

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board Minutes
January 4, 2006
7:00am – Red Lion Hotel**

Board Members present: Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines; Chris Christoffer, Sterling Bank; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill Casino-Hotel; Barbara Gunnell, Community Financial Services; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours! Antique Mall; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab Taxi; Mark Mattechek, North Bend Lanes; Joy McCarthy; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Tom Scheideman, Weyerhaeuser; Timm Slater, Forestry Consultant; Greg Stevens, The World; Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Services; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Shirley Liberante and Connie Davis, Chamber; Community at large: Martin Callery, Port of Coos Bay; Rob Schab, Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board; Ex-Officio: Jan Willis, City of North Bend.

Guests: Jon Richards, Business Development Center; Beka Young, Marshfield High Student Representative.

President Chris Christoffer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone – all present introduced themselves and their businesses.

The minutes of the December 7, 2005 meeting were approved as mailed.

MHS Student Report

Beka Young said that there wasn't much to report since school just resumed following Christmas break. She did say that they held a very successful canned food drive competition in December.

President's Report

Chris stated that he is recommending the "3 P's" for the new year – Positivity, Pride and Progress - Remind ourselves in a positive way of the pride we have in our community as we progress in our efforts to make the Bay Area a better place to live. Encourage community pride – keep things clean and spruced up, being sure to take care of our own and then expanding to help and encourage others to clean and paint their homes and businesses and keep yards looking good. He said that plans are to make yard signs available to be awarded to people who really make an effort in this area.

Chris said he would like to establish a Rapid Response Team comprised of a group of individuals – possible teams of 4 people, (representing government, real estate, bank and general business), that would be available to visit with people planning to relocate a business to the area. He asked anyone interested in participating to call him.

Jan Willis commented that the North Bend Kiwanis Club has adopted the project of refurbishing benches at the library and city hall and that North Bend is already giving this type of award.

Executive Director's Report

Shirley said that the Business Development Center was instrumental in obtaining a Culinary and Specialty Services grant and asked Jon Richards to speak about it. Jon said that it will consist of workforce training through the college. South Coast Business Employment's workforce training fund was available and the opportunity arose to apply for a grant. The Business Development Center and the Chamber are working together to encourage employers to raise their standard of customer service and they have received a \$17k grant for training. Bandon Dunes will be starting the program January 18th with 25 attendees. Classes consist of 3 hours, one afternoon per week where cross-training, between kitchen staff and dining room staff, will enable employees to work together in a team effort. The Culinary Institute will be doing the training. If this program is successful, plans are to offer training to other local businesses as well. Jon said that an e-mail was sent out before Christmas inquiring who would be interested in these classes and he was pleased that the class filled up quickly. Shirley said that the Chamber will provide administration of the grant as a pass-through.

Shirley reported that the Economic Outlook Forum was very successful and many thought it was the best one yet. 239 people attended. She said that every year the Chamber nets about \$6k from the event and this year should be about the same – all of the bills are not in yet.

Shirley stated that plans for the Annual Banquet are underway. Theme will be "Celebrate Good Times", the band "The Flashbacks" has been chosen, The Mill has purchased a disco ball that they plan to use. She said that we still need more nominations for Business and Citizen of the Year and for the Positivity Award. She asked that people e-mail her with their nominations. Social hour will be at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00. Greg Stevens will be master of ceremony and Greg said that Tim Salisbury has agreed to assist.

Other information

Greg Stevens reported that The World is a member of the Lee newspaper group and will be participating in sharing travel information with other newspapers. He said that the articles will feature places to visit in the newspaper's circulation areas. He shared the article and pictures of Shore Acres in one of their Washington newspapers.

Chris Christoffer reported that the new 2006 Board officers are: Chris Christoffer, President; Jenny Bream, President Elect; Tom Scheideman and Ken Croes, Vice Presidents; Brandy Thompson, Secretary; Barbara Gunnell, Treasurer; Immediate Past President, Dick Leshley.

Treasurer's Report

Chris said that there is approximately \$200k in the bank with \$45k allowed for Community Profile expenses, approximately \$4k for the Economic Outlook Forum from The Mill and approximately \$135-140k net, counting the December income.

