

Custer County Community Economic Development Meeting

Minutes

October 30, 2006

In attendance were Jim Conley, Karen Crumbaker, Angie Arterburn, Jim Johnson, Wanda Johnson, Alan Urban, Brian Woods, Jan Lee, Christe Feldmann, Robert Weisenbach, Margaret Weisenbach, Mike Shields, Chuck Feldmann, George Draper, and Leona Draper.

Karen Crumbaker briefly reviewed last month's Minutes, highlighting the long-term and short-term goals, as well as the tasks at hand for the Committee.

Attracting a low impact business was voted the number one priority for the Committee. A low impact business was defined as: (1) having low traffic/road/infrastructure impacts; (2) minimum resource/environmental impact; (3) having a low competition on existing businesses; (4) attracting a year-round business; and (5) to utilize the local workforce.

The goals to be successful must be brief, positive, measurable, time oriented, and action oriented. A victory can be measured by attracting one new, successful business; increase per capita income; increase the number of jobs; and smart growth.

Jim Johnson, Wanda Johnson, and Angie Arterburn discussed examples of economic development information from Bozeman, MT, Durango, CO, and Castle Rock, CO.

There was discussion on creating a relocation guide to let people/businesses know what is in Custer County. This would be the first step to attracting low impact businesses. Brian Woods commented on the need for the Committee to move in a forward direction. Bob Weisenbach spoke on what is involved in relocating businesses – “What do we have to offer?” “Can we attract CSU Cooperative Extension into the Valley to do graduate studies?” “Is it possible to attract an outfitters service?”

Jim Conley led the group in identifying the Current Reality of achieving our goal. The strengths are: diversity, experience, and history; the Benefits are: financial, increase jobs, county revenue; stability in population. The weaknesses are: volunteers, time, and lack of money; and the Dangers are: too much growth, a strain on resources and infrastructure.

The committee was then asked to identify the tasks required to reach the goal of attracting low impact businesses. Committees were divided into groups to work on an Action Plan Worksheet to identify a goal, action steps, completion date, person(s) responsible, resources needed, and what the outcome of each task is. Worksheets with a goal of “inventorying what we have”, “identifying measurable goals for Custer County” and “website and brochure design” were begun.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 27, 1006, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Cliff Lanes.

Submitted by Karen Crumbaker