

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 10, 2024

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, Jordan Wamhoff, Brad Ditton, Maiknue Vang, Robert Poythress, Santos Garcia, John McCann, Kelly Smith, Robert Barnes*

ABSENT: *Wade Wheeler, Paige Hill, Danielle Melella*

STAFF: *Darren Rose, Lois Leonard*

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Poythress.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3.0 INTRODUCTIONS & RECOGNITION

Self-Introductions were done with John McCann, President GMCIA now representing Industry and Robert Barnes, PG&E representing Utilities with Cesar Rodriquez, PG&E in attendance. Kelly Smith attended representing City of Chowchilla.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

No changes to the agenda.

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes

-July 12, 2023

5.2 Madera County Economic Development Financial Report

- December 2023

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

6.0 ACTION ITEMS- None

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7.1 Website/Logo Resign

Lois reported we are close to approving the logo resign. Archer & Hound is working on the website mockups after approval of the color palette and website content outline. Darren reported it should all be complete by the end of this quarter.

8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

8.1 PG&E 2023 General Rate Case

8.2 Caltrans ITIP Programming for SR 99

8.3. Madera Community College OR Tech Program

9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORT/INFORMATION

9.1 Commissioners Reports

Commissioner Poythress (Madera Chamber) - *reported the chamber is an events driven organization and will conduct a labor law workshop tomorrow. They are doing a great job with sharing information that is important to small business.*

Commissioner Ditton - (Bass Lake) – *reported the Bass Lake Chamber is pretty much off this time of year except for planning upcoming events. The lake is very low, anticipating rain and snow to fill it up. A lot of older homes are being sold with plans of demolishing them to rebuild new homes on the property. Road work continues on Road 274.*

Commissioner McCann-(Industry at Large) - reported supply issues continue. Evapco purchased the Rivulis property next door. They are expanding into a 60,000 square foot building where there will begin operations in April and will be adding an additional 43,000 square foot building. They will hire an additional 40 employees. With the expansion they are adding a new product line, an Eco Air Product.

Commissioner Garcia - (City of Madera) – reported the city is draining a water tank and cleaning it. This will improve the quality of water in the City. The council approved an additional six cannabis retail stores across the city. They are in the process of determining how the additional revenue will be spent by district.

Commissioner Vang-(Workforce Investment Board)- reported they are having their annual planning session tomorrow. The goal is to identify 3-5 priorities for the New Year. On the 24th, they are having a free online labor law update and a Resource Fair from 4-6pm. The resource fair is for business owners, and startups. They have purchased Lightcast, a software program that will help with economic data and forecasts.

Commissioner Barnes - (Utilities) – Cesar Rodriquez, PG&E shared small business support programs. They are working on educating homes and businesses on rate programs and analysis, plus training on budget building. Soon they will work with the AG customers.

Commissioner Young- (Coarsegold Chamber) - reported there is not much going on. Their program dollars go to local scholarships at the high schools. They recently added another school where they will offer a scholarship.

Commissioner Wamhoff- (Board of Supervisors) - reported he is waiting for the Governor's allocation for a community water project in the Ranchos. The county approved a 4 acre project that will include a Grocery Store, Starbucks, Camarena Health, Gas Station and adding a signal light. Don Foster was elected President for the Golden Valley Chamber. He and his staff are taking on helping the chamber with a website update and event invite. Hoping to build a more cohesive relationship between the Ranchos, Riverstone and Tesoro Viejo. The board is dispersing funds to each district. He's using his district funds to do small business highlight videos. Road 40 work should be complete end of February which will alleviate travel issues on Avenue 12. There will be an expansion on Avenue 12 between Highway 41 to Road 39-1/2.

Commissioner Ridge - (Golden Valley Chamber) – reported they had a Christmas tree lighting and gave 100 gift baskets to veterans at the VA hospital. New restaurant in the Brickyard on Avenue 10 and a butcher shop opening in February. They will hold their annual crab feed on March 1st.

Commissioner Smith - (City of Chowchilla) – reported Auto Zone is ahead of schedule thanks to city staff working in the evenings and weekends approving permits. Century Homes will build 400 homes in the city. The Chamber will have their annual Awards Dinner this Saturday, acknowledging Matt Zimmer previous owner of Farnesi' s. They have approved a new travel center, located behind Steve's Chevrolet. The project will include a mini mart and electric charging stations.

9.2 Executive Director- Darren reported annual reports have been sent out. In-N-Out opened in the City of Madera which was an EDC project with the City of Madera. GMCIA has started back up again. He will be going to the county asking for funds to complete the CEDS. He continues his monthly meetings with the jurisdictions. He will be traveling soon, attending ICSC in Monterey. Working on multiple projects. Will be setting a date for the State of the County.

9.3 Manager of Business Development & Marketing- as reported.

9.4 Business Assistance/Office Manager- Lois gave an update on the City of Madera and the County loan fund programs.

10.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on April 10, 2024.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Leonard, Recording Secretary