

YVEDC Meeting
Wednesday, September 28, 2011
Hayden Town Hall
Hayden, CO

1. Open meeting and Introductions

a. Chair Audrey Danner called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

b. Members present:

i. Audrey Danner – Moffat County Commissioner

ii. Ray Beck – Craig City Council

iii. Meg Bentley – Steamboat Springs City Council

iv. Lorraine Johnson – Hayden Town Board

c. Members Absent:

i. Kai Turner – Rio Blanco County Commissioner

ii. Doug Monger – Routt County Commissioner

d. Others present

i. Ginger Scott, Staff Support - City of Steamboat Springs

ii. Kate Nowak, Yampa Valley Data Partners (new name)

iii. Stefanus Nijsten, Chair Hayden Economic Development Commission

iv. Rodney McGowen, Vice-Chair Hayden EDC

2. Approve the Agenda – Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Bentley seconded. Agenda was approved with no changes.

3. Approve the Minutes

a. **Minutes from Elected Officials Forum on June 15, 2011 – Beck suggested adding to minutes in the future – “Submitted by Ginger Scott.”** Beck made a motion to approve. Bentley seconded. The minutes were approved with no changes.

4. Public Comment – Tammie Delaney made a comment that the Governor’s Commissioner on Film came through town, and made a presentation on the importance of film and how it could be a good economic development tool for Northwest Colorado. Danner said that is a good reminder that there are some areas we may not be too familiar with. Film seems to be an easier medium these days to produce.

5. Member Agency Updates

a. **Moffat County**

i. Danner gave the update. She went to Dinosaur Monument for the Grand Opening of the new Visitor Center (\$13 million) in Utah and was able to meet with the Governor. Next week the Quarry Center will also open. There are water discussions going on with Basin Round Table including the Flaming Gorge. Post offices are on the list to be cut (Phippsburg and others.) Broadband continues to be a discussion especially in western part of the state. BOCES has a program “Eagle Net” to bring \$140 million stimulus dollars to school districts. There is some concern that they will build over fiber optics that are already there. Continue to watch larger companies in broadband who are successful. When there isn’t enough competition, it changes the services that are offered. Danner is involved in a Broadband Team – looking to work with private providers.

ii. Danner thanked Meg Bentley for her years of service - she is retiring from City Council in Steamboat and will no longer be serving on YVEDC.

- b. **Routt County** – No update
- c. **Rio Blanco County** – No update
- d. **Craig**

- i. Beck gave the update. A lot of oil and gas exploration going on in Routt and Moffat Counties. City of Craig is going to have all day budget workshop next Thursday and will look to 2012. Western Slope/Club 20 – executive board gave direction to file a petition to redistrict in order to keep the third congressional district whole. Would like to include Grand County, and Grand was included in the same group as Boulder which didn't make sense. It was based on population counts. Looking to get the updated map. City of Craig is holding steady, sales taxes have been up the last couple of months, but it has been up and down, so Beck's opinion is that they are not out of the woods yet. There was discussion about the oil rig that was in Craig and has since moved to Hamilton. Danner said these discussions have confirmed for her that there is a lot of support for the Oil and Gas Industry in Moffat County.

- e. **Steamboat Springs**

- i. Bentley gave the update. The City made an announcement today that Debra Hinsvark is the new Deputy City Manager for Steamboat Springs; she will replace Wendy DuBord who is retiring. Hinsvark is the current Director of Finance. Bentley said they will have a budget retreat next Tuesday. City Council elections are coming up. Council tabled the discussion about the 20 cents for plastic bags; the idea is to change habits. Beck asked Bentley about the potential tax to help with air travel. She said the tax would equate to approximately \$17 more per year for each resident that would help to pay for subsidy to the airlines. Beck said the airport board supported this tax and was wondering if Steamboat Springs would want a letter of support. Bentley said she was not sure the City Council will be able to come to consensus on this issue in the next few weeks before the election. Also there was some discussion on Proposition 103 (tax for education).

- f. **Hayden**

- i. Johnson gave the update. She reported on the Yampa Valley Regional Airport remodel, water issues at the treatment plant and sewer issues. The Town of Hayden had huge turnover in employment in the last year, but they are working on getting things settled. Currently are searching for a new Chief of Police. The Town Clerk, and Police Clerk have recently resigned so have worked to replace these positions. Johnson said it has been challenging, but is encouraged to have some new folks with fresh ideas.