Other Officers and Committee Reports

Ambassadors – Joy McCarthy stated that the Ambassadors have had a very busy year and has had great participation from the members. She was pleased to report that membership is still growing. She said that the nominating committee recommended that last year's Board stay in place for another year. Joy said that in January they will be presenting more 4 Star Customer Service Awards to deserving local businesses. She said that regular meetings are held the first Friday, after the first Wednesday, of every month. This enables them to gather information at the Chamber Board meeting and report back to their committee at the regular monthly Ambassador meeting. Joy said that January's meeting will be held at Bradley's and next month at Benetti's. She asked anyone interested in joining the Ambassadors to call her.

Tourism – Shirley Liberante reported that the next meeting will be January 19th at 7:30am at the Red Lion. Speaker will be Megan Slothower from BLM on the land exchange and North Spit access.

Economic Development – Tom Scheideman reported that the next meeting will be at noon on January 30th at the Red Lion. John Sweet will speak on the maritime industry.

IBO – Shirley Liberante reported that IBO Lunch Forums will be starting up again next week. The Waterfront Players will be talking about their upcoming season and may possibly do a skit.

Promotions – Mark Mattecheck reported that the group approved to help finance some "drive-by advertising" in the amount of \$1350 with one sign in Coos Bay and one sign in North Bend. He said that reader board electronic signs are estimated to cost approximately \$15k. North Bend Visitor Center will be maintaining the North Bend sign and the Coos Bay Visitor Center should maintain the Coos Bay sign. Shirley agreed.

Government Affairs – Dick Leshley reported that they meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30am at the Red Lion. Ken Messerle will speak at the next meeting on how legislators interface with lobbyists. Dick said that they had a couple of very good meetings featuring Arnie Roblan and Nikki Whitty. Dick invited all committees with legislative issues to join their group.

Forestry – Rob Schab reported that the first meeting to organize this year's Lumberjack Competition will soon be held and plans are underway. He said that they will be following the presence of the Marbled Muralet and Spotted Owl and their impact on the forestry industry.

Membership – Shirley Liberante reported that we have 8 new members this month: American Press, Candy Bouquet, College Park Community Church, Ocean Ridge Retirement & Assisted Living, Pacific Properties Agent/Randy Hoffine, Tigers Motor Sports, Unique Screen Media and Worksite Services.

Leadership Coos – Connie Davis reported that next week's session features Education and several interesting speakers are scheduled. The group will tour the Marine Biology facility, the Southwestern Campus and the Boys & Girls Club. Lunch will be served at Oregon Institute of Marine Biology.

Banquet – Barbara Gunnell reported that the planning committee will probably have one more meeting prior to the event.

Transportation – Martin Callery reported that there will be no meeting tomorrow. He said that the December meeting featured Mike Gaul speaking on the completion of the railroad bridge, Connect Oregon and freight mobility. He said that they will be seeking additional funding for the rail bridge and a barge slip at Southport Forest Products.

City of North Bend – Jan Willis reported that they are busy with a new residential development project, in excess of 100 homes, that will be constructed at the top of Virginia Ave. over the next couple of years. Jan congratulated CEDCO for

securing an anchor for their development project. She reported that prior to Christmas the Fire Department purchased 60 new bikes, along with other gifts, to provide Christmas for 35 – 40 needy local families.

Jan expressed her condolences to the Lawton Verger family and said that she will be keeping them in her prayers.

Charleston – Martin Callery reported that they are gearing up for the Annual Crab Feed that will be held the second Saturday in February.

Port – Martin Callery reported that negotiations are ongoing with Weyerhaeuser with hopes that this will be concluded this month. He said when he was in Japan he had the opportunity to visit a key Liquid Natural Gas project that uses different technology than we would use here. He found it interesting to tour the facility and see how they handle the commodity and vessel calls. He said that they have a video tape that they have agreed to share with us.

SCDC – Shirley stated that Ron Opitz had surgery yesterday, and we haven't received any results yet, but would keep him in our thoughts and prayers. She said that the SCDC Board and Executive Board will be taking on the responsibility while Ron is out of the office.

Announcements – Mark Mattecheck announced that a 5-member committee has solicited \$400k in private and corporate funds to be used for the North Bend Stadium and a new high jump pit. He said that \$950K in donations has been raised so far.

Adjourn – Having no further business, President Christoffer adjourned the meeting.