**SREDA Board Meeting**

**February 1, 2022, 7 am**

**Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Fruitland, ID & ZOOMed**

Directors, Members & Guests present: Patrick Nauman, Stuart Grimes, Ken Bishop, Sandy Hemenway, Larry Hogg, Ron Rembleski, Rick LaHuis, Andy Creech, Ron Amarel, Andrea Testi, and Angela Machuca,

ZOOM Directors, Members & Guests present: John Stuart, Georgia Hanigan, Tom Vialpando, Jeff Short, Kit Kamo, Tim Heinze, Brad Moore, Rebecca Morgan, Kasey Davis, Jerry Miller and Irene Gonzales

Staff: Kristen Nieskens, Executive Director

1. Chairman Patrick Nauman called the board meeting to order at 7:07 a.m. Patrick welcomed everyone to the Tuesday morning meeting.
2. Introductions of Attendees: Chairman Patrick Nauman asked everyone present to introduce themselves and the business or entity they were representing. Thanks to FMTC for the space.
3. Approval of the January 2022 minutes as emailed out. *(Missed)*
4. Chairman Patrick Nauman asked for the Financial Report from Sandy Hemenway for January 2022. Sandy reported that there was $28,362.49 in the checking and $35,657.91 in the Money Market accounts for a total of $64,020.40. Private funds received were from Weiser Classic Candy. Sandy reviewed the expenses for the past month. The financial report was approved with a motion by Larry Hogg and a 2nd by Ken Bishop. Sandy brought up the fact that Kit used to have a SREDA credit card and that the board should look at getting Kristen a credit card. Ken Bishop made a motion to approve Kristen for a SREDA credit card, Larry Hogg 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. 2022 Budget and Work Plan: Kristen reviewed the changes suggested from the last meeting that have been updated in the new work plan. The board discussed the changes. Larry Hogg made a motion to accept the 2022 SREDA Work Plan. Rick LaHuis 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. City and Community Reports:

Fruitland - Stuart Grimes, City Administrator, updated the group on the activities in his city. There was a construction meeting for River's Edge Phase 2 & 3. They are in the early construction phase. St. Luke's has a 4,800 sq foot expansion in the works. A new business is Asplundh Tree Trimming. The Snake River Sports Complex is moving forward. New Restrooms, picnic shelter and more have been ordered and will be installed this spring. The city has received a lot of interest from developers making inquiries and scheduling meetings. If these come to pass, Fruitland will be a very busy place this spring!

Ken Bishop reported that the Fruitland Chamber of Commerce luncheon for February will this week at Ruzoni's. Also Ruzoni's will have a Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting this Thursday.

Vale - Mayor Tom Vialpando happily reported that the 2nd phase of the Cottonwood subdivision, which has sat idle for several years, has had 2 builders inquire and indicate that they are interested in getting some housing going. The Brownsfield grant was approved for the apartment complex for analyzing asbestos, lead paint and underground tanks. The car-truck wash is for sale. The City of Vale hosted the League of Oregon Small Cities annual meeting at the Vale Senior Center. Senator Lynn Findley was in attendance as well. Issues throughout the state were affordable housing and attracting new business into small towns. Due to covid outbreaks, several restaurants and businesses have had to close for quarantining.

Weiser - City Councilman Larry Hogg said that there is nothing new this month that he hadn't previously reported on. He said that the subdivision west of town was still a work in progress. The Community Church in Weiser is having a big Groundhog Day feed tomorrow that will include sausage gravy and more delicious food! Everyone is invited.

Patrick Nauman said that there was a ribbon cutting at the new Dove Hearing Center downtown. The locals are working on a new restaurant downtown as well. The fruit stand on the highway is looking at expanding their merchandise and another farmer will be expanding their operations to include farm to fork products.

No reports from the cities of Ontario, Payette, Nyssa, and New Plymouth.

1. County Reports:

Payette County - Commissioner Georgia Hanigan reported to the group that the County is in the final stages of reviewing the comprehensive plan with an upcoming public hearing. The county continues to work with the city of Fruitland on rules in the impact area. The Payette Chamber annual banquet will be Saturday night at the Senior Center. Thursday night, there will be a Payette Revitalization public meeting at the Senior Center.

No reports from Washington and Malheur Counties

Patrick added that Weiser was looking at Main Street America for grants and membership. Also there is a public hearing to discuss the issue of setbacks stated for February 14.

