

## **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Steering Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, January 30, 2008 – 10 AM  
CAAG Administrative Offices  
1075 S. Idaho Rd., Suite 300  
Apache Junction, AZ 85219

### **Attendees:**

Jim Nelson, Salt River Project  
Scott Powell, Town of Florence  
Rayna Palmer, Apache Jct. Chamber of Commerce & North East Pinal Economic Partnership  
Al Larson, Central Arizona College  
Kim Moyers, Town of Queen Creek  
Steve Filipowicz, City of Apache Junction  
Martin O’Haus, City of Eloy  
Chris Martin, Southern Gila County Economic Development Corporation  
Doug Hansen, Pinal County Public Works  
Alto Bruce, City of Coolidge

### **CAAG Staff:**

Craig Ringer  
Peter Armenta  
Cindy Schofield

## **MINUTES**

### **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Vice-Chair Jim Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. All provided self-introductions.

### **II. COMMENTS FROM THE VICE-CHAIR**

Mr. Nelson informed members of the Committee that Barbara Ganz has accepted a new job in the Phoenix metropolitan area and would no longer be serving as the CEDS Committee Chair.

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 4, 2007**

Chris Martin made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 4, 2007 meeting. Martin O’Haus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2007 CEDS**

Mr. Ringer distributed copies of the 2007 CEDS to the Committee. He stated that this is the first time that the CEDS had been made available on CD. He also mentioned that the CEDS is now included on CAAG's web site as a PDF document.

#### **V. INITIATION OF THE ANNUAL CEDS UPDATE PROCESS**

Craig provided details regarding last year's update of the CEDS. He explained about the dislocation of CAAG's employees for a three-month period and EDA's willingness to grant an extension for the completion of the document. He further explained the importance of listing a community's priority projects within the document and how this listing can also be considered as a "regional approval" when applying to other grant sources.

Members of the Committee asked Craig to provide a copy to them when soliciting revisions of the Priority Projects listings from their respective managers.

Discussions of the five-year update for the *Regional Tourism Marketing Strategy* also ensued with a tentative meeting of the CEDS Tourism Subcommittee set for sometime in February. A joint meeting of the CEDS Committee and Tourism Subcommittee was recommended. Mr. Ringer noted that the *Strategy* can be downloaded from CAAG's web site.

#### **VI. 208 WATER QUALITY ACTIVITIES & DEVELOPMENT**

Peter Armenta, CAAG Community Development Director, provide a Power Point presentation to the CEDS Committee regarding the 208 process and how it affects various local jurisdictions- public as well as private. He explained that the existing 208 Plan for CAAG is currently out of date as is in need of major revisions and that CAAG is now in the process of updating the document. Mr. Armenta also noted water quality planning's relation to local economies affecting employment with relatively high-paying jobs as well as wastewater (recycled water) becoming the "new commodity."

#### **VII. EDA GRANT FOR EMPLOYMENT CENTER STUDY**

Jim and Craig provided CEDS Committee members with an overview of a project that EDA is considering for funding. The project would look at the entire CAAG District and analyze existing and potential employment centers also considering existing infrastructure and needs as well as potential economic targets for specific sub-areas located throughout the District. If funded, EDA will provide assistance from its Economic Adjustment program. Massive increase in population for areas of the District and second home development in Northern Gila County are two factors of consideration under the Economic Adjustment program.

It is anticipated the study could commence sometime in May and be completed by year's end. CAAG would coordinate efforts with all local economic development organizations in the District.

#### **VIII. PINAL COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

Jim informed the Committee that Pinal County is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan. He explained that a sub-group had been formed to address what is considered by some to be voids in the economic development element. Mr. Nelson distributed a flier that provided an overview of the planning process and, additionally, a general schedule for the completion of the plan.

Also distributed was an EDA questionnaire entitled "Know Your Region: A framework for economic development strategic planning"; a flier promoting EDA's Regional Conference in Denver (September 10 -11, 2008); and information regarding the Tonto National Forest's 5-Year Work Program with a web site address for additional information.

#### **IX. COMMUNITY PPROJECT/PROGRAM UPDATES**

Attendees provided updates regarding their community's/organization's activities as related to economic development.

#### **X. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be scheduled for sometime in March and will depend on the progress of this year's CEDS update.

#### **XI. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Larson expressed concerns regarding the length of the meeting and dwindling attendance toward the end of the meeting.

#### **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.