

Custer County Community Economic Development Committee
Amended Minutes
April 28, 2008

In Attendance: Angela Arterburn, Charles Bogle, Robin Young, Cindy Howard, Kimberly Stein, Robert Weisenbach, Lynn Attebery, Nora Drenner, Mike Liebman, Wanda Johnson, Jerry Lacy, Dee Hoag, Kit Shy, Bob Senderhauf, and Karen Crumbaker.

Announcements:

- Angie Arterburn reported on the Five County Tourism Board. The counties involved and working together are Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Las Animas and Pueblo. The mission of the Board is that South Central Colorado will work together to enhance their communities for the betterment of the citizens by promoting their heritage, agriculture and eco-tourism collectively to the world. The vision is that the five counties will become a destination for visitors from around the world to enjoy the sights of the mountains, plains, mining, railroad, and other historical sights.
- Angie reported on behalf of Dorothy Urban on the Trail System and Pike Signage. Currently there are two signs located at Oak Creek Grade and Main and at the Silver Cliff Museum.
- Bob Senderhauf informed the group of the upcoming Arkansas River Basin Water Forum to be held at Hermit Basin in Westcliffe, Colorado on April 30-May 1, 2008.
- Following Bob's announcement on the Water Forum, a lengthy discussion pursued on the recent purchase by the City of Fountain, Colorado, of the H2O Ranch on the valley floor. Numerous questions arose as to the future of water leaving the valley.

Break into Groups:

The four groups created from the Community Action Plan broke into work sessions. This was followed by a summary update, as follows:

Business and Community Development – Community Leader: Dee Hoag.

- Dee Hoag announced the Custer County Community Survey has been completed. The total number of respondents was 244. The results of the survey will be e-mailed to the Economic Development Committee once received from the Kathy Reis with the Town of Westcliffe.

- Charles Bogle updated the Committee on the status of the National Veterans Cemetery effort. A site visit to Custer County has not yet taken place. Charles received information from Sue Piatt, Colorado Office of Economic Development, stating the potential impact on a National Veterans Cemetery in Custer County. Sue estimates the impact would be approximately 250 burials per year, using Fort Logan and Fort Lyon National Veterans Cemetery as a point of reference. Based on burials, attendance and the average cost per funeral, a conservative yearly economic income to Custer County could reach \$1,625,000 in sales/output per year.
- Charles Bogle and Robert Weisenbach would like put a committee together to continue working on the potential for a National Veterans Cemetery in Custer County. Please contact either Charles or Robert to express your interest in serving on this committee.
- Robert Weisenbach made a motion to the Economic Development Committee to support a National Veterans cemetery. A vote was taken and the Economic Development voted to support a National Veterans cemetery.

Natural Resources – Community Leader: Robin Young

- Robin Young reported on the study from BERC (Biomass Energy Resource Center). Funding for a full feasibility study is the next step. Robin will contact Stephanie Steffens of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade to ask for her assistance with funding opportunities.

Human Resources – Community Leader: Kimberly Stein

- Mike Liebman reported an Affordable Housing workshop will take place on April 29, 2008, in the community room at Cliff Lanes from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to explain all of the housing support options available in Custer County through the Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments.

Tourism and Marketing – Community Leader: Angie Arterburn

- Angie Arterburn stated the group will continue to work with the business group to host a Hospitality Training but a date has not been set yet.
- Robert Weisenbach and Angie Arterburn are working to gather information on local businesses to inventory.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm

Next meeting: June 30, 2008, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Cliff Lanes meeting room.

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Crumbaker

(Minutes 4-28-08)