

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
August 1, 2007
Read Lion Hotel – 7:00am**

Board members present: Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Mel Campbell, Campbell's Vacation Apts; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours! Antiques; Eric Farm, Menasha; Mark Mattecheck, North Bend Lanes; Ron Opitz, South Coast Development Center;
Others present: Deryl Beebe, Ambassadors; Chris Coles, Coos Bay Downtown Association; Timm Slater, Executive Director; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

President Jenny Bream called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the table. July minutes were approved and seconded.

Presidents Report – Jenny welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Meeting attendance is low, not sure of the reason for low attendance. She stressed importance of board attendance. It has been an easy month at the Chamber. She Made a trip to Eugene and was very thankful to live on the Oregon Coast, as it was too hot in the Valley. She also took the grandchildren to the Aquarium in Newport and made a first visit to the town of Yachats. What a wonderful place.

Executive Director's Report- Timm asked the Board to keep him advised on issues that fall under "What ever happened with", that they would like to know about. As he receives the request he will research it and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

A. Area Updates: Timm invited Ron Opitz to update the board on what is taking place with Oregon Resource Corporation. Ron reports that the Corporation has applied to the County for permits to begin mining the deposits on private forest lands and processing the material at a Bunker Hill industrial site . Their test holes were found to have rich deposits. Land samples were taken to a depth of 25 feet. These samples are sectioned in layers; the final section is a deep black color. This project has been in the making for 15 years. It's time to step up and get it going. Ron would hate to see the project leave the area. Oregon Resource Corporation will employ 70 people. These jobs will have full medical packages for the employees. The mining process is good for forest environment as it rehabilitates the land as it is mined. The plant will be located in Bunker Hill. The County Planning Commission will meet Thursday August 2, 2007, at the Coos County Annex. Please show your support. A suggestion was made that in the future, if projects like the Oregon Resource Corporation could make a presentation to the Board or IBO, business leaders could be better informed, able to form a timely opinion and provide support to the projects as they are being developed.

B. Director Chats have been a great use of time and a good source of information. The consensus of the chats is to see the Chamber active in issues that impact the community. As an organization which represents all businesses, we need an active relationship with the cities and other jurisdictions to promote our economic health and future directions. There was a strong support for IBO luncheons, to keep the business focused and sharing fresh ideas.

C. Workdrugfree Initiative- On July 17th Timm met with Becky Lunetta (South Coast Employer Council), Dick Leshley(who started the first Drug Free Task force) and Mimi Bushman (Oregon Nurses Foundation) on a statewide effort to support the establishment of drug free workplace programs. This is a current, active and effective program being embraced by businesses and Chambers of Commerce through out the state. The grand vision is for all workplaces to be drug free. The question is how to do it. Becky would like to partner with the Chamber to establish a new task force. The workdrugfree initiative has a variety of presentations and programs to aid in businesses getting started or expanding their efforts. The benefits of a drug free workplace to your business and employees have been proven through stories shared by business owners like Dick who have made a commitment to provide a drug free workplace.

D. Committee Status and opportunities – Dick Leshley, Sam Roth and Andy Post (Charter) have expressed interest in working on a steering committee for IBO. We will continue to develop the new team and schedule the fall run of IBO. Government Affairs—Rich Howell retired from ESD and will no longer be co-chair. He may facilitate the legislative session phone calls from SOCC. Dick Leshley, if he goes to IBO, will step out as the other co-chair. Maybe governmental affairs could move to a quarterly meeting. Possibly they should switch from breakfast to a luncheon. Possibly that quarterly meeting could be an IBO session. Economic development—Adam Zimmerman is now operating out of Portland, leaving Barry Hayes without a co-chair. Also Jon Richards retired in June. He spearheaded the Economic Outlook Forum each year. While his organization will head the effort this year, we need to be looking for a viable transition to maintain this excellent program in 2008 and beyond. Education— they are still forming, defining its purpose and mission. It will meet again in September.

E. Handyman- Timm shared some odd jobs. Last night was the finals for Senior Idol at Ocean Ridge. Timm emceed the contest. It was a very good time had by all except for one disgruntled contestant upset with the judging. Tom Hoesly from Menasha asked Timm to guide some of the Menasha tours that take place Wednesday afternoons. So he got his first one in July 25th. Arlene Soto has replaced Jon Richards at the Business Development Center. Several jobs have been combined that Arlene will take on. She is very capable and with an excellent track record. We look forward to working with her.

Treasurer's Report- Sherry reports that the Chamber is on Track. They have a balance of \$134,989.71. This amount is down from last year, as explained before, due to some overlapping expenses with the changes that have taken place with the chamber staff. All and all everything looks good.

