

J O I N T M E E T I N G

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MADERA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AND

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCEDC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS THE CEDS COMMITTEE

M I N U T E S

October 9, 2024

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 at the meeting. Members of the public were advised at posting of the agenda that comments were accepted via email at info@maderacountyedc.com.

PRESENT: *Ollia Ridge, Waseem Ahmed, Santos Garcia, Rob Poythress,
Melissa Jones, Jordan Wamhoff*

ABSENT: *Laura Young, Cathey Thornburg, Maiknue Vang, Adam Olivares, John McCann*

STAFF: *Bobby Kahn, 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 & RECOGNITIONS

Fawn McLaughlin, FJMcLaughlin & Associates was attendance.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

No Changes.

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes
-April 12, 2023

5.2 Madera County Economic Development Commission Financial Report
- June 2023

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

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

Action Items

6.1 Bank Signature Card

The MCEDC Board of Commissioners will approve adding an additional signer on the MCEDC checking account.

6.2 California Jobs First Economic Development Pilot Grant

6.3 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The MCEDC Board of Commissioners will make a motion to adjourn to the CEDS Committee Meeting.

Nominations & Terms of Office for the MCEDC Board of Commissioners

On motion by Commissioner Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Ahmed the Terms of Office for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 are approved as presented. Motion carried.

6.2 Election of Officers

On motion by Commissioner Ahmed and seconded by Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Poythress will serve as Chair. On motion by Commissioner Ahmed and seconded by Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Vang will serve as Vice-Chair. Motion carried.

6.3 Madera County Economic Development Commission Audit for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

On motion by Commissioner Vang and seconded by Commissioner Ahmed, the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Audit cost of \$5400 for Ralph McKinnis, CPA is approved. Motion carried.

6.4 Adopt Preapprove Mileage for Travel Expense Form

On motion by Commissioner Olivares and seconded by Commissioner Ahmed the preapproved mileage travel expense form is approved, with the ability to add additional stops at future meetings. Motion carried.

6.5 Adopt New Salaries for 2024/2025 Fiscal Year.

On motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Ridge the salary schedule for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 is approved. Motion carried.

6.6 Adopt Recruitment Plan for Executive Director Position and approve Corresponding budget

On motion by Commissioner Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Jones the recruitment plan for the Executive Director position is approved as presented. Motion carried.

6.7 Set Price for the Sale of a Samsung Laptop to former Executive Director

and instruct staff to prepare a Bill of Sale.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Vang to approve the sale price of \$1,325.00 for the Samsung laptop to former Executive Director, Darren Rose with the requirement the lap top is wiped of any EDC information prior to payment. Motion carried.

6.8 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

On motion by Commissioner Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Ridge, MCEDC Board of Commissioners will adjourn to the CEDS committee meeting at 3:55 pm. Motion carried. Returned to the MCEDC Board of Commissioners meeting at 4:35 pm.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7.1 Presentation- Madera Community Hospital

Karen Paolinelli, CEO, Madera Community Hospital and Manny Singh, American Advanced Management gave an over view of the reopening of Madera Community Hospital. Their plan is to open the upgraded facility, with new equipment on September 8th. Hiring is set to begin in August. Many of the previous employees would like to come back. They still have several certifications that must be in place before opening. The hospital will be a full service hospital minus OB. They will have 500 employees with 800 per diem employees. They are looking for community partners to help spread the word of their plans.

7.2 Website/Logo Redesign

Lois reported the website is now live. And as with new sites, there are some issues. She asked for grace as we move through the issues. If anyone finds an issue please contact us in case, we have not seen it.

8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

- 8.1 Letter in support of SB410 California Public Utility Commission**
- 8.2 Letter in opposition of the Governor's 50% budget cuts for Small Business Technical Assistance Program and Capital Infusion Program**
- 8.3 Letter in support of Madera County's application to the US Department of Transportation for the Madera 41 South Expressway Project**
- 8.4 Letter in support of the City of Madera to secure Community Economic Resilience Fund Catalyst Program for Downtown Madera**

9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORT/INFORMATION

9.1 Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Poythress - (Madera Chamber of Commerce)- *reported the Senior Farmer of the Year event has been postponed. The Lifetime Achievement awards are happening in August with 4 over 40 that will also be recognized. Chamber has been very helpful with a lot of updates with labor laws and other items important to business.*

Commissioner Ridge -(Golden Valley Chamber)- *reported the chamber had their fireworks stand and it was very, very hot. But they did really good. They have two new*

members, one is a dentist who recently bought Dr. Pia's office. He's from Oakhurst. One of their restaurants, Slim Dilly Dogs will be awarded the best hot dog in California, by the Best of California. There are a lot of new businesses coming to the 41 corridor.

Commissioner Garcia- (City of Madera)- *reported neighborhood watch has returned and will continue to take place even in the heat. Kiwanis held a successful fireworks show at the Madera Fairgrounds. The focus is to try and minimize the amount of illegal fireworks in the city including using drones to locate them.*

Commissioner Olivares -(Oakhurst Chamber)- *reported on new development, Arbor Works. There's a new Chipotle near Raley's, they should be hiring soon. And an Arcade near H&L Lumber that is coming in. Out Bound Yosemite is the new owner of*

the Hounds Tooth Inn and they will adding about 100 cabins on 60 acres. Plus the new Government Center which will allow access to some county resources. The chamber is starting a new program called Next Gen leaders. A program that will encourage the next generation to stay in the area and participate in the community and become future leaders.

Commissioner McCann - (Industry)- *reported Evapco received full occupancy for their expansion which happened to coincide with their 45th anniversary. They had a celebration with their employees and dignitaries. They have started producing product and it is going very well. They will be adding additional machinery which will allow for more hiring.*

Commissioner Vang - (Workforce Investment Board) - *reported they have been busy with Auto Zone hiring. They have completed 3 hiring events for them. They have been hiring in stages. They've hired most of their management positions and are now looking at warehouse, primarily welding and forklift drivers that need to be certified. They're also looking at large events. Those events will be held at CAPMC conference Center, possibly on a weekend to recruit more individuals. The Workforce Board has been working on strategic planning with their state association over the last twelve months that has led to 5 priority areas to focus on over the next 2 years. They received an invite to apply for a \$500,000 grant to develop an extensive marketing plan. The grant monies would also be used to redesign their logo.*

Commissioner Ahmed -(City of Chowchilla)- *reported on their successful fireworks display also trying to bring the community together. They have dirt moving on 200 homes near the old Save Mart. They had a soft opening for the Jack in the Box. They are holding their Music in the Park on Fridays (weather permitting) and Music in the Park on Saturdays.*

Commissioner Jones -(Bass Lake Chamber)- *reported they had to pay out a lot of money to the winners of the Bass Lake Fishing Derby held the first weekend in May. One for \$5,000 and one for \$10,000 . It was a very successful year with around 1,300 participates. They held their 4th of July event which is pretty much the busiest time of the year but not for the businesses. But it does lead into business being busy the days after. Unfortunately they had a few accidents on the lake over the holiday. They have a new Sergeant with the Madera County Sheriff who is working with businesses and PG&E to help make the lake safer. The lake will not be full this year because PG&E has found some issues that need to be repaired. They will probably keep the lake a bit lower to allow for those repairs. There have been a lot of different organizations participating in cleanup activities after the 4th of July. And they have had one new business open.*

9.2 Interim Executive Director- Report as presented.

9.3 **Manager of Business Development & Marketing-** Report as presented.

9.4 **Business Assistance/Office Manager-** Report as presented.

10.0 **NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting of the Commission will be held October 9, 2024.

11.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Leonard, Recording Secretary