March 5, 2018, 10AM, Commissioners’ Room, Afton

Board Attendees: Kathy Buyers, Bob King, DeLand Lainhart, Jeremy Larsen, Merridee Matson and Joel Neuenschwander. Also attending was Jerry Harmon. Attending by video conference in Kemmerer were Andrew Nelson, Elaina Zempel and Kate Zimmerman. There were no representatives from Cokeville, Diamondville, LaBarge or Opal.

MINUTES OF THE LINCOLN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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 both the Minutes and the Agenda. Everyone voted affirmatively.

The Star Valley Chamber, represented by Sarah Hale and Amanda Nelson, invited everyone to attend a luncheon at the Grey’s River Room at SVMC on March 22 from 11:30-1. Rob Condie from the Small Business Development Center will discuss all state programs and educational opportunities that are available for small businesses. He will remain afterward to answer questions.

Sheri Wight represented the Mountain States Stockdog Association. The group would like to hold the event at the fairgrounds again this year on July 16-21. Commissioners King and Harmon will speak to the Fair Board about fees, and Mayor Neuenschwander will approach the Afton Tourism Board about some funding. The Town of Afton has donated the Civic Center for the some of the group’s events. Sheri will approach the 4H about working with them to host an event with proceeds going to 4H. Sheri will work with Elaina on an economic analysis. Last year approximately 1,000 spectators attended each day. The Board discussed several ideas for promoting the event as it was determined that more advertising is needed. DeLand made a motion to approve $2,500 if needed. Jeremy seconded the motion, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Town Reports. Alpine. Work will begin later this year on a 6,000 foot expansion of the medical center. It will include emergency care and an orthopedic unit. The Town’s Winter Jubilee took place with sculptures and poker night, but the weather didn’t cooperate. Thayne. DeLand noted that a busy construction
season is beginning with a duplex and sixplex in the works; Thayne will be getting another water tank; the annexation is moving forward; and the Cutter Race Museum dedication will take place later this month. Star Valley Ranch. Kathy said the Town is holding public meetings on the eighty acre annexation application. The property is located between Muddy String and Vista West. The project will be a combination of residential and commercial. Part of the Stewart’s commercial property has been purchased, and another section is being negotiated for purchase. The water project should be completed this summer, and currently there are only twelve homes for sale. Afton. Joel said the Hill Climb had another successful year, and new sidewalks will be installed as part of the Safe Routes program. Kemmerer. Andrew mentioned the 6th Penny meeting at which the joint resolution will be reviewed so that it can be sent to the Commissioners. He said that the retail recruitment program has fallen through. Kemmerer asked about its membership in LCED. Bob thinks the County Attorney forwarded the request to the AG’s office.

Wyoming Business Council. Elaina had numerous items of interest including: the $12.5M spent each year on tourism, with $200,000 allocated this year for SW Wyoming; the $105M that goes back to Wyoming communities; broadband in underserved areas; and the Kickstart Program that provides research and development assistance for small businesses.

Commissioners’ Report. Jerry discussed details of the Porcupine slide, the modeling programs and potential use of explosives. He also discussed the initiatives by Union Wireless for broadband in Lincoln and Sublette counties. He talked about Rock Mountain Power’s four areas for wind, and he noted that Westmoreland is hauling coal into Lincoln County. Coal sales are increasing. Unit Three will close down in January 2019 unless they are granted an extension.

SV Chamber Report. The Chamber will be sponsoring the state cross country event in October 2019. Fifty six teams with sixteen members each will participate, and some hotel bookings have already been made. Business luncheons will again be held, and marketing classes will continue to be held
throughout the year. The Chamber is also working on another television campaign targeting Utah residents.

Old Business.

Funding for the Oyster Ridge Festival was discussed in detail. The group has requested $15,000 this year. The Board recognizes that the event has an excellent track record and ROI but wants to understand the specific use of funds. The Board also wants to see a list of other donors/sponsors. Merridee will obtain these and distribute them to the Board. Joel asked if we could compromise on the amount. Jeremy made a motion that he later rescinded, pending additional information. The third reading and vote will take place in April.

New Business

Oregon California Trails Program. Bob brought this advertising opportunity to the Board. Trails within Lincoln County will be featured in OCTA’s brochures and on their Web site. DeLand voted to authorize a $1,200 expenditure. Kathy seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Merridee asked for assistance on secretarial duties for the Board. Joel and Kathy offered to help. A list of duties will be distributed for further discussion.

Bob asked that the Board discuss assistance with a marketing/membership campaign for 4H at the next meeting. Merridee will place it on the agenda.

At 11:50AM a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The next LCED meeting will be held on April 9, 2018 in Afton.

Respectfully submitted,

Merridee Matson