

MINUTES
LINCOLN COUNTY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LCRDA)
TELECONFERENCE

May 27, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hurd at 4:40 pm.

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

Mr. David Hurd
Councilman George T. Rowe
Ms. Emilia Cargill
Commissioner Varlin Higbee
Mr. Nolan Avery

Members absent:

Mr. Regen Gubler
Mr. Jay Schofield
Mr. Eric Bernal

Members of the public: Marcia Hurd, President, Lincoln County Authority of Tourism and Stephen Clarke, QuanVerge, Inc.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Hurd asked if there were any changes to the April 20, 2020 meeting minutes and seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Cargill moved to approve the April 20, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rowe and was approved unanimously.

Financial Report and Expenditures: Mr. Fontaine said that the May 20, 2020 Financial Report was under TAB 2A and noted the changes since the last report under contract services which included his invoice. Mr. Fontaine said his invoice and progress report were under TAB 2B and that there was another invoice from Chairman Hurd for \$76 for the Authority's P.O. Box under TAB 2C.

Commissioner Higbee moved, and Councilman Rowe seconded a motion to approve the financial report and the invoices from Mr. Fontaine and Chairman Hurd. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Lincoln County Regional Development Authority's FY 2021 Budget: Mr. Fontaine said that action on the proposed budget was deferred from last meeting and asked Commissioner Higbee if he could verify whether the County had included \$10,000 in its budget for LCRDA for next year. Commissioner Higbee said that he thought that the \$10,000 was included in the County's budget. Councilman Rowe asked Mr. Fontaine to send an invoice to the City for \$1,000. Chairman Hurd noted that the P.O. Box rental was \$76 this year and that should be reflected in the new budget.

Councilman Rowe moved, and Ms. Cargill seconded a motion to approve Lincoln County Regional Development Authority's FY 2021 Budget with the change noted by Chairman Hurd. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of a Letter from the Lincoln County Regional Development Authority Requesting a One-Year Extension of His Contract to June 30, 2021 and Reimbursement of a Sum Not to Exceed \$50,000: Mr. Fontaine said that this item was not properly listed on the agenda and should read: *Approval of a One-Year Extension of the Contract between the Lincoln County Regional Development Authority and Nevada Authority Management, LLC for Professional Services to June 30, 2021 and Reimbursement of a Sum Not to Exceed \$50,000.* He asked to bring the item back to the next Board meeting in July.

Approval to Purchase an Informational Kiosk and Authorize a Payment to RockArt, Inc. Not to Exceed \$9,049 to be Reimbursed from the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles Program 2019 Grant to the Lincoln County Regional Development Authority: Mr. Fontaine said that he received approval from the OHV Program staff to use the remaining balance in the OHV grant to purchase another double panel kiosk or possibly two single panel kiosks for OHV and trail information. He said that the original plan was to place a single panel kiosk at the entrance to Clover Canyon but that it was placed along Front Street across from Jerry's Sinclair.

Commissioner Higbee moved, and Ms. Cargill seconded a motion to give the Executive Director flexibility to purchase a two panel informational kiosk or two single panel kiosks and authorize a payment to RockArt, Inc. not to exceed \$9,049 to be reimbursed from the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles Program 2019 Grant to the Lincoln County Regional Development Authority. The motion was approved unanimously.

Update and Possible Action regarding Community Development Block Grants to Prevent, Prepare for and Respond to Coronavirus; and the Economic Development Administrations' Coronavirus Aid, relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES ACT) Recovery Assistance:

Mr. Fontaine provided an overview of Community Development Block Grants and Economic Development Administration grants funded under the CARES Act and said that he had forward the information to the County and City of Caliente. He said that Lincoln County and the City of Caliente can apply for CDBG grants to provide assistance to businesses, including special economic development assistance, buildings and improvements, including public facilities, and constructing a facility for testing, diagnosis, or treatment of Coronavirus.

He said that the timeline for applying for CDBG was compressed with applications due in mid-August and that the EDA grants will be awarded until funding is completed. He said that the County and City could apply for CDBG and that the Regional Development Authority could apply for EDA grants but that the applications must be tied back to Coronavirus prevention, treatment, and response. He said that to be eligible for funding

under EDA's CARES Act Recovery Assistance, applicants must explain clearly in their application how the proposed project would "prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus" or respond to "economic injury as a result of coronavirus."

