

BCEDC Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2007

Dusty Turner called the meeting to order at 6:09p.m. Members present were Dusty, Greg, Pamela, Laneha, and Tim Stephens. Guests present were Troy Crane, Spike Ausmus, Pete Dawson, Monte Barham, Jodi Ricker, Mark Hall, Billy Gourley, and Brad Gourley.

Minutes were skimmed from the last meeting. There were several corrections: Rod and Run Show is combined with a Motorcycle Rally and is July 14 not the 21st, Reception to get to know candidate Tom Tablor for CSU extension job, and Excell should be Xcell. Greg moved to accept the minutes as read, Pamela seconded the motion, the motion passed. The treasurers report was read no changes in the fireworks or revolving loan funds. From the general fund there was paid out \$100 to the Hometown Community Foundation, \$41 to Crowley County for processing the Preserve America Applications, and \$242 paid to the Hometown Community Foundation from the Futures Forum. The ending balance in the general fund is \$8,496.69. Laneha moved to accept the treasurers report as read, and Tim seconded the motion, the motion passed.

There was a big thank-you to the county commissioners for donating space to the BCEDC in the newly acquired FOYTO buildings.

The fireworks fund was discussed and it was decided that the BCEDC sign over the fireworks fund to the Springfield and Walsh Fire departments with names pending or close the account and give the money to the fire departments. Did we make a motion here???

Billy Gourley and Brad Gourley discussed with the group their upcoming plans for a demolition derby and tractor pull on Saturday afternoon at the county fair. Greg Crane is in charge of the tractor pull and the Gourley's are in charge of the demolition derby. It was discussed that they might be able to get insurance through the chamber if it was a chamber sponsored event. The event could go into the night as late as 9-10p.m. The derby fees would be approximately \$30 per entry and stands fees might be \$6 pp, a pit fee might be \$10. Billy was looking for ways to advertise, so Laneha said she would email him information. Volunteers are needed for the night, and it was suggested to hire Darryl Mackey as the announcer/DJ for the event. Proposed prizes are \$1,000, \$500, \$250. They would also like to raffle off a car and the buyer gets to drive it in the derby. It was thought to give the 4-H the first chance to do concessions and if they didn't want to then to move on to another group.

Old Business:

Marketing 101 workshop: Laneha attended the Marketing 101 workshop the 11th of April at John Martin Res. sponsored by the SECRT. There is a marketing booklet that came from that meeting that is available to the public for free copying and use. The conservation service has agreed to house this booklet and allow free copies made.

Chamber Report: The chamber is working mostly on their summer events right now which include the Rod and Run show and Motorcycle Rally to be held July 14. They hope to keep people long enough to encourage over-night stays. No charge for booth space, Economic Development is sponsoring the sponge bob relay. The other event is the June 16 golf tourney, hopefully an annual event. Will have state officials and econ dev people playing in the tournament. Chamber bucks are being converted to Baca Bucks with the hopes of unifying the county and encouraging county commerce.

Non-Profit and Grant Management Workshop: Laneha attended the workshop at OJC on April 24. It was helpful in understanding how to become a non-profit as well as how to get and manage grants.

Meeting with Kathy Finau: Laneha met with Kathy Finau in LaJunta on April 16 to discuss the possibilities of obtaining grants to help get started with the projects and ideas that came from the Community Futures Forum in March. She also met with Bryan Bryant at the OJC SBDC to discuss what he did and become informed on how his office helps potential business people in the area.

Sand Creek Dedication: Laneha attended the Sand Creek Dedication on April 29 in Eads and set up a booth for Baca County where she handed out pamphlets on the county as well as local attractions and the Commanche National Grasslands. Baca County also received their Preserve America Designation at a ceremony in Eads.

Main Street Training: Laneha wasn't able to attend due to a funeral. She also discussed her desire to see the historical preservatin group go to this convention next year. There was a scholarship available to Baca County, but no one to use it.

