

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 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, Santos Garcia, John McCann, Laura Young*

ABSENT: *Paige Hill, Robert Poythress, Waseem Ahmed, Wade Wheeler, Robert Barnes*

STAFF: *Darren Rose, Lois Leonard*

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Vice-Chair Ditton.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3.0 INTRODUCTIONS & RECOGNITION

Self-Introductions were done with Adam Olivares, Executive Director, Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce and Fawn McLaughlin, FMJ McLaughlin & Associations in attendance.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

No changes to the agenda.

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes

-January 10, 2024

5.2 Madera County Economic Development Financial Report

- March 2024

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

6.0 ACTION ITEMS-

6.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025

On motion by Commissioner Wamhoff and seconded by Commissioner Ridge the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 is approved as presented. Motion carried.

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

This item is tabled until the next meeting since Lois is waiting to hear from several Chambers for whom their representatives will be.

6.3 Election of Officers

This item is tabled until the next meeting since Lois is waiting to hear from several Chambers for whom their representatives will be.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7.1 Economic Summit

Darren reported the Economic Summit will be held on April 24, 2024.

This is the first time the Annual Summit/Real Estate update has been held since COVID.

7.2 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Fawn McLaughlin of FMJ McLaughlin & Associates gave an overview of the process and time line to complete a new CEDS for Madera County. She asked the board to review the previous vision, goals, objective & strategies. And stated she would be interviewing stakeholders and asked if there were more names of stakeholders the group felt she should interview. She will be back at the July meeting for the CEDS Committee, which is the board of Commissioners to review a draft report.

7.3 Website/Logo Resign

The Board reviewed a draft of the new website design and logo. Darren asked the Commissioners for photos to be added to the website. We are hoping to have the website live by the end of April.

8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

- 8.1 *Letter in support of 2024 State Transportation Improvement Program*
- 8.2 *Letter in support of 2024 State Highway Operation/Protection Program*
- 8.3 *Letter in support of Congressionally Direct Spending-Valley Children's*
- 8.4 *Letter in support of Valley Advance Initiative*
- 8.5 *Letter in support of Grant Request for Madera 41 South Expressway*
- 8.6 *Letter in support of Madera Community Hospital Partnership*

9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORT/INFORMATION

9.1 Commissioners Reports

Commissioner Ditton - (Bass Lake) – *reported Bass Lake filling up fast. Millers Landing and The Forks are open. The lack of short term rentals continues to be a problem because we don't have employee housing.*

Commissioner Wamhoff- (Board of Supervisors) - *reported on the Ribbon Cutting of a new restaurant in the Ranchos. He gave an update on Riverstone and Riverwalk. They are working on getting a grocery store there. There is a new FedEx Store and another new restaurant that signed a letter of intent. A new 4-1/2 acre development will go before the Board in May. The development will include a Camarena Health, Starbucks, gas station/market/car wash. Project will include updating the water system, realigning roads and a new signal light in the Ranchos. Riley's Brewery will be building on a 4 acre parcel on the southern end of the Riverstone housing development. And gave an update on the Hwy 41 expansion.*

Commissioner McCann-(Industry at Large) - *reported their expansion project is going well. Since the beginning of the year, they have hired 26-28 employees which they have sent to training for the new product line. They are hoping to have full occupancy of the new building beginning of May and will be hiring more employees as the new product line takes off.*

Commissioner Young- (Coarsegold Chamber) - *reported Zanders is celebrating 20 years in business at the Historic Coarsegold Village on Saturday.*

Commissioner Garcia - (City of Madera) – reported the housing authority is in the process of hiring a new Executive Director. Reported on the City Park improvements and a ribbon cutting along the Fresno River. Congressman Duarte will delivering a \$2.3 million check to the City for necessary infrastructure projects

Commissioner Vang-(Workforce Investment Board)- reported they are working with Auto Zone to fill 300+ positions. In March, they held a job fair in Oakhurst. The turnout was low. They are determining if it needs to be more industry focused in the future. The Madera job fair held at the beginning of April, had less numbers of employers but more numbers of job seekers since the pandemic. They have seen an uptick in their center for education and training. People are ready to go back to work. They have spent more in training in half of this year than they did the all of last year. They have their HR webinars in April and May. Flyers will be distributed.

Commissioner Ridge - (Golden Valley Chamber) – reported they had their Crab Feed. It was a success with lots of people and fun. The Chamber has four new memberships. They're having their Flatlanders Parade on May 18th First one since the pandemic. It will be held at the High School.

9.2 Executive Director- Darren reported he made budget requests and presentation to the jurisdictions. PG&E is slightly ahead of schedule for the expansion and substation projects. Attended ICON West which is an industrial real estate conference, West Pack Industrial Trade Show and ICSC in Monterey, retail. Has an upcoming zoom meeting with site selectors. Actively participating in CERF, California jobs first. Hoping it will be something positive good for Madera County. He will be departing this position on July 4th. He will be leaving to be the President/CEO of the Fresno Madera Building Industry Association.

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 10, 2024.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Leonard, Recording Secretary