

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting
August 4, 2010
The Mill Casino-Saw Blade Room**

Board Members present: Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill Casino/Hotel; Eric Farm, Menasha/Campbell Group; Matt LeDoux; Fishermen's Wharf; Matt Jarvis, Jarvis Communications; Pam de Jong, Star of Hope; Margery Whitmer, Betty Kay Charters; Terra Enstrom, Aviation Transportation/The hangar Cafe, Pam Plummer, Umpqua Bank; Dana Webber, Sterling Savings; Clark Walworth, The World Newspaper Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning; Jerry Miller, Star of Hope..

At Large or Ex-Officio Board Members present: Joe Benetti; Airport District; Sandy Messerle, South Coast Development Council; Rodger Craddock, City of Coos Bay .

Others present: Rick Keating, Sterling Savings; Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

Lucinda called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table.

The minutes from July meeting were approved.

Present's Report: Lucinda reports on new member reception held at Walt's Pour House. We have about 70 people attend this event. We received so many positive comments from the reception that we are going to start offering the reception quarterly to our new members. We will rotate the site through out the businesses. We are very excited about that and give a thank you to all of you that attend and help make our new members feel welcomed.

Taking Care of Business II bowling party will be at the North Bend Lanes on August 26th. We need 6 more teams to reach our goal for filling all fourteen lanes. If you are interested in donating a gift certificate for the raffle, that would be wonderful. Your business will be recognized. Contact Pam and she will be happy to assist you.

SDAT report will be coming our in the next 6 weeks. This report will project a vision for our community. The changes will take the efforts of not only SCDC but all the sectors of our community. We hope that you will all be an active part of that project. I don't think anyone will be surprised by this report, but it will give us the opportunity to sit at the table and talk about what we want this community to be.

Also would like to remind you that the OSAA Basketball tournament will be coming to our area in March. This event will bring between 1500-3000 visitors to our area. It took the efforts of many people to put this together. We are putting a committee together next week, if you are interested in being on the committee please let Katherine Hoppe know and she will pass the information on.

Another reminder, the Bluegrass Bash will be held this Saturday, August 7th at Mingus Park from 10am-6pm. Please be sure to attend this fabulous event.

Executive Report: Timm reports that the Coos Bay Visitor Center has moved into the new building. An open House is planned for Friday August 13th at 5 pm.

Economic outlook forum planning meeting is scheduled for August 23rd at 3:30. The meeting will be held at the Business Development Center. We do have our key speakers planned with John Mitchell and Guy Tauer. We will be working at defining businesses and the local update portions of the program that we will want to highlight. We will also be looking at a small structural change in the number of speakers.

Last year we ran about 45 minutes over time. We are also looking at making better use of our sponsors and giving our sponsors more time to network with others. Our thought is to trim down our presentations a little in number so that we end at 10:30. At that time we will encourage attendees to visit and talk with sponsors.

Committee Reports

Economic Development & Business Retention: Timm reports that we had a good meeting. Our focus was how we can best use the SDAT report.

Also discussed was developing an economic partner contact sheet. This sheet will be available to businesses in our community to refer to concerning whom to refer business that may call asking questions about our area. Our deadline is August 16th.

Membership- Support: Lucinda reports that the House of Myrtlewood has generously offered to provide Myrtlewood name tags for all board members.

Also I will say it again; we need 6 more teams to reach our goal of 14 teams for Taking Care of Business II Bowling Party. I am very excited; the Chamber board is going to have a team the "Big Lebowski". The Boo Bash is planned for October. Be looking for more information to come.

Government Affairs & Business Advocacy: Eric reports that we are continuing our Chromite advocacy plan. We met with ORC last week and heard what their issues are. We plan to meet with the County forester and Bob Main to negotiate a plan that all can work with.

We have a meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday August 16th with Medford chamber personnel. They have offered to meet with us and share their successes and approaches. More information to come on this meeting.

Community Cooperation & Communication: Crystal reports that this committee is looking at branding the Chamber. We have moved forward from our last meeting. We know our brand is business and particularly small business. We don't think our web site expresses our focus. This is due somewhat from the fact that the Chamber use to be the head tourism promoter and coordinator and the main Economic Development center. The Chamber now needs to refocus and express what our goals and vision are for our business focus. We will have a work session Friday at KCBY 9am to look at the website. Everyone is welcome. If you have ideas please let us know.

Forestry & Fisheries: Eric reports that tickets for the Salmon Derby will be available at the Bluegrass Bash. Anyone who purchases a ticket will be eligible to enter the drawing for \$500 cash.

Also, Forestry tours take place every Wednesday. For more information contact the Visitor Center. The Boys and Girls club is working on an idea sort of like a Leadership Coos for kids. The idea is to get kids exposed to businesses and with a behind the scenes look at how businesses operate. If you are interested in participating and showing the kids how your business operates contact the Boys and Girls club.

IBO: Pam de Jong reports that we are looking at a different format for IBO and having a different focus. Rather than one business speaking for a full 30 minutes, split this time between two businesses. Our hope is to get more small businesses to come in and report on what they are doing.

We are also looking at planning a couple of panel discussions where we showcase several "like" businesses with a common concerns or opportunities.

Another idea is to have one minute flashes on how issues affect our businesses. Just little facts of "Did you know." Issues like health care and Oregon labor laws.

