



REDWOOD REGION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Regular meeting of the Board of Directors
At the Prosperity Center, 520 E Street, Eureka
September 25, 2017 6:30 pm
Minutes

I. Call to Order & Flag Salute

Chair Michael McKaskle called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Present: Michael McKaskle, Neal Latt, Sue Long, Frank Wilson, Patrick O'Rourke, Greg Dale, Tyler Holmes, David Tyson, Summer Daugherty, Marian Brady, John Woolley, Nancy Koke, James Baker; Alternates Brett Watson, Mike Wilson

Absent: Sofia Pereira, Virginia Bass, Dennis Mayo

Staff Present: Gregg Foster, Shirley Santino

Guests: Janet DePace, Leila Roberts, Terry Sawyer, Lucas Sawyer, Juan Avellaneda

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

M/S/P: Woolley/Long: Motion to approve Agenda for September 25, 2017 meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

M/S/P: O'Rourke/Dale: Motion to approve minutes from August 28, 2017 RREDC Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Input – for non-agenda items

None.

IV. Program – Terry Sawyer, co-founder and Vice President, Hog Island Oyster Company –

Cultivating Growth in Humboldt Bay (FLUPSY Manager Lucas Sawyer, and Hatchery Manager Juan Avellaneda were also there to answer questions): Terry explained why they have invested \$4 million in a seed oyster/clam hatchery in Fairhaven, how the Floating Upwelling System (FLUPSY) works, preserving the biosecurity of Humboldt Bay to keep it free of Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS), job creation, bringing research dollars and partnerships to the region, working with HSU to monitor changes in coastal waters, Hog Island's B Corp status and bylaws speak to their commitment to operate in a way that is always improving on ways to minimize environmental impact while maximizing employee well-being and quality of product.

M/S/P: Tyson/M Wilson: Motion to move Agenda Item VIII. New Business to follow IV. as phone guest is waiting. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. New Business

A. Discussion of State of California's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Redesign Process Gregg Foster introduced Gurbax Sahota (on speaker phone), President & CEO of CA Association for Local Economic Development (CALED), and Executive Director of CA Academy for Economic Development. She gave a history of the CDBG program and The State's desire to eliminate or severely cut funding for economic development. Ongoing efforts to preserve it include keeping pressure on legislative staff and examining the redesign expected 1/1/18 to make sure it works for all the jurisdictions represented by the RREDC Board of Directors.

Leila Roberts; Director of NC SBDC was asked to weigh in from a microenterprise implementer perspective on the critical need for these funds to continue workshops and one on one advising for moderate and low income small and startup businesses in Humboldt. She requested that clients be



sent to NC SBDC now, while funds remain, and to inform us what kinds of clients from your districts need our services.

Gregg Foster requested information from those who have CDBG funds on how they've used them, and a list of programs that have benefitted, so it can be further discussed at a future board meeting with possible action by Board.

V. Consent Calendar

M/S/P: O'Rourke/M. Wilson: Motion to accept Agency-wide Financial Reports for August 31, 2017. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Reports – No Action Required

A. Loan Portfolio Report: August 2017.

B. Executive Director's Report: Gregg Foster informed Board and answered questions about the Loan Program, mid-October air service recruiting forum held by Volaire Aviation in Washington State, successful 2017 Broadband Forum, and LED upgrades throughout the Prosperity Center thanks to the Redwood Coast Entergy Authority and a PG&E grant.

VII. Old Business

A. Update and Discussion on Providing Support for Digital 299 Broadband Project via California iBank Program Gregg Foster reported that iBank has determined that this project does not meet their criteria as presented; RCRC may be able to assist. Work to identify funding sources is ongoing.

IX. Member Agencies Reports

B. Redway – Michael McKaskle reported that after a lengthy process they are finally accepting applications for 20 buildable units, for housing, business, an extraction lab, etc.

C. Humboldt Bay Harbor – Greg Dale: We have begun a nation-wide hunt for a replacement for Jack Crider, Executive Director; we've received additional EDA grant funds for pulp mill rubble and debris removal.

D. Eureka – Marian Brady: The city has partnered with the Coast Guard and is currently dredging the small boat basins, depositing the sludge in the HOODS (Humboldt Open Ocean Disposal Site) three miles west of the entrance to Humboldt Bay.

X. Agenda/Program Requests for future Board Meetings None added.

XI. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Shirley Santino, Recorder



Michael McKaskle, Chair