

MINUTES

LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)

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

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

Attendance taken. Introductions.

Treasurer's report: January collection \$61.12 plus \$112.00 for Jarvis Foundation re: Fire Tax.

Sgt. Siebert at a meeting on rural crimes. Asking him for stats on rural crimes; Kathryn at LVM will graph it. Glenn Davidson informed audience of a woman going around the gem tract, acting like she is looking for work, but in reality is casing houses for future theft.

Cong. Cook (Dakota Higgins): Congress is working on repealing regulations put in place by Obama within recent months. BLM 2.0 Initiative -- centralizes all comments so local public comments make their way to Washington. Last week introduced HR857 about off road recreation, OHV areas; Cook appointed as Vice Chair of House Foreign Affairs Committee. Lembright: please ask Cook to request that these industrial-scale solar/wind projects' subsidies defunded.

State of CA report by Yvette: AB2 makes attacks on law enforcement hate crimes; AB288 makes due dates on fire fees change to 60 from 30 days.

Third District report: looking for a resident to serve on MAC Board. Application due by Feb. 10. Retirement of Greg Devereaux, CEO of County—which might give our (elected/accountable) Supervisors more say in governance.

MWA Jim Ventura: MWA hasn't increased property taxes in 20 years but has a big bill to pay without knowing where money is coming from. Our allocation of available water is now up to 60%. Kirby Brill, manager of MWA, is retiring this spring. March 8 High Desert Water Summit. March 28 ABC's of Water. May 3 an educational program. Watermaster in charge of allocations of water, ramp downs. Lucerne Valley has not had a ramp down for years. Hope it continues. Re recharge basin: probably not before 2023. Pipeline in place. Study being done. When and if there is surplus water available not needed by entities who paid for the pipeline - we could store it in a recharge basin – but have to figure out a way to pay for it.

Schools report: School population went from 720 to 703.

MAC: Roger Peterson is now Chairman of the MAC. Will discuss the vision of the future for the MAC board at next meeting. Beverly Lowry retired as field rep. and is replaced by Molly Wiltshire, who is a good replacement. Do need a volunteer to serve on MAC Board.

What does MAC do? Municipal Advisory Council. Covers CSA29 and Johnson Valley. Appointed by Board of Supervisors. Purpose is to advise our supervisor on issues pertinent to our community.

Scenic Highway 247 project has disappeared from County's agenda. Per Betty: Project started by volunteers just before solar projects became such an issue. County changed its standards to correspond to those of State of CA. Suddenly an ugly cell tower appeared in open desert near

highway, within scenic corridor. Need to jumpstart the project before it gets buried in scenic disruptions like solar projects and other stuff. Appeals to tourists from all over the world who want to see California desert. Last highway to be eligible for Scenic Highway status, but County must make the request to the State. Try to turn up the heat now since Devereaux is retiring.

NextEra Solar Project in North Valley, by Brian Hammer. Complaint that residents are not getting notices. Brian talked to County guy who assured him they will send out notices again, and will require a full Environmental Impact Report, which is good news for our side – and which LVEDA demanded in its response.

JoAnna Wright: Supervisor Ramos will be at HVCC meeting on Monday 2/13 at 3PM.

Chuck reviewed for new attendees some of the renewable projects that have submitted applications. 7 or 8 potential square miles of solar. Plus other projects not on the list.

Bill Lembright: according to Scott Fritz, we could lose the translator unless we agree to tax ourselves. Could happen in 60 to 90 days – but decisions probably a long way off. A new tax will not likely pass here in LV. Could cost \$10,000 for an upgrade. Might be other options.

Real estate report (Edie): Land is selling as long as price is low enough. Private land worth nothing unless they sell it for solar projects, and many owners are absentee and don't particularly care. Houses are selling but not enough houses to sell to people who want to move here. Houses are not financible.

Announcements: Diane Holland -- on March 4 a Souper Supper and Bake Sale 5-7 PM, \$7.00, all you can eat. Annual Mega Swap Meet first weekend in May. 100 vendors last year. \$15.00 per space. Sponsored by Chamber of Commerce.

Meeting adjourned 6:45PM.