So some new ideas are coming to the structure of IBO's. We hope that these changes will pique the interest of business and increase the attendance to IBO's.

Ambassador: Pam Plummer reports that the Ambassadors are busy getting ready to attend the annual convention. The convention this year will be in Astoria. Each year we gather donations from businesses in our area and put together a basket to take to the convention. The focus of this basket is to spark interest of the winner to visit our area and have a good sense of things to do and see while they are here.

A reminder to everyone Business After Hours will be hosted by Hwy 101 Harley Davidson on August 25th.

Tourism: Margery reports that this committee took a break last month. Our next meeting will be the third Thursday in August, August 20th.

Leadership Coos: Rick reports that we are in the process of getting ready for 2010-2011. The yearbook is being printed now and will be mailed to our 2009-2010 participants. The steering committee has decided to increase the attendance this year for 30 participants to 34 participants. We currently have ten openings. If you are interested, or if your business is interested in sponsoring someone to attend this year's program, please contact Pam at the Chamber.

Community Reports-

Visitor and Convention Bureau: Roger reports that the new Visitor Center is open. Our next focus is to enhance the parking lot by resealing and restriping with new parking lines. We have asked the ambassadors to attend our Grand opening. The Holler Place is moving along. The wayside is nearly complete, the landscaping is done. We are looking for a developer to come in. I was told that on Channel 14 the Port mentioned that they are looking at small cruise ship to be docked at the Holler Place.

Another project we are working on that has been in the process for a very long time is the Central Dock property for the Coos Historic Maritime Museum. We are working with DEQ and hope that things may start happening as early as next month.

We have two new employees at the city. One is the building inspector and the other is public works operations. We have hired two excellent people, both with many years of experience. More importantly we have hired them for their commitment to customer service. We are focused on overcoming the rumors that Coos Bay is hard to deal with. These are two people we would like to attend Leadership Coos. They are new to our area and would benefit in attending Leadership Coos.

Charleston: Matt reports that the Seafood Festival will be August 21 & 22. The Tuna Classic is August 14th. Come to Charleston and support these two events.

South Coast Development Council: Sandy reports that SCDC has moved their offices to the new Visitor Center.

SDAT team is working on report. We hope to have the report within the next six weeks. Once we receive the report we will be working with our partners and will keep you posted.

The Airport gift shop at the North Bend Airport is hosting their Ribbon Cutting today at 5PM.

We are working on a Economic gardening study. My assistant is working on his MBA in business focused on sustainability. He has been working on this report. We hope to present to the Port Commission by the end of August.

Coos County Airport District: Joe reports look forward to seeing all of you at the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for the new gift shop at the North Bend Airport.

We continue to work on new flight. We are looking into grants that can help with that.

Our Executive Director Theresa Cook had her six month review. It was positive. She is getting her feet underneath her. We are receiving comments from local agencies and organizations saying that she is being seen out and about. We are glad to see her getting involved.

A side note: The Oregon Restaurant and Oregon Lodging Associations have merged. We have been working on this for years. I think it will be beneficial to everyone.

Coos Bay North Bend Water Board: Rob reports that we continue to move forward on upgrading our treatment plant and processes. We spent the day with our engineers and HGR looking at our design board and concepts. We have about a 30% design. We should have a final design completed by the end of the year and going out to bid for the construction of this project. Our plan is to start construction in late 2011, with a completion date the summer of 2012. This is going to give the community the capacity for growth as well as good service levels to our customers.

Director news & updates

Pam d invites everyone to attend the Bluegrass Bash in Mingus Park 10am-6pm. This is going to be a big event. Thank you to our sponsors.

Jerry reminds everyone Oregon Connection open house at the airport is today. Please come take a look and support this new business. I would also like to say a positive word for Cardinal Services. With their help we were able to hire Pam de Jong. She is doing a great job for us in coordinating the bluegrass Bash. We look forward to a long relationship with her.

The Coos Bay Boat Building center has completed their first boat. Our first official class is scheduled for August 12th. We would like to thank The World for featuring us on the front page yesterday.

Coos Art Museum has an outstanding exhibit on Maritime art. If you have not had the opportunity to see this exhibit, please go, it is still there. The board of directors a week ago voted to become part of a national Maritime Art exhibit. It is a pricey price tag for us at \$10,000. But this exhibit is highly prestigious and will enhance our presence in the art community.

Timm reminds everyone that Defasio's office is looking to organize a debate in our area around the dates of September 20-24. He will keep you posted as that develops.

The County Commissioners are reviewing the report on the Pipeline land use. They accepted the hearings officer's findings and report. The pipeline and LNG process has almost been completed.

Lucinda thanked everyone who attended the Oregon Music Concert series. Ticket sales were up. Looks like there will be a festival next year.

In case everyone is not aware the Tuna Classic group basically goes to four different ports in Oregon and fish for Tuna. All the Tuna that is caught goes to a cannery. The Tuna is canned and distributed to local food banks. We are looking for local sponsor for tent sponsors, sponsorships of \$50 or \$100 dollars. Anyone interested in a sponsorship please contact Jim Pex. We need to celebrate this organization and their great work.

Board broke for Executive Session:

Following the executive session, meeting was adjourned.