictions approved the budget in March. Reported the State of the County event was well attended with a profit of \$7,000. He attended the ICSC Regional Event, where he received several leads. With CCVEDC he attended the West Pak Trade Show, and a legislative trip. They had discussions on issues with energy, workforce and transportation. Attended his first SIOR event in San Francisco and another Bay Area Mission with CCVEDC. Discovered there is a lot of interest in our area. Business looking to move to the valley as the Bay Area fills up. The CCVEDC regions all have the same issues with energy, service, capacity, scheduling and space. The average vacancy rate across the valley is 6%. An RFP was sent out today for Website Design. Hoping to revamp the website. He is currently working on 14 projects across all three jurisdictions. Asked Commissioner Poythress to share the County received \$54.7 million of a \$111 million project to expand Hwy 99 to six lines from Avenue 7 to Avenue 12. He used this information with many of the brokers on the mission trips.

9.3 Manager of Business Development & Marketing- as reported.

9.4 Business Assistance/Office Manager- *as reported.*

10.0 NEXT MEETING

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

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Leonard, Recording Secretary