

MINUTES

LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)

TUES, MARCH 7, 2017 -- 5PM -- SENIOR CENTER

Meeting called to order 5PM. Minutes approved, moved Marie Brashear. Second Jean Magee.

Attendance taken. Introductions.

Treasurer's report: February collection \$69.35 plus \$70 more for Howard Jarvis on the fire tax. We have sent Jarvis a total of \$182. Balance is \$8,423.82.

Cong. Cook (Dakota Higgins): Health Care replacement plan too new to have opinions yet. Conservation issues: conflict between feds and private parties regarding guzzlers for Big Horn Sheep and other wildlife. BLM is creating an advisory subgroup for DRECP, looking for private citizens to volunteer.

Obernolte report, by Ross Sevy. AB 912 requires state agencies to allow reduction or waiver of penalties under certain conditions. Governor has proposed plans to work on roads by raising gas tax, vehicle registration fees. Obernolte is co-authoring legislation to fund roads without raising taxes – with road revenue actually going to roads – not the general fund, etc. AB366 on water hauling is being finessed so that it will actually get out of committee and signed by governor. Re fire tax: should get preliminary ruling soon, and losing party will likely appeal. New field representative introduced: Chris Scott – replacing Yvette.

Third District report: At Board meeting today, Supervisor Ramos asked the County to consider a moratorium on renewable energy projects until County plan provides a basis for permitting and controlling the explosion of projects wanting in. Request includes an update on the Energy Element.

MWA Jim Ventura: Kirby Brill is retiring as General Manager, a loss to all of us. Looking for replacement. Water conservation programs will continue. Revenue over next 30 years will be difficult since it is difficult to get enough revenue through taxes on the citizens – and have to come up with funds to help pay for the Delta Projects. Watermaster just completed studies that determine rampdown pcts, and so far Lucerne Valley stays at 80%. We have a number of farmers who are pumping outside of the adjudication and represent a threat to the rest of us if it causes additional rampdown. Next Water Master meeting March 22. MWA has supported hauled water legislation.

Schools report: From Jim Harvey: school population holding at 700. Going to bid on solar project for all 3 schools.

Book project: June is target to get book finished and to the press, per Bill Lembright.

MAC: Jean Magee reported. Next meeting at 5PM on 3/16, at Community Center. County has been taking applications for board vacancy.

Sunshot initiative by Lorrie Steely. Showed 3 minute video that presents our proposal, with a \$500,000 grand prize, with \$200,000 runner up prize, by Dept. of Energy. Deadline March 17. Lorrie needs help to get project together. Trying to make the cut from 100 to 50 potential projects.

Chuck: Thanks to John Zemanek and Steve Mills and their law firm for all of their help in the battle against renewables threatening to swamp the desert. They get dozens of sponsors on their letters. John talked briefly about RETI agencies--these guys have travelled to Sacramento and see the influence of the grassroots opposition taking effect. We get referred to in a way no other area gets: "the Lucerne Valley/Johnson Valley/Morongo Basin area has significant grassroots opposition."

Scenic Highway 247 -- got stalled in County or somewhere – LVEDA helping to jumpstart it. Trying to get the County to take it over and run with it. Ramos is trying to help out with that.

Trash cleanup: state won't let us clean up the LVEDA section of Hwy 18 unless we go for trash training down below. No one will do that. \$40,000 is going to be available for tire pickup, from Cal Recycle.

April meeting will be Cal Poly students.

Hazardous waste collection March 18.

Peter Day announced that he is retiring from the Leader. Will hopefully hand off to a replacement at the end of the school year. Hopes there will be more local input and possibly volunteer effort. Chuck suggests in April we also work on ideas for the Leader.

Brian Meder: Report on CERT program that is struggling here in LV, mostly due to lack of cooperation by the County Fire guys. LV hasn't had emergencies to stimulate interest, so group is dwindling, leaving too much responsibility to too few people. Cal Fire may be willing to help.

Meeting at Senior Center on Wed., 3/8, 1PM on cannabis for medicinal purposes.

Meeting adjourned 6:50PM.