

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 7, 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
Kim Moyers, Town of Queen Creek
Steve Filipowicz, City of Apache Junction
Chris Martin, Southern Gila County Economic Development Corporation
Alton Bruce, City of Coolidge
Mila Lira, Town of Superior

CAAG Staff:

Craig Ringer
Jack Tomasik

MINUTES

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Jim Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. All provided self-introductions.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

There were no comments from the Chair

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 30, 2008

Steve Filipowicz made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2008 meeting. Rayna Palmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE 2008 CEDS UPDATE

Mr. Ringer distributed additional materials he had recently received for the 2008 CEDS update to the Committee. Mr. Filipowicz made a motion to approve the 2008 update materials as received and/or submitted to Craig by no later than May 16, 2008. The motion was seconded by Chris Martin.

Jim stressed the importance of having projects included in the CEDS as this listing is used by EDA to determine eligibility of proposed projects. Craig added that other grant sources may also accept project inclusion in the CEDS as “regional approval” and that could be beneficial when applications are rated.

V. APPROVAL OF REVISED TOURISM GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Mr. Nelson and Mr. Ringer provided the Committee with a description of the process that led to the revised Goals & Objectives for CAAG’s *Regional Tourism Marketing Strategy*. Craig added that the initial Strategy was funded by EDA but there was no money this time around for a revision. Craig added that the original Strategy called for an update in five years. He stated that he had suggested to the Tourism Subcommittee that, since the Goals & Objectives are the core of the Strategy, these are the most important to the document and would require little in the way of funding and would, therefore be doable.

Rayna Palmer made a motion to approve the revised Goals and Objectives for CAAG’s *Regional Tourism Marketing Strategy*. The motion was seconded by Scott Powell.

VI. EDA GRANT FOR EMPLOYMENT CENTER STUDY

Jim provided a description of the background regarding the Employment Center Study that is being funded in part by EDA for \$100,000. He emphasized the need to work with the five local economic development organizations: North East Pinal Economic Partnership (NEPEP); Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition (CCEDC); Central Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation (CAREDF); Southern Gila County Economic Development Corporation (SGEDC); and the Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation (PREDC).

Mr. Tomasik stressed the importance of updating the employment center data that was gathered in 2006 and adding any additional employment centers that may have been included in new general plans, etc. He also added that some data being collected at this time for other studied will be useful for this project.

Other facets of the project will produce an asset inventory that is consistent throughout the Region; identify infrastructure (existing & needed); determine growth industries; and identify target industries. Background work will occur over the summer with public input meetings to begin in September. It is hoped that the project can be completed sometime shortly after the first of the year.

Craig added that Arizona State University has digitized those general/comprehensive plans that exist for Gila County and will be available for our use in this project.

VII. COMMUNITY PROJECT/PROGRAM UPDATES

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

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

It was suggested by Craig that the next meeting be held in September. Mr. Nelson added that there may be a need to convene a meeting to discuss the EDA grant specifically.

IX. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.