Ambassadors- Deryl shared a brochure that she developed to help promote the 2008 Ambassadors Convention, to be held in the Bay Area. Promotions committee has granted \$1000 to help with printing and postage. Mark suggested to Deryl to contact Katherine, possibility to work with promotions ad agency to develop ambassador's brochure. Efforts for the 2008 convention are being set aside as the Ambassadors get ready to represent the Bay Area in September at the 2007 convention being held in Eugene. 15 Ambassadors are planning on attending this event. These people will be attending the convention at their own expense. Eugene sent invitations to all Chambers. Deryl extended an invitation to Charleston to attend the Eugene Convention. The Ambassadors will be contacting local businesses asking for donations for items to be included in the baskets that will be raffled at the convention. These baskets are to reflect our community and encourage people to come to our area, stay at our motels, eat at our restaurants and shop at our shops. Several local wineries have donated wine to be served with local seafood at the Ambassadors hospitality room. Jill Hansen is helping with a skit to be preformed by the Ambassadors. Plans are to tape the skit. In July the Ambassadors had a ribbon cutting at South Slough Estuarine Sanctuary and a Business after Hours at Lighthouse Estates. Two Ribbon cuttings are planned in August for The Dunes Gift Shop on the 7th and The Human Bean on August 16th. The Ambassadors annual picnic is planned for September 7th. We will keep you updated as to where.

Tourism- Joanie reports the brochures for Charleston-Bandon tour route are getting ready to print. This will be a two-color brochure. Local businesses will be asked to help with the cost. The Tall Ship sub committee is composed of Ric Morrison, Margery Whitmer, Katherine Hoppe, Cheryl Crockett and Joanie Johnson. Their task was how to keep the history of Tall Ships available to tourist when the Tall Ships are not docked. One idea is to build a Shanty that resembles a Tall Ship. History and information can be posted. Possibly people would be able to have a hands on experience in raising the sail and that sort of thing. When the Historical Museum is built, the idea would be to move the Shanty to the new museum site. It is important to promote the history of our area.

Forestry & Fisheries- Eric gave an update on a five year review on the key threats of the spotted owl and Marbled Murrelet. After collecting and examining data, their environment is not the key threat to the spotted owl. The barred owl is running the spotted owl out. The barred owl is very territorial. Once they take claim to an area they eliminate the spotted owl. The plan at this point is to see how things play out. The Marbled Murrelet is a sea bird, that nests in old growth timber. With continued studies of this bird, it has been determined that the South Coast is the southern edge of this bird's habitat. It has been determined that the Marbled Murrelet covers a very wide area all around the world. There are not many found in Southern Oregon, due mostly to there are not many that live here. Forestry & Fisheries meets the 3rd Friday of the month.

Leadership Coos- Pam reported that Leadership Coos is gearing up to begin again in September. Applications are coming in daily, filling the 30 open positions available this year. This is a great program. We are all looking forward

to another productive year. She asked that anyone who is interested in participating in the program, to contact her at the Chamber. A new waiting list is starting for next year's applicants.

Four Star Awards- Timm shared with the board the importance and use of the 4 star customer service survey cards. These cards are available at the Chamber, to be displayed in businesses. Customers fill out the card and return them to the chamber. Let's get these cards out to chamber businesses and recognize people for good service with 4 star awards. These awards are appreciated by our members.

City of Coos Bay – Mark informed the board that motel tax maybe increased from 7% to 10%. The 3% increase is scheduled to be used for parks and dispatch. The motel tax should be used to promote the area. Both Coos Bay and North Bend are going to have separate work sessions to talk about the tax increase. Coos Bay would like to see the tax increase while North Bend appears against the increase, at this point.

Charleston - Mel reports that things are moving fast in Charleston. The new Harbor Master has come and gone. The Seafood Festival will be August 18th and 19th. Many exciting things planned. Come see the merchant mermaids, the businesses have been painting. The mermaids will be displayed through out. Mel announced that she has resigned as President of Charleston Association. Rusty Shield is the new President. Mel will continue being involved, just without a title.

South Coast Development Council- Ron is proud to announce the redesign of SCDC web site. White papers are available on the front page. It is hoped that people find this resource of value and use it as a reference to stay informed on the many projects in the works.

Meeting Adjourned

Around the Water Cooler- Discussion on the LNG article on the front page of The World newspaper. The World accepted responsibly that the article was a mistake and printed a retraction the next day in the same spot. It is important that businesses are proactive and write a letter to let their thoughts be known. At the North Bend Downtown association meeting it was shared that the North Bend Hotel received funding for renovation.

Up with People made a visit to our area. They have an open window of time in their tour. The cost of their production is \$25,000.00. Oregon Coast School of Music has provided office space to be used by the Up with People promoters. If the funds can be met, they hope to perform at the Egyptian Theatre in September, the week end of the Fun Festival.

Planning has started for the BACC retreat that takes place in October. Efforts are being made to make this a useful time to set goals to be met in 2008.

Concerns were shared concerning the "car bashing" that is taking place around our area, questioning the security of parking at our beaches. There is a lack of police to patrol these areas. It was suggested to contact RSVP, for volunteers to provide a citizens patrol.