1. Director update:

**PROJECTS**

Project Cider - Business expansion.

Project Shortline – Working with Jaguar Transportation. This project continues to evolve.

Project is now looking in Ontario at property.

Project Digest – Project on Exit 9, New Plymouth

Project Zanzibar – State of Oregon Project. Sent in 3 properties. Still active project.

Project PNW – Had a great site visit with PNW team, site selector, Idaho Power, City of Ontario and SREDA. Followed up last week, no decisions have been made thus far. Still active. Sent follow up email to site selectors in January.

Project Hot Out of the Oven – New business coming to our area.

Project Pen – Housing project in Ontario. Also connected the investor with Business OR and SBDC.

Project Pony – This is a small manufacturer that reached out to us to find a larger building they could lease and expand into. We toured their existing facility to get an idea of what they needed. They manufacture a horse supplement. Looking for at least a 25’ x 50 warehouse, or so. If you know of something available let us know.

We are still working on housing issues. Looking for opportunities to create more housing opportunities. If you have ideas, please let us know.

We have been working with Project LifeSize (Pac Fibre) on a Rural Community Grant with the State of Idaho. This grant is due in March.

**OTHER**

Economic Breakfast - Scheduled for Thursday March 31st , 2022.

Idaho Sportsman’s Show – March 3-6 – Boise

International Sportsman’s Expo – March 16-20, 2022 – Attending the Expo with Idaho partners.

Meetings and Trainings:

I have been able to attend numerous Virtual meetings and trainings including trends in Economic Development Web Sites, Ontario Main Street Hub Workshop; Idaho Economic Development Association Education Meeting; and Idaho Commerce’s ED Pro virtual trainings. I am still updating the website and Oregon Prospector.

Kristen Nieskens, SREDA Executive Director, told the group that she has a lot of new projects, but some of them haven't been code-named yet. She is meeting with Fruitland on one of them this morning and it's just one of several Idaho business expansions. Many of the projects listed on her written report are those projects that are still active, such as Project Digest which is a very exciting project. She has been working with Project Shortline and area landowners. Project Life Size, Pacific Fibre, has been moving forward and she is working with the company and Washington County to put together a grant for their relocation and expansion project. Kit Kamo has agreed to assist Kristen with the 30+ page grant application. Also, Kristen said that Jerry Miller, Idaho Commerce, agreed to help review the application for SREDA prior to being submitted to the state.

Kristen reminded everyone that the Western Treasure Valley Economic Breakfast will be held on March 31st from 7 am to 9 am at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario. They are nailing down the speakers. Tickets for breakfast will be on sale soon!

Since SREDA has had to change their emailing system and no longer uses the college email addresses and outlook, we have been working out the bugs of mass emailing to our partners and friends of SREDA via Mail Chimp. Kristen asks that everyone be patient and if you haven't been receiving the monthly minutes and updates, please let her know!

Patrick discussed the SREDA fund raising activities. Ken Bishop and Kristen have been working on developing a promotional brochure for new membership. The brochure will be emailed out to the board for review prior to the next meeting in March. Suggestions were that we add some of SREDA's successes to the brochure rather than list all the members. The SREDA Members List is easy to find on the website. Stuart Grimes suggested that we include some testimonials from companies that we have worked with. Patrick asked that the board take the new brochures and reach out to businesses, vendors, neighbors and friends and encourage them to join.

Mayor Tom Vialpando invited Kristen to the Vale Chamber of Commerce reorganization meeting on February 16. Kristen said she'd be delighted to attend.

1. Roundtable:

Jeff Short, Idaho Northern Pacific Railroad, introduced himself and siad that he's worked with Kit in the past and is now working with Kristen on projects that will enhance the communities that the rail serves. This is from Payette, Fruitland, New Plymouth and up to Emmett. The lumber companies are working on a transload facility in Emmett. He suggested bringing inland ports into the area, such as Fruitland since it's close to US 95 and I-84.

Rebecca Morgan, Boise State University, invited everyone to stop by the Payette Library this Friday and Saturday from noon to 1 pm and meet with the current Community Impact Program students. Also she is looking for new students for the next cohort. Rebecca reported that she has Money to give away for 50% off tuition costs. Currently there are several students from Payette that are getting their basics completed at 50% off! The tuition grants are good up to 30 credits worth. Please send names to Rebecca for this great program that can be completed from anywhere!

