

Economic Development Board

Wednesday October 26, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Kathryn Hecht, Chair called to order the Economic Development Board (EDB) meeting at 7:26 a.m.

The following EDB Board members were present Kathryn Hecht, Michael Nicholls, Jordan Kivelstadt, Linda Kachiu, Wayne Leach, Regina Mahiri, Jorge Alcazar

The following EDB staff members were present Ethan Brown, Kristen Madsen, Rebekah Heinze, Aleena Decker, Lauren Cartwright, Marcos Suarez, Debbie Yarrow, Kate Fosburgh, Juanita Fong, Nina Cheek, Bernadette Marko, Sam Kimpel, Debbie Yarrow, Christine Palmer

II. CONSENT ITEMS

A. The meeting minutes dated September 28 were not approved due to lack of quorum

III. POLICY/PROGRAM UPDATES

A. Board feedback/questions on Informational Items

i. Executive Director Updates

The draft of EDB 3.0 was released to the steering committee last Monday. We will do an initial round of revision with the steering committee and release to staff and the EDB Board by November 3.

ii. Creative Sonoma

The Board of Supervisors has pushed the item for fire memorial funding to December 6, 2023

iii. Business Development update

Working with CAO Bratton and members of the office regarding Broadband and how to best present it to the board. Broadband applied for grant and waiting to see if we will receive it or not.

Michael Nicholls inquired about new direction of new broadband analysis feasibility study and how long is the anticipated delay and have cities applied for LATA and why not?

Lauren explained that cities are interested in the LATA grant but are waiting to see what the county does and how they will move forward.



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ETHAN BROWN, EDB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michael Nicholls voiced his concern that cities will miss out on the monies by not applying for the grant

Kathryn Hecht suggested contacting cities and letting them know about the grant and urging them to apply.

iv. Business Diversity

Marcos has created a scope of work for a potential consultant to come in related to the ARPA money EDB has and is looking at way to move that forward.

Marcos highlighted his partnership with Louise Dawson and her efforts in helping local businesses.

IV. BOARD BUSINESS

A. Board Reports on district updates and challenges

Jordan Kivelstadt (District 1):

Discussed possibility that a county building will be established in Sonoma for administrative services and asked for EDB's help to move the project to push forward.

Ethan offered to discuss and provide feedback.

Kathryn Hecht (District 4):

AV had their fundraiser. Kathryn mentioned that the aftermath of COVID it's been extremely difficult to recruit people for both attendance and help.

Michael Nicholls (District 5)

45 GMRS radios for residents were programmed in Cloverdale for emergency events. The GRMS radio project for rural residents continues to grow.

B. Guest Speaker: Andriana Duckworth, Executive Director, Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance

Andriana spoke about the different programs, events, and resources the Alliance has and works with. She discussed the mission of the Alliance and some current projects they are working on.

C. Standing Committee updates

The DEBA committee is working on the details of contracting a consultant to supply additional support to. Business Diversity Program. A rough draft of the mission of the committee was created and will be presented by the next meeting



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V. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Kathryn Hecht, Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:46 a.m.



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