

**STANISLAUS COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION COMMITTEE (EDAC)**

Thursday, October 27, 2016, 4 p.m.  
Alliance Kirk Lindsey Center – Tenth Street Plaza  
1020 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 102  
Modesto, CA 95354

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Supervisor Jim DeMartini (District 5); Harold “Bud” Hill (Hughson); Doug Ridenour (Modesto); Cherilyn Bairos (Oakdale); Debbie Olson (Riverbank Alternate); Maryn Pitt (Turlock Alternate); Katrina Kidd (District 1); Jeff Rowe (District 2); Jon Rodriguez (District 3); Cecil Russell (District 4); Harpreet Singh (Community); Ron Jackson (Community); Lance Boullion (Community); Bob Hondeville (Community); and David White (Community)

**Members Absent:** Representatives of Ceres, Newman, Waterford, and Patterson; Jennifer Carter (Community); Rosalinda Vierra (Community)

**Others Present:** Keith Boggs (Chief Executive Office); Tera Chumley (Secretary/Chief Executive Office); Laurie Smith (City of Modesto); Randy Saffold (City of Modesto); Tim Ogden (Waterford City Manager); Wil Marshall and Julie Fonseca (EDA)

Called to Order at 4:04 p.m. by Committee Chair Cecil Russell

Public Comment Period – No one from the public was in attendance.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Committee Chair, Cecil Russell, welcomed new members: Doug Ridenour, Sr., (Seat 4, Modesto Primary Representative replacing David Cogdill); Jennifer Carter (Seat 17, Community Representative replacing Thomas Reeves) (not in attendance); and Harpreet Singh (Seat 15, Community Representative replacing Sharon Silva)

II. Approval of Minutes of **September 10, 2015** Meeting

The Minutes of September 10, 2015 were approved.

Motion: White / Second: Rowe / Unanimous

III. Officer Succession – Discussion and Motion on Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Russell called for nominations for a new Chair and moved to nominated Vice Chair Ron Jackson. There were no other nominations for Chair.

The nomination for Ron Jackson to serve as Chair was approved by unanimous vote.

Chair Jackson called for nominations for a new Vice Chair. Member White nominated Member Jeff Rowe. There were no other nominations for Vice Chair.

The nomination for Jeff Rowe to serve as Vice Chair was approved by unanimous vote.

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IV. Secretary Report:

a. Conflict of Interest Code – Review and Motion to Approve

Secretary Chumley presented an updated draft of the Conflict of Interest Code for this committee. The Code was last updated in 1992; Tera worked with the Clerk of the Board to bring this code to current standards. Members briefly discussed the document and agreed to accept the update. The code will be effective once approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The updated Conflict of Interest Code was approved by unanimous vote.

b. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

Secretary Chumley reminded members the CEDs document is updated on an annual basis. She has requested an extension from EDA on the current CEDs, and is working on a five year update covering the period of 2017-2022. Tera will be sending the template to the cities for their update. The Committee will meet again in the spring for review and approval of an updated document.

V. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Project Presentations

- City of Modesto/Representatives Laurie Smith and Randy Saffold – The City is working with Opportunity Stanislaus on a high speed fiber network master plan to expand existing businesses and attract new businesses to Modesto. Laurie and Randy are working with Wil Marshall on EDA grant funding opportunities. Randy also discussed some of the challenges and barriers to installation (fiber vs. wireless). The City of Modesto is also working on a wireless connectivity project to bring free wi fi to downtown Modesto.
- City of Riverbank/Alternate Member Olson – Riverbank is working on a project at the Army Ammo Plant that would bring 300 jobs to the area. She indicated there are some infrastructure deficits at the plant as the Army has not brought the building up to code for development.
- Stanislaus Business Alliance/Member Dave White – Opportunity Stanislaus is working on the beginning phases of a potential project for a Regional Training Center to provide manufacturing skills and competencies that would be patterned after similar projects around the country.

VI. Annual EDA Regional Update Visit:

a. Overview of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Funding Opportunities Based on Stanislaus County's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Document – Wil Marshall, EDA Regional Representative

EDA Regional Representative, Wil Marshall, described some of the projects EDA funding is available for such as projects related to commercial or industrial; training centers; fiber-related projects; and renovation of existing buildings not in use. He suggested looking on line for current projects/funding. EDA is very selective in what

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they will fund. If your city is considering a project or would like to discuss possible funding opportunities for your project, contact Wil.

He noted one requirement for job creation is infrastructure. EDA is interested in job classifications that provide a living wage and increase the ability to support a family. Innovation is the order of the day.

**b. Q & A**

- Randy – Funding is competitive – is there a best time to apply?
  - Wil – The best time to apply would be when funds are available – funding is on a Federal fiscal year. Application is an open system and you don't have to come at a certain time. If you're working on project for spring, you should apply now (three month cycle from application to award).
- Randy – Should the proposal be submitted with the application?
  - Wil Marshall – EDA is a two phase application process: pre-application and application review. Will encourages submitting all at one time to accelerate this process. Wil is willing to spend time discussing/reviewing a specific project.
- Debbie – Do all projects need to go through NEPRA/Prop 58 review under CDBG?
  - Wil – All construction projects require CEQA satisfaction and must go through CEQA review.
- Ron – There are not a lot of projects coming forward. Is there something we can do to catalyze within the cities for what might fit?
  - Katrina suggested benchmarking with what other cities with similar demographics have done.
  - Laurie mentioned the City of Modesto recently approved adding a grant writer to assist in identifying funding.
- Katrina – Are there funding opportunities available for universities?
  - Wil – EDA has received/funded several innovative projects from universities such as university Business Park and incubator projects (hot house).
  - Tera – CSUS is located in the City of Turlock and would coordinate efforts on projects.
  - Cecil – There does not appear to be a connection between the cities and the universities plans. He suggested engaging the educational community and incorporating their plan into the CEDs. Ron suggested a sub group to explore this idea.
  - Bud mentioned Hughson has been successful in using interns from CSUS to work on grants/projects.
  - Harpreet – Suggested networking opportunities with internship programs by connecting existing businesses with educational institutions.
- Wil – He is not so concerned about job cost ratio – more interested in focusing on creating jobs (such as Costco or Amazon) in Modesto.

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VII. Other Information

a. Upcoming Meetings (tentative):

- Date and Location TBD, 4 p.m. An appointment will be sent to members.
  - Tera will be scheduling a meeting in February and March.
  - Tera will send out CEDs document for City updates.

VIII. Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheryl Swartz, Confidential Assistant  
Chief Executive Office