

MINUTES
LINCOLN COUNTY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LCRDA)
CALIENTE CITY HALL
March 2, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hurd at 4:30 pm.

Determination of Quorum: The following Board members were in attendance:

Mr. David Hurd
Mr. George T. Rowe
Mr. Eric Bernal
Mr. Jay Schofield
Mr. Nolan Avery
Emilia Cargill

Members absent:

Commissioner Varlin Higbee
Mr. Regen Gubler

Members of the public: Marcia Hurd, Chair, Lincoln County Authority of Tourism, Dr. Donald Deever, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension; Colin Robertson, Administrator, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation; Inc., Eileen Christenson, BEC Environmental, Rachel Schlick, BEC Environmental; Kelly Shehan, BEC, Environmental and Dr. Stephen Clarke, QuanVerge, Inc.

Public Comment: Don Deever discussed the community access process. And said that he brought Surveys for the Board to review and encouraged participation in the on-line survey.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Hurd asked if there were any changes to the February 3, 2020 meeting minutes and Mr. Fontaine noted the addition of Bevan Lister, Shirley Johnson and Beverly Peterson to members of the public who were present. Chairman Hurd then asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Rowe moved to approve the February 3, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schofield and was approved unanimously.

Financial Report and Quarterly Expenditures: Mr. Fontaine said that the February 26, 2020 Financial Report was under TAB 2A and noted that the changes from the last report were the reimbursement of \$27,181.50 by the State for the OHV grant and his most recent invoice for \$3,667.70 which is listed under Tab 2B. Mr. Fontaine also said Ben Rowley forwarded him an invoice on Friday from High Impact Sign and Design, LLC which is the balance for NDOT Community sign panels and requested that the Board also approve it. Mr. Schofield moved, and Mr. Avery seconded a motion to approve the February 26, 2020 financial report and the invoice from Mr. Fontaine and invoice from High Impact Sign and Design, LLC. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action to Augment the Lincoln County Regional Development Authority Executive Director's Contract to Pay for Subcontracting Expenses Related to the Pinyon Juniper Utilization Project and Federal Lands Access Program Grant Application:

Mr. Fontaine requested that his contract be increased by \$6,1000 to cover the invoices from Resource Concepts Inc. for the work done to prepare the cost estimate for the Federal Lands Access Program grant application for Crestline Road for on-call work associated with pinyon-juniper project. He said that \$3,000 could be moved from the Grants budget and \$3,100 could be moved from the Target Industry Analysis budget.

Mr. Schofield moved to augment the LCRDA Executive Director's Contract to pay for subcontracting expenses. The motion was seconded by Mr. Avery and was approved unanimously.

Presentation on the status, accomplishments, and potential of the Rural Desert Southwest Brownfields Coalition (RDSBC) throughout Lincoln County. Discussion and encouragement of community participation in the identification of potential brownfields projects:

Rachel Schlict gave a brief history of the Coalition which she said was expanded but focused on southwest desert region. Chairman Hurd asked if the Brownfields Program funded identification or clean up or both, to which Ms. Schlict said both. She also said that since 2011 the Program included grants and loans and that the initial assessment is 100 percent grants, while 20 percent of clean ups are grants. There was discussion about and leveraging resources such as CDBG. In response to question from Chairman Hurd, Ms. Schlict said that there are low interest long term loans and that repayment doesn't start until property is restored and generating revenue. Ms. Schlict noted some of the Brownfield projects in Lincoln County including the Pahrnagat High School auto shop and Gem Theater. She also said that the Program can reimburse travel to go to conferences and that there is more focus on renewable energy projects.

Update on the Lincoln County Community Asset Survey:

Mr. Fontaine reminded Board about survey and said that it was given to the City of Caliente and Lincoln County to post on their websites.

Update on the QuanVerge Concept for Obtaining Renewable Energy and Materials from Pinyon Juniper:

Dr. Clarke said he has been working hard on a stewardship contract with BLM and that he has heard encouraging information about a 20-year stewardship agreement. He said his project is about a guarantee of supplies and that he should not have problems getting partners and customers if we have guaranteed supplies. He also said that it makes more sense to use biomass than oil but that the stumbling block is scale. Chairman Hurd asked whether the process includes a mobile plant to address logistics and Dr. Clark said that the point of harvest capture is efficient. He also said that they have received a good response from BLM, very good response from USFS and that he signed agreement with Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory to

characterize pinyon juniper for volatiles. He said that JP 10 jet fuel gets you 30 percent more energy. Chairman Hurd complimented Dr. Clarke for his presentation. Mr. Schofield asked whether cottonwood trees could be used for fuels and Dr. Clarke said that cottonwood trees could also be a potential resource.

Update and Possible Action Regarding Lincoln County's a Federal Lands Access Program Grant to Perform a Thirty Percent Design for Improvements to Approximately Eleven Miles of Crestline Road from Nevada State Route 319 to Lincoln County Parcel Number 01306006:

Mr. Fontaine said that he made a presentation to the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners in the morning and that they voted to submit an application for a Federal Lands Access to fund a 30 percent engineering design which would include a cost estimate to construct the improvements

He also suggested that the Board authorize him to work with the County on preparing the application.

Update on Developing a Rail Transloading Facility in Lincoln County:

Mr. Fontaine said that the Nevada Department of Transportation would like to hold a workshop on the Lincoln County element of the statewide rail plan in Caliente on May 27th and he encouraged LCRDA members and others to attend.

Update on Activities of the Lincoln County Authority of Tourism:

LCAT Chairwoman Hurd said that State agencies are calling on LCAT to find out what we are doing, and that USDA recently helped them with a Strategic Planning Session. She also said that the Nevada Outdoor Recreation Division wanted to meet and that they have connections with *Travel Nevada*. Ms. Hurd also said that the State has selected LCAT for a pilot project for destination development and that two LCAT members have been invited to speak at the Rural Roundup. She said that Travel Nevada is doing a contest on Hot Springs in Nevada, that off-road racing starts in April and that Lincoln County is a second choice for the National Interscholastic Bicycle Racing. She said that Don Deever identified 130 attractions in Lincoln County even though he has been here only a short time and reported that the BLM is seeking more SNPLMA funding for bike trails in the County.

Board Member/Executive Director Comments. Chairman Hurd asked about the progress of Depot restoration and Mr. Rowe said that the City was told that they can go with second ranked bidder and that it will be on the agenda for approval at the City Council meeting. In response to a question from Chairman Hurd, Mr. Fontaine responded that he has not heard from the Atlanta Gold Mine regarding their status or need for property boundary adjustment.

Next Meeting: It was decided that the next meeting would be a teleconference on April 20 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Public Comment: Dr. Deever said that he was working with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services on a Medicaid assistance program for residents of Lincoln County.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20.