



Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, July 11, 2011

Lunch Served: 11:30 a.m. to Noon
Meeting: Noon to 5 p.m.

Lemoore Civic Auditorium

435 C Street
Lemoore, California 93245
559-924-6767

Meeting Minutes

I. Convene Meeting and Introductory Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ashley Swearengin who welcomed Partnership Board members and guests and initiated introductions of Board members and their representatives.

Other Board members present included James Aleru, Lynne Ashbeck, Vito Chiesa, DeeDee D'Adamo, Randy Dodd, Secretary Diana Dooley (HHS), Mike Dozier, Todd Ferrara representing Secretary John Laird (EPA), Carole Goldsmith, Corwin Harper, Barbara Hioco, Doug Hoffner representing Secretary Marty Morgenstern (LWD), Blake Konczal, Sunne McPeak, Luisa Medina, Steve Nelsen, David Nelson, Leroy Ornellas, Pete Parra, David Quackenbush, Secretary Karen Ross (DFA), Paul Saldaña, Ted Smalley, Jim Suennen (HHS) Patrick Sullivan representing the California Environmental Protection Agency, Ashley Swearengin, Jim Tague, Peter Weber.

Members of the audience introduced themselves after which the Chair thanked the sponsors; City of Lemoore, Adventist Health and California Consulting LLC. Chair Swearengin invited public comment; Mayor Willard Rodarmel of Lemoore welcomed the Partnership to the City and encouraged all members to tour the historic downtown area.

III. Public and Board Comment

The Chair began by framing the desired outcomes for the meeting today. The Partnership was envisioned as a way to work with the Federal Interagency Task Force for the economic development of the San Joaquin Valley (Valley). In 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger was convinced the Valley was a unique entity with a need for unique local, regional and state leaders working together; thus the Partnership was born. Chair Swearengin reviewed the history of the Partnership and development of the 10-year plan. With the change of administration, the Partnership is gratified that Governor Brown is also committed to continuation of the Partnership; the Chair extended thanks to the governor and his cabinet secretaries and their representatives for their support and participation. It is important to reassess where we are, the accomplishments against the 10-year plan and focus for the next 18 months. Goal was to leave the board meeting with a clear picture of big picture outcomes and programmatic goals for the next 18 months.

Chair Swearengin then announced that the White House has initiated Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative¹; a new interagency pilot initiative that aims to strengthen neighborhoods, towns, cities and regions around the country by strengthening the capacity of local governments to develop and execute their economic vision and strategies. The City of Fresno was one of six cities selected from throughout the United States. Chair Swearengin noted that one of the reasons Fresno was selected is because the White House is familiar with the work that's been done up and down Hwy 99 throughout the region. Dr. Glenda Humiston², U.S. Department of Agriculture State Director, was welcomed to the table.

Mr. Paul Boyer of Farmersville provided handouts regarding HR 760, designation of rural areas within the State of California for purposes of resource allocation from USDA. *[San Joaquin Valley USDA Rural Definition Inclusion Act - Amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture (USDA) to designate any part of the areas within the Counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare, California, as a rural area if any such part is determined not to be urban in character (other than any area included within the municipal boundaries of Bakersfield, Fresno, Modesto, Stockton, or Visalia)]*.³

Tulare County Supervisor Alan Ishida announced an upcoming meeting of the eight county boards of supervisors, along with four Delta county representatives to discuss the Delta Bay plan. Supervisor Ishida noted there is approximately ninety percent agreement among all participants to the plan; it is important to make progress on those elements and not let the remaining issues stall progress. The supervisor invited the Valley cities to participate in the discussion as well, reiterating that the meeting will be held during the last part of August and will probably take place in Fresno. Interested parties should contact him for further information.

Mr. Ferrara announced that the Natural Resources Agency is undertaking a strategic visioning exercise for the Department of Fish & Game which includes a stakeholder advisory group. The deadline to apply for membership in the stakeholder advisory group is July 13. Mr. Ferrara encouraged anyone interested to apply at www.vision.ca.gov. In response to a question from Mr. Weber as to whether there had been applicants from the San Joaquin Valley, Kathy Wood, Tulare Basin Watershed Coordinator, announced that she has applied and hopes to represent Valley interests on the advisory group.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

V. Secretariat Report

In the interest of time Mr. Dozier referred the Board to pages 15 through 38 of the Board packet which contains the detailed Secretariat report; noting further that pages 39 through

¹ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/07/11/announcing-strong-cities-strong-communities>

² <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/CA-StateDirector.html>

³ <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:H.R.760>:

120 are the work group reports. Mr. Dozier asked Board members to direct any questions regarding content to him for clarification and response.

Mr. Saldaña, on behalf of the Economic Development Corporations and the Enterprise Zones around the state thanked the Partnership for the letter in April supporting reforms to the Enterprise Zone program. There are certain reforms going through that are expected to pass in the Legislature but they are reforms needed for the program and should bring good results in the future.

