



Redwood Region
Economic Development
Commission

520 E Street Eureka • California 95501 • (707) 445-9651 • FAX (707) 445-9652

REDWOOD REGION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Regular meeting of the Board of Directors
At the Prosperity Center 520 E Street, Eureka, CA

February 22, 2016
6:30 pm
Minutes

I. Call to Order & Flag Salute

Chair Nancy Koke called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Sue Long, Nancy Koke, Bruce Rupp, John Woolley, David Tyson, Julie Fulkerson, Virginia Bass, Michael McKaskle, Mike Wilson, Marian Brady, Mark Wheatley, Mike Davis

Absent: Frank Wilson, Dennis Mayo, Ken Mierzwa, John Sawatzky

Staff Present: Gregg Foster, Shirley Santino

Guest: Randy Weaver

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

M/S/P: Bass/Mike Wilson: Motion to approve minutes from November 23, 2015 Board Meeting and the agenda for January 25, 2016. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Input – for non-agenda items

None

IV. **Program** – Randall Weaver, Labor Market Consultant, Employment Development Department, discussed Humboldt County's Labor Force and answered the Board's questions for an hour about what local jobs are not being filled, how wages here compare to other counties; job retention rate, predominance of non-employer firms, entrepreneurial culture, training youth so they can stay here if inclined to do so, Humboldt employment climate and trends. The appreciative Board requested Randy's PowerPoint be sent to them.

V. Consent Calendar

M/S/P: McKaskle/Rupp: Motion to Accept Agency-wide Financial Reports dated January 31, 2016. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Reports

A. Loan Portfolio Reports for December 31, 2015 and January 31, 2016 were presented by Gregg Foster. No action needed.

B. Executive Director's Report Gregg Foster presented Executive Director's Monthly Update Memo dated February 18, 2016, with the addition of a verbal discussion regarding impending changes to SBDC: Combining phone system with RREDC to increase efficiency and stabilize budget; Lead Center taking charge of oversight of federal contract; retaining other daily operations and business advising in the Prosperity Center. No action needed.

C. Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting from January 14, 2016 submitted. No action needed.

MEMBER AGENCIES

City of Arcata • City of Blue Lake • City of Eureka • City of Ferndale • City of Fortuna • City of Rio Dell • City of Trinidad
County of Humboldt • Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District • Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
Humboldt Community Services District • Manila Community Services District • McKinleyville Community Services District
Orick Community Services District • Redwoods Community College District • Hoopa Valley Tribe
Willow Creek Community Services District • Orleans Community Services District • Redway Community Services District

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. New Business

A. Discussion of FY 2016/2017 Budget

It is required that the March 28th Board meeting will include a public hearing of RREDC's FY 2016/17 Draft Budget. Announcement will run in local print media.

B. Discussion and Consideration of Position Regarding Changes to the Humboldt Bay Area Plan and Coastal Zoning Regulation to Allow Flexible Uses in Industrial/Coastal-Dependent Zone

Points raised: Cost of inaction when not allowing even interim use of existing structures leads to disintegration and total loss of infrastructure; another long-term planning effort is also in progress; not likely that other viable plans will be brought forth soon by the public; Coastal Commission should take into consideration that development conditions are different here than in other parts of CA; the Interim use plan represents a lot of effort and agreed-upon compromise-of-values of many agencies.

M/S: Rupp/Fulkerson Motion for the RREDC Board to take a position favoring flexibility regarding changes to the Humboldt Bay Area Plan and Coastal Zoning Regulation to Allow Flexible Uses in Industrial/Coastal-Dependent Zone.

Motion passed with the following members opposed: Marian Brady, Mark Wheelley, Nancy Koke, David Tyson.

VIII. Member Reports

A. Willow Creek – Mike Davis reports they are looking for a new general manager; dealing with crime by increasing police presence after 1 am; cautions city planners from planting sidewalk trees without metal rings around the roots – their downtown beautification efforts are creating expensive havoc by lifting the sidewalks.

B. Ferndale – Representative Ken Mierzwa absent.

IX. Agenda/Program Requests for a future meeting – carry forward these suggestions from previous meeting

Marty Coelho, Executive Director of College Advancement; College of the Redwoods, how can CR be part of the solution to challenges in Humboldt County (is on the agenda for April 25th meeting).

Ronda Wiedenbeck, Owner of Beck's Bakery, on Humboldt's Grain Economy and local grain shortages from whiskey and bread production demands.

Terry Coltra, Executive Director, Northern California Indian Development Council, on Carson Block Building; Incubator approach for Fairgrounds.

X. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted:


Shirley Santino, Recorder

Nancy Koke, Chair