Brad Moore, Energy Trust of Oregon, introduced himself again. He covers Central and Eastern Oregon and is based out of Bend. Energy Trust has cash incentives available for new and existing industrial facilities including upgrades to green houses. Malheur County businesses qualify for these programs if they are a Cascade Gas user. Kristen has Brad's contact for anyone interested in any of the Energy Trust programs.

Jerry Miller, Idaho Department of Commerce, had a number of 'save the dates' including February 9th as the economic development day at the State Capitol and the Joint Finance Committee. Idaho Commerce budget hearings will be held that morning and they are streamed on the internet. Jerry will be attending the Downtown Revitalization meeting this week Thursday evening in Payette as well as the upcoming Main Street meeting in Weiser. March 21st is the final deadline for GEM GRANTS. Because this is the last round for this fiscal year, the state may be more generous for grants that are submitted. If you have any projects, get a hold of Jerry and get them going. Kristen has Jerry's contact info. Great news - Jerry said that the NW Community Development Training is coming back in July. More info on this wonderful program later. On May 20-21 will be the Regards to Rural Conference at Wildhorse in Pendleton. This is a great conference sponsored by Rural Development Initiatives (RDI), in which Jerry is on their board (another shameless plug). Jerry is working with the Governor's Office of Energy on an Electrical Charging Station Plan for the state. This is a requirement in order to receive the federal infrastructure dollars. The group is targeting communities along major highway corridors, such as Cambridge, Weiser, Payette, Fruitland, etc. If you need charging stations or you have some but need more, this would be a great GEM grant! Get these locations to Jerry.

Angela Machuca from Work Source Oregon announce that they are still open during their remodel and construction. They will be serving clients in the modules behind the office. They anticipate the construction will be completed by the end of May.

Andrea Testi from TVCC Small Business Development Center (SBDC), reported that they are working with 3 businesses that are selling. This helps keep the business in the community and helps with the transition from owner to owner. She suggested that Mayor Vialpando connect SBDC up with the car wash business that is for sale. They have advisors that can assist without cost to the owner. Andrea also reported that businesses are still short of employees. Local businesses are still seeing customers who are fickle and are not shopping local. Be vocal shop local! TVCC is having their CTE Open House the 2nd week in March that will highlight all the programs available. Andrea said that the Agile Homes Scholarship program is open. They have received about a dozen inquiries at this time for this construction program. SBDC has contracted with an owner electrician to assist them with classes. They are still looking for another electrician as well.

Tim Heinze, Valley Family Health Care, told the group that the Fortner Neighborhood Clinic (in the former Presbyterian Center) is a $2.4 million investment. They project the clinic will be open by the end of 2022. The food bank is also looking at locating there. On March 3 there will be a pubic hearing session on the project. Valley Family Health Care is also investing another $2 million on updating their record and scheduling system to EPIC. St. Luke's is on this system and Saint Alphonsus is in the process of moving to the new system. Tim was also happy to report that they have hired their 3rd OBGYN for the region and it is great to have a female doctor.

Kelsey Davis, Weiser Memorial Medical Center, started her new position about a month ago. She is excited to attend the SREDA meeting and will be able to report next month.

Irene Gonzales, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), reported that the covid lending programs have ended, but they are still assisting with those existing clients with problems or issues. For February, the SBA is focusing on Cyber Security. They have resources that can assist businesses. Also the SBA is reviewing the challenges that businesses are facing so that they can provide assistance. She also said that TVCC SBDC is a great resource for local businesses as well as the center in Nampa.

Ron Amarel, founder of Friend of our Community Nonprofit, Middleton, can assist with fund raising. Their nonprofit provides breakfast, lunches and dinners for different nonprofit groups raising funds. In Weiser, during the great eclipse, they fed 1100 for the local FFA and their biggest event was in Boise with 2700 fed. Feel free to reach out to Ron for more information. Kristen has Ron's contact information.

Chairman Patrick Nauman reminded everyone that the next Board Meeting would be on March 1st, 7 am, at FMTC Conference room (thanks to Ron Rembleski) and via zoom (thanks to Sheriff Andy Creech).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 am.

Minutes prepared by Kristen Nieskens and Kit Kamo

***The Economic Breakfast will be March 31st!***