Mr. Fontaine said he was still looking into how CDBG and EDA funds might be used for economic development projects and asked the Board to let him know if they had any suggestions.

Approval of a Letter of Intent between the Lincoln County Regional Development Authority and QuanVerge, Inc. to Create Local Employment Opportunities in Harvesting Pinyon and Juniper for the Generation of Renewable Energy and Production of Biomass-Based Products:

Mr. Fontaine said that the draft letter of intent is to memorialize in writing the agreement between LCRDA and QuanVerge as its exclusive Prime Contractor for all commercial matters in the establishment of economic value from the performance of work under a BLM Stewardship Agreement, including but not limited to, harvesting the biomass, processing the harvested material, generating renewable energy and producing other biomass based products, including advanced transportation fuels and polymers. He said that he would like to have the Lincoln County DA and possible City Attorney review the draft LOI and bring it back at a future meeting, possibly July. He also said that the BLM has posted the Cooperative Agreement for Forests and Woodlands Resource Management and is accepting applications until July 15th and that this is basically a 20-year stewardship agreement.

Chairman Hurd suggested that the letter of intent include a background & purpose and proper disposal of all waste materials. Ms. Cargill, offered that the agreement should include provisions for regular written updates from QuanVerge and remedies, including termination, if QuanVerge is not living up to the terms of the letter of intent and stops working with LCRDA.

Dr. Clarke commented that the biofuels industry has slowed down considerably the last couple of months because of COVID-19 and discussed the need to develop more efficient harvesting techniques for the size and scale of the operations for 20 years and the skill set to utilize mechanized harvesting. He said that he is engaging with equipment manufacturers and that Lawrence Berkeley Livermore Laboratory will still be conducting the chemical analysis.

Update on Activities of the Lincoln County Authority of Tourism (LCAT) and Possible Approval of Funding to Maintain the LCAT Website in 2021: LCAT President Marcia Hurd provided a written update on the activities of LCAT which is attached to these minutes. Ms. Hurd said that the LCAT budget includes the county tourism website, social media marketing and email list marketing and newsletter to local businesses and outside tourism interests that they have financed through grants from *Travel Nevada*. She said that they have been told not to count on getting any grants this year and that these are the core expenses that will keep Lincoln County tourism promoted. Ms. Hurd said that the proposed budget to maintain these services and

expand their audience is \$8,797.00. Ms. Hurd said that LCAT would like to request help from LCRDA in funding all or part of this specific expense for their 2020/2021 budget. Chairman Hurd asked Mr. Fontaine about the request and Mr. Fontaine said that LCRDA has been working closely with LCAT for some time to develop tourism and outdoor recreation as part of Lincoln County's economic diversification and that it would be appropriate to assist with their budget if the Board chose to do so. Councilman Rowe asked if LCRDA had enough funding in its budget to assist, to which Mr. Fontaine replied that LCRDA's does have funding in marketing and other areas to assist with all or a portion of LCAT's request. Mr. Fontaine said that given the uncertainty of revenues and future grants the Board might want to consider approving a portion the requested amount to help LCAT keep things going through the summer and then revisit the request for funding later in the year.

Ms. Cargill moved, and Councilman Rowe seconded a motion to approve giving \$5,000 to LCAT for tourism website, social media marketing and email list marketing and newsletters to local businesses and outside tourism interests, and for LCAT to come back to the Board in four months for a review. Chairman Hurd disclosed his spousal relationship with Marcia Hurd but stated that neither one would benefit from approval of the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Board Member/Executive Director Comments.

Mr. Fontaine said that Lincoln County was not approved for a Federal Lands Access Program grant application and that based on the letter he received from the Federal Highways Administration the Nevada FLAP Committee is looking for projects that improve significant access to high-use recreation sites and economic generators. He also commented that the stay at home orders in Nevada and other States have demonstrated that there is a substantial portion of the workforce that can and will continue to work at home and/or telecommute. He said that is an opportunity for Lincoln County as individuals and families may want to relocate. Chairman Hurd suggested that perhaps LCAT could assist with a marketing plan or brochure about the advantages of Lincoln County. There was a discussion about infrastructure in the County including broadband and airports and whether upgrades would be needed to attract businesses and workers.

Next Meeting: It was decided that the next meeting would be another teleconference on June 22 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.