

Custer County Community Economic Development Meeting
Amended Minutes
September 25, 2006

Those in attendance were: Jim Conley, Karen Crumbaker, Angie Arterburn, Jim Johnson, Charles Bogle, Dick Downey, Wanda Johnson, Alan Urban, Kit Shy, and Nora Drenner. Special guest was Nancy Banman from CSU.

Nancy Banman, Ph.D., from Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, School of Social Work, was introduced. Nancy's role at this meeting was to help the Committee refocus their efforts.

The Mission Statement and Long-Term Goals were reviewed. Those three goals were: (1) Improved property assessment; (2) Affordable housing; and (3) Encouragement of low impact businesses.

In addition, short-term goals were listed and the committee was asked to rank the top three goals they felt were important and achievable. Those goals were: Website links; events center; lodging tax; water augmentation plan; trails identity; building code; R.V. dump/water; develop woodchip market; Junior college/adult education; entry way features into the County; growing tax base; capture more local \$ locally; affordable housing; pharmacy; dentistry; amphitheater; increase tourism; marketing plan; improved rural roads; increase youth retention; increase appreciation and protection of environmental assets; improve infrastructure county-wide (water, sewer, electric); and recycling program. The top three ranked goals voted on by the committee members present were: (1) Lodging tax and the encouragement of low-impact businesses; (2) Junior college/adult education; (3) Entry way features into the County.

The tasks at hand were: (1) Increase tourism; and (2) Increase businesses. The Chamber of Commerce will take the lead on lodging and tourism. The Economic Development Committee will take the lead on encouraging low impact businesses, adult education/distance learning/community college, youth retention, locally capture local business dollars, pharmacy, dentistry, wood chip business, and recycling. By summer, 2007, the goal is to increase the knowledge of 70% of the front-line retail employees regarding what resources and activities are in Custer County.

Nancy recommended that the Committee look at the goals and to be sure they are brief, positive, measurable, time oriented, and action oriented.

Nancy outlines the “Action Steps” necessary for success:

1. I.D. where we are;
2. Divide up sub-sets and begin contacting people;
3. What does success look like (what do we want?);
4. What is the product/support we offer (brochure);
5. Identify people who are willing to assist;
6. Tap local resources to serve as mentors;
7. Reach out to agriculture as part of economic development sector;
8. Capture data regarding decisions of businesses to grow (expand) or locate here.

At October’s meeting, Nancy suggested the Committee work on the Action Plan Worksheet she provided which lists the necessary action steps, the targeted date for completion of action, the person(s) responsible, the resources needed, and what the outcome will be (How the group will know this action is complete?).

The next meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. at Cliff Lanes.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Submitted by Karen Crumbaker.