MINUTES

LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018 -- 5PM -- SENIOR CENTER

Meeting called to order 5PM

**Minutes approved**. Moved Jean Magee; second Marie Brashear.

**Treasurer's report.** Collection 3/6/18 was $67.60, balance $3929.55. Mitsubishi paid $95 for renewal of website fee.

**Dakota Higgins for Congressman Cook**. Hope everyone commented on DRECP. Cook posted a comment thru Congressional channels. 10% increase in defense spending. Much not to like in Omnibus Spending bill. Needed military funding in it. Why can't they take $ from some of the military money to build border wall? Stay tuned. Supports AG Sessions lawsuit against Sanctuary State laws in CA. Chuck says California farmers need visa workers.

**Shannon Dunkle for Assemblyman Obernolte.** AB 2397 re information sharing between agencies. AB2535 there must be a photo accompanying a ticket you receive. AB2806 re electric vehicle parking exempting disabled people from getting a ticket for using those spaces. Office working on meeting with BLM and State Lands re: land exchanges.

**Mark Lundquist, Third District**. Just received an email requesting a letter of intent in support of Scenic Highway designation for Highway 247. Section 4.1 should go before Planning Commission May 3 [since moved to May 24]. Hoping for video conference. Hauled water issue -- being looked at. Chuck has a line on 4 people in Johnson Valley with good actionable hauled water stories. Will meet with PLF.

**MWA by Jim Ventura.** Working on ways to help areas that are in overdraft, other than just rampdown or conservation, e.g. Newberry Springs.

**School district: Chuck reporting from Jim Harvey**. “School enrollment update: We are continuing to increase - now over 750 students - up 50 from the beginning of the year. Most of the growth is at the Elementary school. This is the largest district growth in over 10 years. The board appointed Jessica Risler to the seat opened by the resignation of Brooke Diegmiller last month. It is a short term seat that goes on the ballot this Nov, along with Ruben's seat, Carmen's seat, and my seat. So 4 seats on the ballot in Nov. We are still on schedule to have all the solar panels installed after school ends. The project will be finished for the new upcoming school year in August. The school district owns the system entirely. It was funded through reserves maintained through being very fiscally responsible over the past 10 years. No loans, no interest payments. The system is large enough to supply virtually all of the district's annual electricity needs. Next regular board meeting is April 12. On the agenda is a Public Hearing to consider authorizing another Charter School - Gorman Learning Center. They are an existing charter school that lost their authorization by Gorman Joint School District through the recent Shasta ruling. They serve over 1300 students with Independent Study programs. They are very well liked by their previous authorizer. If approved this will be our 4th charter school we provide oversight for. (Currently authorize Sky Mountain, Learn 4 Life, Elite Academy)  Sky Mountain and Learn 4 Life serve some LV children with independent study programs we cannot provide. These are win-win relationships.”

**Progress on LV book, by Bill Lembright**: 400 stories collected. Need more pictures to go with stories.

**MAC meeting by Roger Peterson**. Next meeting 4/19. Have one opening and maybe a second one coming up [since this, it’s up to 3 and maybe 4]. Need volunteers to fill the vacancies. MAC will request the County to support the actions of the counties and sheriff’s departments that are choosing to opt out of compliance with Sanctuary state laws. Having trouble getting timely information from County on solar projects. Finding "inaccuracies" in their applications. Wants to use as a basis to deny applications.

DRECP reopening of plan. State Lands Commission. SB County. BLM. All kinds of interactions between agencies. Good luck figuring it out.

**Steve Mills** showed slides of potential renewable energy projects around our desert. MWA produced the maps due to concern where developers get water rights for construction. Original policy 4.10 blocked out any utility scale solar projects within communities with a community plan. They created an alternative policy 4.10 cooked up by planning staff. This one opens up our communities to development if developers sell the residents on the idea that this is a good thing. Also encourages developers to bribe community for consent to the projects. Need bodies to show up at Planning Commission chambers en masse to convince them to support the original 4.10.

Attached below are the texts of the original Policy 4.10 of the Renewable Energy Conservation Element (RECE) and the revised 4.10 being considered. We demand that the County support and implement the original.

**Chuck read a LVEDA memo** sent to a variety of agencies trying to determine status of Power Purchase Agreements, cost of dumping unnecessary power production into other areas, and other pointed questions.

**Chuck reported mulch and green waste** drive-around with County people. They agreed that we have a problem and they are issuing citations which will take time to enforce.

**Betty Munson on Scenic Hwy 247.** Betty, Chuck, 2 Cal Trans people, a landscape architect, and a couple of others toured Hwy 247 in three cars. Were looking for man made intrusions that would hurt the scenic designation.

**Chuck on air quality.** AQMD has bought dust sensors that cost $200 that require wifi. Anyone who is downwind from the dust producing areas should apply for it.

**Announcement.** Great American Worm Race May 4 at Elementary School. Mega Swap Meet Saturday May 5 all around town. Cinco de Mayo Fiesta at JV Community Center on May 5.

Meeting adjourned. 7:00PM

Original and REVISED policies for the County’s Renewable Energy and Conservation Element (RECE) – for April 19 Planning Commission hearing:

**RE Policy 4.10: Prohibit utility-oriented RE project development on sites that would create adverse impacts on the quality of life or economic development opportunities in existing unincorporated communities.**

RE 4.10.1: Prohibit development of utility-oriented RE projects in the Rural Living land use districts throughout the County.

RE 4.10.2: Prohibit development of utility-oriented RE projects within the boundaries of existing community plans, which at the time of adoption of this Element are the Bloomington, Muscoy, Bear Valley, Crest Forest, Hilltop, Lake Arrowhead, Lytle Creek, Oak Glen, Homestead Valley, Joshua Tree, Lucerne Valley, Morongo Valley, Oak Hills and Phelan/Pinon Hills Community Plans.

RE 4.10.3: Establish exclusion areas in the Development Code regulations for renewable energy development, beginning with the prohibitions in Policies 4.10.1 and 4.10.2 and provide for additional exclusion areas, such as new community plan areas, to be designated by amendment to the Development Code.

**REVISED STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR POLICY 4.10:**

**RE Policy 4.10: Require utility-oriented RE project applications to include a community compatibility report to outline project benefits and measures intended to protect the quality of life and economic opportunities in existing unincorporated communities.**

RE 4.10.1: The community compatibility report shall identify elements of the project site design that have been incorporated to enhance compatibility with surrounding properties and existing communities. The report may be preliminary upon submittal, and may be updated as application review and environmental analysis proceeds. The following subjects shall be addressed, if applicable: o If the project site is located within the boundaries of an adopted community plan, include an analysis of consistency with community values and aspirations outlined in the community plan.

o Explain how natural features of the site, such as elevation, topography or vegetation, combined with project design, will minimize potential visual impacts of the project.

o Explain how planned improvements to the project site will minimize impacts or benefit other properties. This may include avoidance of natural drainage courses, making improvements that will reduce drainage impacts on downstream properties, allowing for wildlife movement through or around the site, or minimizing and managing impacts of blowing sand.

o Identify any benefits to public utilities or public services that may result from construction of the project. This may include energy transmission or distribution system improvements that would enhance energy reliability, water system improvements, or land use conversion that would decrease demand for public services.

o Detail anticipated on-site or off-site project improvements that will benefit the community at large or other properties, such as road and drainage improvements.

o Identify any commitment to employ the local labor force or cooperate with local job training or apprenticeship programs.

o Identify any planned efforts to engage County residents and visitors through marketing or public education that will enhance interest in renewable energy and appreciation of the project.