

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
May 2, 2007 at 7a.m.
Red Lion**

Board members present: Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines; Chris Christoffer, Sterling Savings Bank; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill Casino; Cal Grimmer, NW Natural Gas; Jim Hough, Hough, MacAdam & Wartnik; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours Antique Mall; Mark Mattecheck, North Bend Lanes; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf.

Community at Large: Martin Callery, Port of Coos Bay; Theresa Haga, CCD. Others present: Deryl Beebe, Ambassadors, Katherine Hoppe, Executive Director, Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; Chris Cole, Coos Bay Downtown Association; Robert Murray, Marshfield High School; Samantha Young, North Bend High School.

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

Presidents Report- Jenny welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Jenny announced that Katherine Hoppe will be leaving her position as director of the chamber. Katherine has accepted a position with the Coos Bay-North Bend Promotion committee. We wish her well. Applications have been coming in to fill the position of chamber director. The applications have been numerous and impressive. Five applications have been selected and contacted to start interviewing the end of this week.

School Reports - Samantha Young thanked everyone for the opportunity to represent North Bend High School. The drama club presentation of "Effects of Gamma Ray on man-In-the-moon marigolds" has opened. Please come see this production. They have been working very hard. District meets start next week. We expect our teams to do well. Seniors have completed and turned in their Advisor projects. These projects are being graded now. Seniors need to pass this project to be able to graduate. ASB has been elected for next year. Senior Prom is this Saturday, 8:30 at the North Bend Community center. The theme is New York.

Robert Murray thanked everyone for the opportunity to represent Marshfield High School. Mr. MHS was held on April 28th. This event raised \$19000.00 for local charities. Advisory are complete. ASB new members are Kat O'Donnell and Hank Fields. Golf team took 1st and 2nd place in their tournament. Prom will be May 19th. There are only 25 days to graduation. Graduation will be June 9th.

Executive Director- Katherine reports that ESD public hearing addresses issues in this area. Bill 3438 is going to die. Our schools enrollments are declining and the buildings are in need of repair. Education committee will meet on May 3rd. I will e-mail you with time and place. Topic will be South Coast Kids. I encourage all of us to be aware and involved. Judith Hansen added that our leverage growth didn't happen. Community colleges are short on funding. Katherine continued her report that Tom Jackman has been transferred to the Portland

area. This leaves an opening on the board. Please e-mail me with your thoughts on a new board member. We will vote on a new member next month. Cheryl Crockett and Barb Dunham form the visitor centers and I attended the Governors conference. A lot of information was shared on web site ideas. Emphasis was put on travel and the culinary experience. Our area has a lot to offer. This is a good chance to attract travelers to our area. Matt from Fishermen's Wharf provided us with crab to take to the conference. The crab was very well received. The search for the new executive director is underway. There were many very good applicants. Interviews are scheduled for Friday 1-4 and Monday 1-3. Executive board and board members have been given an overview of candidates. Please e-mail me your desires or questions.

Treasurer's Report- Sherry reports that we are up about \$7000 from last year. New membership is up. All in all things look very good.

Ambassadors- Deryl reports that the Ambassadors are busy working on 2008 convention. There are many ribbon cuttings on the calendar. Tonight All Star Brokers will be having their ribbon cutting. Please come welcome them. May 8th is the RSVP dinner. May 10th Easy Lane Frames will be having their anniversary celebration. May 30th TruNorth will host Business after hours. Please come show your support of these businesses. Eugene will host the 2007 convention on September 20-23rd. Their theme will be "007 a License to Thrill." Our Ambassadors will be well represented at the Eugene convention. We are planning a skit and hospitality room to represent our area and encouraging attendance to the convention in the Bay Area in 2008. We expect about 250 attendees to the 2008 convention.

Tourism- Joanie reports that ODOT signs are ready to be posted for the Charleston to Bandon route. We are waiting for a commitment of funds from Bandon and the CB/NB promotions. If funds are approved the signs could go up this week-end, marking Seven Devils road on the map after 9 years of work.

IBO-Business Forums- Katherine invites everyone to attend IBO today at 11:30 at The Mill Casino. Today's speaker is FESRI (Fishermen Extended Recovery Information). On May 9th Sheriff Jackson and John Griffith will speak. May 16th Jerry's Rogue Jets will speak. Their topic will be very entertaining "Why do they call it tourist season. You can't shoot them." May 30th Bob Huggins will give us a Prefontaine Presentation. Prefontaine is a very big deal to our area. I have done several Internet searches using "Prefontaine" as a key word and Coos Bay is linked to these searches. NIKE has a MHS logo that showcases Prefontaine.

