MINUTES OF THE LINCOLN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

January 8, 2018, 10AM, Commissioners’ Room, Afton

Board Attendees: Kathy Buyers, Bob King, Deland Lainhart, Merridee Matson and Jonathan Teichert. Also attending was John Woodward. Attending by video conference in Kemmerer were Kent Connelly, Mary Lively and Brittany Ritter. There were no representatives from Alpine, Cokeville, Diamondville, LaBarge or Opal.

Chairman King called the meeting to order at 10AM. He asked for approval of the minutes and the agenda. A motion was made and seconded to approve the both the Minutes and Agenda. Everyone voted affirmatively.

Mary Lively provided information on the 24th Oyster Ridge Festival. The organizers are requesting $15,000 this year to attract larger bands and to advertise more extensively. The event costs about $100K to produce. Approximately 70% of the funding is derived from sponsors; the remainder comes from beer sales and individual donations. Deland Lainhart made a motion to approve with no specific funding attached. Merridee Matson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

Town Reports. Afton. Jonathan discussed their joint resolution for reallocation of funds since they missed the SLIB date. He discussed Broulim’s expansion and tying into the town’s sewer. Thayne. Deland talked about the possible annexations of Bear Hollow and the Meadows and the thirteen acres that would make them contiguous. The Cutter Race Museum should be finished and ready for dedication by February 15th. Star Valley Ranch. Kathy said the Town is very quiet, and nothing new has happened on their potential annexation. Alpine. The Town will hold its Winter Jubilee on February 9-11.
Commissioners’ Report. Bob said they are continuing to work with the cutlery manufacturer to establish a location in Star Valley. Merridee mentioned that there was a news article stating the company had opened a new retail location in Napa Valley, CA. Bob also talked about the 4-H sale barn. A Morton Buildings representative is meeting with the Fair Board, and it is possible that fundraising will cover the plans that need to be developed. The Commissioners are in favor of the building and may submit a request to SLIB. Kent provided some positive updates which included: Westmoreland’s wind power study “to be done in a couple of years” and their recent hiring of many new drivers; Exxon is hiring; coal sales are increasing; thirteen new rigs are in the Jonah field; a company is looking for a refinery location in SW Wyoming and is working with several banks in the County.

Wyoming Business Council. Elaina had another obligation, and Bob explained her expanded duties.

Planning and Engineering. John reported 113 single family permits in the County during 2017. There were 98 permits in 2016. These numbers exclude permits within the towns. John also discussed Solar Array’s plans on private land south of Cokeville and west of Bear River. Plans are to begin construction in about a year, and the project will require about six people to operate and maintain it when completed.

SV Chamber Report. The Chamber is working with the SV Medical Center on summer programs for students. The objective is to help with activities that are alternatives to cell phone usage. Silver Star is sponsoring.

Old Business.

Funding for Energy Conservation Works passed on the third reading. Kathy made the motion to approve; Merridee seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve. Merridee will forward documentation to Corey Roberts.
New Business

Bob brought up the ENDOW program and the report from its committee. The committee is suggesting that approximately $36M of the State’s Rainy Day Fund be used for educational projects, commercial air travel expansion, broadband initiatives, startup businesses and research and development. LCED members have concerns that include the amount of funding requested, staffing required, ability to include Western Wyoming and conflicts with existing programs.

At 11:20AM a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The next LCED meeting will be held on February 4, 2018 in Afton.

Respectfully submitted,

Merridee Matson