

**COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2022, at 3:00 pm**  
**Ridge Conference Room**

**Committee Members:**

Gene Merrill (Chair)  
Bob Schaller  
Bradley Converse - Teams  
Cameron Camp  
Colene Martin - Teams  
Daniel Mancuso  
Ethan Lane - Absent  
Josh Duval  
Josie Molloy - Absent  
Mark Woods  
Ron Gordon - Absent  
Ruth Swain (Vice Chair) - Absent  
Tori Middelstadt  
~~Shauna Bland~~ Tim Sweeny (replacement)  
1 Vacant (County)

**Government Liaisons:**

Darin Fowler, County Commissioner  
Jean Ann Miles, City of Cave Junction - Absent  
Valerie Lovelace, City Council Liaison - Teams

**Staff Liaisons:**

Bradley Clark, Director CD - Absent  
Donna Rupp, Associate Planner

**Guests:**

Alice Chance – Josephine County  
Christina Berger – Josephine County  
John McCafferty – Josephine County

1. **Roll Call:** Chair Gene Merrill called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. During roll call, Tim Sweeny introduced himself as replacing Shauna Bland.
2. **Public Comment:**
  - None
3. **Approval of Minutes:**
  - a. Approval of minutes from August 25, 2022.

**Motion**

**Member Schaller moved and Member Woods seconded the motion to approve the minutes from August 25, 2022, as presented. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”:**  
**Chair Merrill, Members Martin, Schaller, Converse, Camp, Duval, Mancuso, Woods Sweeny and Middelstadt. “NAYS”:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Vice-Chair Swain, **Members Lane, Gordon and Molloy.**  
**The motion passed.**

4. **Work Session Items:**

- a. **Review application for CEDC Transportation/Airports/Industry (Josephine County appointee).**  
Committee discussed the applicant and his work in the community. Several committee members know the applicant and believe he will be a good fit for the CEDC.

**Motion**

**Member Duval moved and Member Martin seconded the motion to recommend to the Josephine County Board of County Commissioners appointment of Gary Richardson as the County Transportation/Air/Industry representative.**

The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Merrill, Members Martin, Schaller, Converse, Camp, Duval, Mancuso, Woods, Sweeny and Middelstadt. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Vice-Chair Swain, Members Lane, Gordon and Molloy.  
The motion passed.

**b. Broadband Update – Christina Berger and John McCafferty**

Christina Berger introduced herself as an AmeriCorps member working for the Josephine County IT Department as the broadband community coordinator. She reviewed the program and handed out materials on the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. Discussion about the need for extension in the entire area and to help households with lower incomes. John McCafferty added to the presentation with background on being ready for the upcoming funding rounds and increasing connections in rural areas. It was mentioned that the Grants Pass grant writer, Susan Clark, should be notified about possible opportunities as well.

**c. Subcommittee report – Ron Gordon was absent.** Move this item to October agenda.

**d. Updating bylaws** – Chair Merrill instructed the committee to review the updated bylaws that were sent out prior to the meeting.

**Motion**

**Member Woods moved and Member Middelstadt seconded the motion to forward the updated bylaws to Grants Pass, Cave Junction and Josephine County for review and approval. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Merrill, Members Martin, Schaller, Converse, Camp, Duval, Mancuso, Woods, Sweeny and Middelstadt. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Vice-Chair Swain, Members Lane, Gordon and Molloy.**

**The motion passed.**

**e. Strategic Planning Goals for 2023**

The city of Grants Pass will begin Strategic Planning for 2023 and the CEDC needs to review its goals for the upcoming year. Ideas discussed include:

- Airport expansion has been biggest impact in the past.
- Broadband work and partnership between cities and county.
- Spalding Industrial Area & needed infrastructure
- North Valley Area
- Merlin Area

**f. Member interest in Committee Chair for 2023** – Chair Merrill reviewed the reasons he would like to have another member take over as Chair in 2023, including having the time to attend municipal meetings to represent CEDC. The bylaws do not state that the Vice-Chair takes over when the Chair’s term is completed. Chair Merrill requested that members contact him regarding interest in the position.

**5. Information Sharing**

**a. Government Liaisons**

- i. County Commissioner Fowler provided updates on sewer work in Merlin and continuing work on airport extension. The County does not have an

Economic Development staff position, so he is unsure who will cover this position after the November election. Possibly Commissioner DeYoung. He recently spoke to a possible new commercial developer for the area – Siskiyou Pine – who makes a type of pre-fab housing.

- ii. Cave Junction Councilor Miles was absent but member Mancuso gave an update on the Cave Junction motel, approval of the RV Park, how the unregulated marijuana business has impacted local businesses, and that the Illinois Valley news will be printed by the Grants Pass Daily Courier since the Medford newspaper is ceasing print publication.

**b. Items from Staff**

- i. A candidate for the Grants Pass Economic Development manager position has accepted the job offer and will start the second week of October. There has been interest in the old mill site on Spalding Ave, but no firm plans have been submitted.

**c. Items from Committee Members**

- i. Member Martin would like to have further information on the business survey once it is completed. Member Middelstadt will be able to provide a presentation.
- ii. Member Schaller shared the idea of having Grants Pass be the first hydrogen refueling station on I-5.

**d. Meeting recap and action items**

- i. Update from sub-committee in October
- ii. Strategic Planning

**6. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:** Suggestions for new chair; strategic planning; presentation on business survey

**7. Adjournment:**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm

**Next scheduled meeting: October 27, 2022**

*Minutes prepared by Donna Rupp, City Staff Liaison.*