CB/NB Tourism and Conventions Bureau- Mark reports ECHO design has four web designs for us to choose from. Selection will be made tomorrow. Things are moving very fast. Our budget is \$350,000. There will be a lot to report on next month. Things to do in the area, City council and logo, community web project. Would like to add that the entertainment tax that is directed toward beer tax at the retail level, is up for proposal and is an independent concern. This tax will be difficult for retailers to monitor and keep track of. It is reminiscent of when cigarette taxes were introduced, because of the inventory and reports, retailers like myself chose not to sell cigarettes any longer.

Government Affairs- Rick reports that the bills are moving from the House to Senate. I invite everyone to attend Tuesday May 15th Teleforum. Please have your talking points to me by Friday May 11th.

Katherine took this opportunity to remind the board that a request was made for each board member to attend at least one Teleforum this year. There are two months left to attend these meetings that are held each Tuesday. The Teleforums are a great opportunity to have your questions answered by your legislators face to face. A good variety of people attend and there is a lot to learn.

Forestry & Fisheries- Timm reminded the board that Forestry & Fisheries meets the 3rd Friday of the month. Douglas Timber Operators will host the meeting. Focus will be on Tax public users of roads. Chamber representation is needed at this meeting. Lumberjack competition will be held at The Mill Casino on June 30th. This will be the 7th annual competition. We are looking for sponsorships for this event. The competition is a wonderful opportunity for our area. The competitors are professionals that travel to these events from all over the world. The Lumberjack competition attracts 3000 people to our area. This is a worth while event to our area.

Membership Development- Katherine announced that the membership development committee needs someone to step in and continue the great work that Johanna has done in developing membership for the Chamber.

Leadership Coos- Pam reported that the 2007 Leadership Coos session is coming to an end. On May 8th this year's participants will have a graduation celebration at the Yacht Club in Lakeside. The next session will start in September. She invited all members to take part in this great program. The program accepts 30 participants each year. If anyone is interested or knows someone who would be interested, she ask that they contact her to have their name added to the waiting list.

Transportation- Martin shared information on Transportation & Competitiveness: Investing in Oregon's Economy. This reports outlines that Oregon's economy depends on good transportation. A statewide economic analysis finds that businesses and jobs are hurt by a lack of investment in transportation. Current resources do not meet the needs for maintenance and new projects and the funding gap is widening every year. Business proposal outlines a \$25 annual registration fee increase, and a \$10 per title transaction fee increase, along with a gas tax increase. This proposal would generate approximately \$350 million per year starting in 2008. A congestion study prepared for Oregon Business Council, concluded that the state's economy is transportation- dependent. Increasing congestion and travel time delay, even with currently planned improvements, will significantly impact the state's ability to maintain and grow business, as well as our quality of life.

4 Star Awards- Katherine reports that she will meet with Johanna on Monday to finalize this quarters 4 Star Award choices.

City of North Bend- Jan reports that budget hearing is scheduled for the 17th and 19th. We will approve a balanced budget. Not much change from last year. Process has gone smoothly. The budget will go to the city council in June for

approval. Improvements are planned for the police department. Improvements will include expansion of the entry area, improvements to holding cells, squad room, locker room, shower area and offices. The work is scheduled to begin May 15th by a local contractor Thompson & Son. Linda Kennedy at NW Natural gas has been wonderful to work with in converting to natural gas. Other projects in the works for the community are coordinating efforts with the National Guard, Red Cross and Bay Area Hospital for earth quake drills and disaster readiness. We are looking for funds to do some long overdue work on the public pool. We will be asking the Ford Family Foundation and others for funding. Faze 1 is expected to cost \$600,000. The plan includes converting to natural gas. Changing the sanitize system from chlorine to salt, a much needed family changing room. Faze 2 is estimated in needing about the same amount of funding. We hope to add a therapy pool.

City of Coos Bay- Katherine announced we will have a new City Manager in June. The Coos Bay Visitor center volunteers will conduct a historical walking tour of the downtown area on May 11 from 10 -2. A BBQ will be served at noon outside of the visitor center. Please stop by and say hello to our hard working volunteers.

Charleston- Martin reports that ODOT signs are ready to be posted to mark the Charleston-Bandon tour route. Oyster Feed was last week-end. The port master is planning a steering committee final overview. Charleston is gearing up for a great tourist season.

Port of Coos Bay- Martin reports Senate Bill 21 is at the Ways and Means committee, looks as if the bill will move forward with a change in language. This Bill is asking for funds to dredge the channel from the Jetty to Channel mile marker 7.5. The funds will be used for infrastructure. The building of the terminal will be with private money. We are looking for a commitment from the tenant.

Coos Bay Downtown Association- Chris reports that Farmers Market is set to begin on May 16th. This year the vendors will be able to accept Food Stamps, Debt Cards as well as WIC and Senior coupons. On July 11th a meeting will be held at the Black Market Gourmet. Speakers are ready to give an over view on revitalizing the downtown area.

Adjourn- Katherine adjourned the meeting.