VI. UC Davis California Telehealth Network Launch

Mr. Robert Gore, representing the Chancellor of UC Davis and Frederick J. Meyers, MD provided an update on the UC Merced Telehealth Network. Dr. Meyers reviewed the evolution of the joint medical education initiative between UC Davis, UC Merced and UCSF-Fresno. That initiative proposed to start the enrollment of medical students in 2013; instead, that enrollment will begin on July 18, 2011, the Valley Prime program. The goal is to increase the number and diversity of health care professionals in the SJV; the vision is to improve the quality of care and of health in the SJV.

VII. High-Speed Rail Update

Ms. Forhan and Mr. Villines provided an update on the state of the High Speed Rail (HSR) project. The draft EIR/EIS reports are about to come out; the Partnership is encouraged to respond within the 45 day comments window. Mr. Villines acknowledged there is public opposition which is to be expected in any public infrastructure project of this size; the High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) endeavors to work with and respond to the concerns and opposition. Mr. Villines further commented that the Authority is working hard understand and to minimize the impact on agriculture. Mitigation efforts, among others, will include impact on irrigation, wind damage and pollination and bees. The Authority is committed to continue to bring the project along in a way that makes sense.

After spirited discussion the Chair asked the Board to direct staff to work with the Executive Committee to prepare a response to the EIR/EIS when it comes out. Language in the response should be general policy statements in support of and consistent with past actions of this board, and speak to the importance of local hire, job creation, minimizing impact on agriculture, to ensure it does not get away from the SJV and to retain flexibility on gaining a wider right of way authorization. Additional elements of that response should include encouragement of the Authority to focus and to accelerate, to strike the right balance between analysis and action. Ms. D'Adamo moved to approve, Mr. Weber seconded, and the motion was approved.

VIII. Broadband Consortium Resolution

Mr. Dozier explained the origin of the Broadband Consortium through SB 1040 and the Advanced Services Fund⁴ to provide assistance to the unserved and underserved, addressing the “digital divide” in California. Mr. Dozier asked the Board to approve the resolution recognizing the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley as the Regional

⁴ <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/Telco/Information+for+providing+service/announcingcasf.htm>

Broadband Consortium. Mr. Saldaña moved to approve, Mr. Weber seconded, and the motion was approved.

IX. Sustainable Communities Work Group Update

Mr. Smalley referred the Board to page 125 of the Board packet for detailed information on activities of the work group.

X. Smart Valley Places Report

Ms. Dabbs referred the Board to packet pages 133 to 141 for a detailed update on activities since the launch of the grant.

XI. Central Valley Regional Transportation Center

Mr. Hudson introduced himself and thanked the Partnership for its support of the Central Valley Regional Transportation Center project.⁵ The Kings Canyon Unified School district busses were overflowing their existing site and the City of Reedley Corporation Yard is in what is now a heavy residential area. The two entities partnered together to buy land adjacent to the local sports park with the intent to further partner in the construction of a joint-use facility. What started as a small (\$1-2million) project evolved into much larger endeavor as the participants considered the impact of consolidation; instead of losing jobs through consolidation, how to create sustainable jobs instead. There are funding opportunities for alternate fuel vehicles for the District and the City ranging from compressed natural gas (CNG) to solar powered vehicles. Consideration of alternative fuel vehicles led to questions about maintenance and support leading the participants to extend their partnership to include Reedley College as a logical training partner for “green” technicians.

Project Description: Kings Canyon Unified School District, the City of Reedley, Reedley, CA

The Central Valley Transportation Center is a joint-use transportation, maintenance, and educational center being shared between Kings Canyon Unified School District and the City of Reedley. Jointly sharing the project site, existing manpower resources and facility improvements will be leveraged for maximum efficiency, thus translating into saved money, energy costs and manpower. The 40-acre project site will house the transportation fleets for both partners, and include maintenance service bays, administration offices, an alternative fuel station, vehicle wash, a 1.2 megawatt solar array, and an alternative energy and maintenance training and educational center.

This facility will support and aid the end user to convert existing high polluting fleet vehicles to clean CNG fuel technology, thus resulting in a significantly reduced carbon footprint for this region. The Center has been designed for future expansion, and will also be capable of serving other regional school districts and governmental agencies.⁶

⁵ <http://www.kcbsd.com/190310122217550710/podcasts/browse.asp?a=399&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&c=55172>

⁶ http://www.dardenarchitects.com/new_galleries/k-12/cv_transporation_center.html

Mr. Weber moved that the Partnership provide a letter of support for the Central Valley Regional Transportation Center, Ms. Ashbeck seconded the motion, which was then approved.

XII. Strategic Assessment of the Partnership (continued from the March Meeting)

Chair Swearengin announced a brief break then transition into the respective breakout groups for strategic assessment discussion with subsequent report out.

XIII. 2011 Summit Plans

Mr. Dozier noted that the next board meeting falls in conjunction with the Partnership Summit in Bakersfield on October 6-7, 2011. Ms. Paul asked the Board to assist in promoting the event and

XIV. Public and Board Comment

Ms. Humiston shared press releases about grants available to the southern part of the Valley and encouraged use of the grants and support services available to residents and communities.⁷

XV. Adjourn

Chair Swearengin adjourned the meeting at some time around 5pm.

⁷ http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/Community_Development.html