

**CUSTER COUNTY  
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE**

**M I N U T E S**

**January 21, 2008**

Those Present: Angela Arterburn, Robin Young, Nora Drenner, Allen Butler, Brian Woods, Wanda Johnson, Charles Bogle, Bob Senderhauf, Brian Riley, Cindy Howard, Jan Lee, John Johnston, Lynn Attebery, Bob Weisenbach, Carole Custer, Christe Feldmann, Kim Stein, Kit Shy, Dee Hoag, Joe Arbuckle, and Bob Johnston.

Meeting was called to order by Angela Arterburn for Karen Crumbaker, who was not able to attend.

- 1) 2007 Summary: Angie gave a summary of the work done in 2007, which included the work with the State of Colorado Office of Economic Development leading us to where we are now.
- 2) Review of 2008 EDC Members: Discussion regarding how the committee members were picked and should there be alternates? It was decided to include alternates on the EDC member list, which listed a representative and alternate from various entities throughout Custer County. It was also agreed that from this list, these various entities would work under one of the following four groups identified at the Community Assessment:

- ~Natural Resources
- ~Business and Community Development
- ~Human Resources
- ~Tourism and Marketing

As in the past, the final list of members would be approved in January each year by the Commissioners.

The group gave some suggestions of names to help fill the vacancies.

- 3) The question of whether or not the Steering Committee should continue was asked. It was decided that the steering committee would be comprised of a member representing each of the four groups. The steering committee would continue to work on any grant opportunities, take the minutes, set the Agenda for each meeting, and help with the direction of the EDC. The Steering Committee would be comprised of Karen Crumbaker, Robin Young, Angela Arterburn, Jim Johnson, and Dee Hoag. The committee needs to decide who will be chairman, etc.
- 4) Angie announced the upcoming Hospitality Tax seminar will be put on by the EDC and the Custer County Merchants and Chamber of Commerce. The seminar will be held March 26, 2008, at Cliff Lanes and is Free. This seminar/class is usually presented in Denver, so it is a good opportunity for people to take the class closer to home. **LODGING, RESTAURANTS, TOWN AND COUNTY CLERKS SHOULD ATTEND.** After discussion, it was decided that the Extension Office would be the contact. RSVP is required at 783-2514. Flyers will be prepared and an email blast will be sent to outlying areas for their participation. Cindy Howard and Angie Arterburn are working on this project with the Economic Development Committee and CCMCC.

Carole Custer also stated that the Workforce Center can do a four part customer service seminar. It was decided to do this in April.

5) The four teams broke into work sessions, with the following reports:

**Natural Resources:** Robin Young – This group has broken into three areas:

- a) Land Use
- b) Water
- c) Agriculture

Bob Senderhauf reported he is nervous about the economics in the housing market. It is down 50% from 2002. Bob also said that the reason why we are behind on the water augmentation plan is because of lawsuits by Fremont and Chaffee counties, court and attorney problems that divert attention. The community is supporting the augmentation plan. The water augmentation plan is 99% complete. Also, Round Mt. Water needs more water for infrastructure.

We need to bridge the gap between organizations.

Robin said the groups are open to any new ideas and encouraged participation.

**Business and Community Development:** Allen Butler talked about the Community and Business Surveys that are being done. Also, a tourism survey will be going out. The group is working on the best way to do this survey.

Charles Bogle gave a summary of the possible establishment of a VA Cemetery to be located in Custer County; Custer County is under consideration. If there are any questions, give Charles a call.

Allen asked Angie to give a summary on the Getaway program that the CCMCC was doing. Angie briefly stated how those participating in the Getaway group would have a different section promoting tourism by various Getaway ideas. The Getaway group would be checking into different options for advertising in various other publications. The Getaway group is also going to work on inputting free business listings on various web pages such as Coloradofrontier.com, etc.

**Human Resources:** Kim Stein has agreed to chair this group, as Jim Johnson has other commitments at this time. Jim will continue to participate on the Steering Committee. Kim will get together with Jim and go over what research he has regarding continuing education possibilities in the County. Kim stated that the group had come up with a couple more colleges and they felt it would be good to pursue a trade school.

Work is being done by Mike Liebman to form a Habitat for Humanity group in Custer County.

**Tourism and Marketing:** A brief summary was given. Now that the Lodging/Tourism Tax has passed, it is the responsibility of the Tourism Board to promote tourism. The EDC could work on activities once the people are here.

The following would be under the direction of the new Tourism Board: Develop a Custer County Tourism Marketing Plan, which includes ways to market to the Front Range, etc.

The group identified many of the various websites and are working to make sure they have the proper links. Dana Meek worked on this and Elizabeth French, who is the 211 co-coordinator, is working to make contacts with web administrators to make this happen.

Ensure Custer County visibility in regional tourism promotional websites: Since the January EDC meeting, the Getaway group from the CCMCC and the CCMCC office has taken on this task. To date,

Coloradofrontier.com is being updated, listing events and businesses. This is FREE, as the county and CCMCC are members of Action 22.

Colorado.com has a cost to add businesses, but not events.

Bob Weisenbach and Charles Bogle will pursue working with Fort Carson and the possibility of promoting Custer County on their cable channel.

Angela Arterburn will work on updating a coordinated PSA contact sheet to be shared and will bring it to the February EDC meeting.

Angie will work with the Business group to host a Hospitality Training on April 30, 2008. This will be a regional Hospitality Training. Carole Custer will work with the Work Force Center on possible classes as well.

The group will evaluate the creation of an interim advertising CO-OP. The Lodging Tax funds will not be available until after April, 2008. It was stated that we need to make sure this does not interfere with the work the Tourism Board and Chamber will be doing in 2008. Jan Lee will work on a proposal and bring it to the next EDC meeting.

Next Economic Development Committee meeting: Monday, February 25, 2008, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Cliff Lanes.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Arterburn and Robin Young  
CCEDC Steering Committee  
Members