Pritchett School Board Meeting: Laneha and Casey approached the Pritchett School board about possibly starting a fund to help support their school in the future. They were receptive to the idea. Laneha hopes to be able to speak at a county – wide school board meeting on the subject with-in the year.

SECRT: Laneha attended the SECRT meeting in Kiowa County at the courthouse on May 3. The meeting focused on a Heritage Tourism Strategy to be implemented in SE Colorado over the next several years. How to position ourselves to draw tourism dollars and people.

Easi Wall: The commissioners spoke on the meetings they have had with Pearce Parker concerning Easi Wall. They are working on getting support for the business in the form of money. If we can get the money in the next few months, Pearce has indicated that he would come to Baca County.

Sign Thank-You's for YEF: Laneha has written thank-you's to all YEF sponsors and requested that the BCEDC board members sign the letters before they were sent.

New Business:

501 C3: We discussed the possibility of becoming a 501 C3 in order to obtain grants and funding to pursue projects and other such things in Baca County. The group felt it the smart thing to do, however to also try to start pursuing grants before we get a 501 C3 either through the commissioners office or the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. Pamela moved to start pursuing a 501 C3 designation and Greg seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

There was a reminder about the website. The website includes a community calendar, photos, press releases, links, and a job listing page.

There will be a SECRIT meeting May 22 in Springfield from 9-12a.m.. Laneha requested permission from the commissioners to have the meeting at the FOYTO building. There will be a tour in the afternoon.

There is another SECRIT meeting June 7 at John Martin from 9-12a.m., and in the afternoon the group will focus on parks and recreation planning.

There is a Fair board meeting on June 4 at 7:00p.m. for those interested in attending. The meeting will be held at the resource center.

The "Las Familias" play will be held May 22 in Mosquero, NM for those interested in attending.

Action 22 is starting a leadership training program for all Action 22 members. Applications are due June 1 and the training will include leadership as well as strategic planning for the region and meeting many state officials. The cost is \$250 or \$350.

The commissioners received word on a possible business opportunity for Baca County concerning a transgenic goat farm. The city of Springfield has responded with the requested information.

Laneha gave the Audobon Invoice to Pamela to pay for advertising in the Audobon Magaziene for the region. Cost is \$708. Readership of the magaziene is over 11.5 million.

Mileage was paid to Laneha for the months of April and May. Dusty moved to pay Laneha \$385.50 for mileage and expenses incurred the past month. Tim seconded the motion and the motion passed. Dusty also moved to pay \$27 to Apen Leaf for a flower arrangement to Monte for his mother passing away. Laneha seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Pamela has already paid Gloria Jean \$75 for the use of her picture.

Mission: There was discussion brought up that we should form a mission for the Hometown Community Foundation so that we could help recruit board members as well as help focus the purpose of the foundation in the community. Pamela is going to check

with Susan Mikkelson to see who can make by-laws and if we can just modify some for our foundation. Tim Stephens will email the mission for the HTC group out as a guideline for the potential mission of the foundation. Bring your recommended mission statements to the next meeting.

Spike Ausmus found a weather balloon that was missing in Baca County and won \$300 as a reward for turning it in. Spike donated the money to the foundation. Thank you Spike!

Laneha reported that it would be possible to fund a position as project manager for the BCEDC through grant management. The group discussed that they want to move forward with pursuing grants and that Laneha would be a good candidate to do this. Pamela moved that Laneha pursue grants and act as the project manager of those grants for the BCEDC. Dusty seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Pete reported briefly on the Walsh July 4 festivities. They are looking at having a community function with booths along with their 3on3 basketball tournament and Horse Shoe Tournament. Contact Logan Alley for the basketball and Pete Dawson for the Horse Shoes.

The LIFT training in Burlington is on June 11 from 5:00-9:00p.m. The group discussed traveling up there together. The group will leave at 2:00p.m. from the Walsh John Deere and carpool to Burlington and back. Laneha will meet Pam at her house.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laneha Everett