



Redwood Region Economic Development Commission
Prosperity Center 520 E Street, Eureka, California 95501
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REDWOOD REGION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors
At the Prosperity Center, 520 E Street, Eureka
November 27, 2017 6:30 pm
Minutes

I. Call to Order & Flag Salute

Chair Michael McKaskle called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

Present: Michael McKaskle, Neal Latt, Patrick O'Rourke, Marian Brady, Greg Dale, Tyler Holmes, Nancy Koke, Sue Long
Alternates Brett Watson, Dendra Dengler

Absent: Sofia Pereira, David Tyson, Virginia Bass, Dennis Mayo, John Woolley, James Baker, Frank Wilson, Summer Daugherty

Staff Present: Gregg Foster, Shirley Santino

Guests: Sean McLaughlin, Connie Stewart

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

M/S/P: Brady/Dale: Motion to approve Agenda for November 27, 2017 meeting.
Motion passed unanimously.

M/S/P: O'Rourke/Brady: Motion to approve minutes from October 23, 2017 RREDC Board meeting. Motion passed with Nancy Koke and Tyler Holmes abstaining as they did not attend the October meeting.

III. Public Input – for non-agenda items

None.

- IV. Program – Broadband in Humboldt County: State and Federal Issues Affecting Humboldt County Economic Development; Discussion of Telecommunications Reliability in Humboldt County – Sean McLaughlin – Executive Director, Access Humboldt and Connie Stewart – Executive Director, California Center for Rural Policy** discussed keeping pressure on public broadband investment in rural regions and demanding that service providers work with local governments and emergency systems; system for gathering real information on districts where broadband isn't available as advertised (Board and their constituents please take performance survey at <http://www.broadbandmap.ca.gov/> and report back on actual speeds in their own districts); infrastructure concerns; RREDC's role in promoting broadband's link to Economic Development.

V. New Business

A. Consideration of position regarding Net Neutrality, Retirement of Legacy Copper Telephone Networks, and AT&T Telecommunications Reliability in Humboldt County

M/S/P: O'Rourke/Dale: Motion to authorize Executive Director to write and send a letter to the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission expressing RREDC Board's opposition to order that ends net neutrality, and a letter to Senators McGuire and Woods to oppose the FCC's move to push early retirement of legacy copper telephone networks in rural territory. Motion passed unanimously.

- VI. Consent Calendar**
M/S/P: O'Rourke/Long: Motion to accept Agency-wide Financial Reports for October 31, 2017. Motion passed unanimously.
- VII. Reports – No Action Required**
A. Loan Portfolio Report: September 2017, Gregg Foster answered questions.
B. Executive Director's Report: Gregg Foster gave a verbal report regarding loans that are paying off and impact it will have on RREDC's budget; loans in process; new rules from EDA regarding risk grading; St. Joseph Hospital's interest in our proposal for a Regional Housing Policy Summit; why RREDC markets to banks and realtors rather than directly to the public.
- VIII. Old Business**
A. Update and Discussion on Providing Support for Digital 299 Broadband Project via California IBank Program Gregg Foster informed the Board that Connie Stewart and others involved in the project (but not RREDC) received a public records request from Velocity.
- IX. Member Agencies Reports**
A. Fortuna – Sue Long: Ice Rink is opening - if a new group doesn't step forward to run it, this will be the final season of a 3-year commitment.
B. Harbor District – Greg Dale: search for an Executive Director continues; installed solar panels on 200,000 square foot Pulp Mill, which will produce 20% more power than they need which will neutralize the Harbor District's electricity bill.
C. Redway – Michael McKaskle: HSU's Energy Resources Senior Class, under guidance of the RCEA, conducted a positive feasibility study regarding the viability of installing solar panels on Redway's CSD building in the future.
D. Arcata – Brett Watson: Planning Commission hearing on 800-unit student housing plans for Craftsman Mall.
E. Eureka – Marian Brady: Rob Holmlund's Team will lead a Zoning workshop for the public at the Wharfinger Building 11/28 6-8pm.
- X. Agenda/Program Requests for future Board Meetings**
None.
- XI. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.**

Respectfully submitted:

Shirley Santino, Recorder

Michael McKaskle, Chair