LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

January 3, 2022

Meeting called to order 5PM.

**Minutes** approved.  Moved and Approved. Debbie Schultz moved. Dave Rib second.

**Treasurer’s Report.** Collection Nov. 1 was $112 and gave $25 to Moose Lodge. Balance $2849.16. Dave Rib announced that Mike Jasberg is retiring from Mitsubishi Cement, to be replaced by current plant manager Austin Marshall. Dave Rib will be promoted to be plant manager,

**Sheriff’s report**. Sgt. Weinberg Introduced Capt. Jeremy Martinez who has been Capt. For about a year. Read stats of marijuana busts for the year. Total value est. at $295,870. Question: What do they do about toxins? DA has been cooperating in prosecuting suspects if they can identify those responsible. If we know of some who simply relocate, let sheriff know. Discussion about water issues and who is taking action on these issues. Any deportations? Not allowed to work with ICE because it’s KALIFORNIA. Discussion of the hemp vs. marijuana issue, identifying hemp and checking grows against permits. What happens to the cash? Goes to an asset forfeiture process, both state and federal, and can take up to two years. Question: What are the rights of the citizens regarding protection of their own property? Call it in to the sheriff and they will respond as fast as they can.

**Assemblyman Smith, submitted by Miriam Munoz**

**Back to Session**

* Today, January 3rd members of the Assembly and Senate meet for the 2022 legislative session
* On January 10th, the budget must be submitted to the legislature by the Governor
* February 18th will be the last day a new bill can be introduced by a member of the Assembly or Senate
* Following their introduction, they will go through the committee process which needs to be completed by April 29th

**Asm. Smith Legislative Package**

* Legislative council is currently drafting three bills in regard to illegal cannabis grows. We expect to introduce these bills within the next 2 weeks. Issues include:
  + Illegal cannabis cultivation penalties
  + Prosecute illegal grows who are using illegal pesticides that harm our water table
  + Aiding and abetting water theft for illegal grows.
* He also is working on legislation and a resolution against the proposal to make the western Joshua Tree an endangered species.
* If you have any other legislative ideas, please contact our office at Assemblymember.Smith@assembly.ca.gov or (916) 319-2033.

**Senator Grove, submitted by Dominic.** 2021 was another record year. Senator Grove continued to fight for farmers’ and California residents’ access to water; she dismantled anti-oil bills that would have demolished our state’s energy independence; she proposed common sense measures to improve the Employment Development Department, while also assisting thousands of constituents with their claims. Our office helped stop a sexually violent predator from being placed in Newberry Springs, and Senator Grove is incredibly grateful to the San Bernardino County D.A. and Sheriff for their leadership on that effort.

Senator Grove’s efforts to fight the proliferation of illegal cannabis in California included town halls, in-person tours, discussions with the County of San Bernardino, as well as numerous attempts to educate state agency and department heads on the seriousness of the problems at hand. Using her unique platform as a member of the Senate Rules Committee, Senator Grove highlighted the issue of illegal cannabis during the August confirmation hearing for the new chair of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). We are also so grateful for the successes that San Bernardino County has had already with Operation Hammer Strike.

The California Legislature just reconvened today for 2022 session. Our staff is actively working on the package of bills that Senator Grove is planning to introduce and coauthor. The deadline for bills to be introduced is February 18. We continue to encourage constituents to use our “Submit a Legislative Proposal” page  at <https://grove.cssrc.us/submit-legislative-proposal> to provide input on legislation

**Steve Reyes for Supervisor Rowe**

**Recently Approved County Ordinances**

* December 7 – San Bernardino County Light Trespass Ordinance is passed and will gradually take effect over the course of two years.
* December 14 – San Bernardino County Ordinance for the Abatement of Illegal Cannabis Sites approved.

**Operation Hammer Strike - Week Number 18 Statistics:**

18 – Total Search Warrants

15 – Suspects Arrested

7,972– Cannabis Plants Seized

4,575 pounds – Processed Marijuana

1 – Firearm Seized

$212,000.00 – Estimated Cash Seized

93 – Greenhouse Eradications

Total Wholesale Product Value of Cannabis Seized This Week= $9,417,100.00

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Year-to-Date Stats:

406 – Total Search Warrants

472 – Suspects Arrested

385,727 – Cannabis Plants Seized

85,084 pounds – Processed marijuana

21 Pounds, 8 Grams – Concentrated Cannabis

8 grams – Methamphetamine

130 – Firearms Seized

$1,459,449.00 – Estimated Cash Seized

2,690 – Greenhouse Eradications

6 – Mitigated Electrical Bypass (Severe Fire Hazard)

6 – THC Extraction Lab

Total Wholesale Product Value of Cannabis Seized This Operation = $295,818,870.00

**Code Enforcement Cannabis Update (Week of 12/17 – 12/26)**

856 – Total Open Cases

139 – Cases Closed

207 – Notice of Complaints Completed

419 – Notice of Violations Completed

186 – Citations Issued

146 – Cases Referred to MET

Citation Amount Total $361,000

**Jim Harvey on redistricting.** Sat in the meetings and observed the process, which turned out to be somewhat partisan, slanted against Republicans. The good news: we stay in the Third District, with Dawn Rowe. We stay in the 8th Assembly District. We will end up in Senate district called Morongo ?? district. Assembly district will be #34 (currently #33). Complex rules about timing, election of sitting representatives and when the actual change takes place.

(BTW, Jim Harvey designated Citizen of the Year by Morongo Basin Sheriff’s Dept., a big deal)

On Scenic 247, we have good news. In the last stages of approval. Planning Commission very supportive. In Corridor Protection Process now. Presently in public comment process. In four sections that do not include Lucerne Valley. Could impact the Stagecoach Solar and other projects.

Re: long range shooting range that moved here from Montana. Located north of the Cove. Seems to be a mystery how they got here without proper permits. Involves various agencies since the shooting occurs over 1600 yds, and various jurisdictions, so much finger pointing. Residents are worried. No red flags after Sheriff ran them through their system.

**Peter Livingston, LVUSD.** Big project at elementary school to allow for fast expansion from 360 to 600 students. Board reorganized. President is Jessica Risler. Issuing resolutions against mask wearing, vaccine mandates, in terms of local control. Enrollment now 980 (650 5 years ago). Charter School enrollment now over 10,000, up 20% in 2 years. Setting up a process to pay off debt by 2026.

**Museum Ass’n by Chelsea LaGrange** They got the fire truck back that is in the book and it’s on display and can be used in parades etc.Board meeting will be on Jan. 21st

**Announcements.** Town Cleanup done by County on Feb. 5 at the Market.

Adjourned 6:40.