6. Economic Development Programs – Danner said there are some people on the schedule who couldn't make it this evening, so she went through an overview. The intention was to hear the unique economic development projects that are going on in each county.

- a. **Routt County**

- i. **Town of Hayden** –

- 1. Tammie Delaney from the Hayden EDC gave the update. Hayden is working to communicate better and attract more businesses. The Town doesn't have a big web presence. EDC took lead on creating a new logo, and have met with citizens, including students and chamber employees. They are now working on the **welovehayden.com** website, to showcase the non-government side of Hayden. Currently they are working with businesses and making a lot of

progress. Goal is to have a website example by November 15th to present to chamber, airport, schools and government for their feedback. Nijsten added they are working on branding and marketing to try to get better attendance at events, and also trying to capitalize on natural resources to attract tourism and residents. The idea is to create an effective communication platform and market to outside world. McGowen said a big push is that the high school students will be taking over the website for updating. This will be a specific class at the Hayden High School. Also are planning to use social media to promote. Beck said he is encouraged by what this group is doing – he is on the Yampa Valley Regional Airport Commission. Currently that group is doing a SWOT Analysis to figure out where they should be going – this airport supports 440 people of employees (part and full time). Beck requested that the Hayden EDC get on the agenda to give presentation for the airport group. Delaney said they want to work on partnering with the airport and try to get Hayden’s name out there in front of the visitors. November 10th is set for the opening of the new restaurant at YVRA. The County has hired Tami Fricault to run the restaurant. Johnson commented that there are a lot of improvements at the airport, and will be a huge asset to this valley when it is finished. She added it would be good to have video of Hayden when passengers come in, so that people know there is a town of Hayden which is only two miles from the airport. Delaney suggested showing the film about Hayden’s history. Danner stated the Cultural Heritage Traveler is often willing to go to other areas. Could potentially add info on Craig, or Dinosaur.

2. Hayden has DOLA revitalization grant.

3. Fairgrounds – Hayden is underutilizing the fairgrounds. Currently there are a lot of roadblocks to rent the facility including rates and insurance that makes it cost prohibitive. There is a new foundation called the Routt County Youth and Agricultural Foundation that has been formed to take care of some of these. The Foundation is now insurance holder which reduces cost of facility usage.

ii. Steamboat Springs – Bentley said she excited about the new Chamber Director, Tom Kern and the City Manager Jon Roberts who are looking at ways to attract outside companies to Steamboat Springs. She is also excited to have Deb Hinsvark on board as Deputy City Manager. She may try to approach Walter Magill on City Council to replace her on YVEDC. He is very aware of regional issues and spends much of his time in Moffat County and Hayden.

b. Moffat County

- i. Craig** – Beck commented that the YVEDC is still trying to come up with a project. He is aware that the economy is a factor, and the fact that the group doesn’t have a grant writer on staff, but feels frustrated and would like to find a project to work on.
- ii. CMEDP** – Danner is reporting for Trask who couldn’t attend the meeting. She is working with State economic development, focusing on primary jobs which are connected to natural resources. Oil and gas, etc. The CMEDP has been doing some work with clean coal technology. Recently CMEDP has been awarded a grant for \$115,000 (three year grant), to help stabilize businesses. Colorado Northwest

Community College (CNCC) has a new building next to the hospital. Also reported on the Governor's Summit in October 2012, in Steamboat Springs and other various energy summits. Broadband – is important in all counties in this area. Johnson said cell coverage is sporadic at YVRA – they have Union Cellular and Verizon. Danner reiterated that cell coverage needs to be plentiful, redundant, and affordable. Need to approach some of the smaller companies. Bentley mentioned a booster could be helpful at the airport – or could be infrastructure.

c. Rio Blanco County

7. Economic Overview

a. Yampa Valley Data Partners – Kate Nowak - Nowak gave the “Presentation on Economic Landscape – Including Economic Diversity”

- i. **Some items of note:** Moffat county (28% in income is mining) but are getting more diverse in employment. Rio Blanco County (40% is mining), 67% of income comes from top three (retail trade, construction and mining). Employment is not diverse either. Routt County (Income and employment is getting more diverse). Moffat County 28% work outside of county (of that 28%, 76% work in Routt county). Rio Blanco 11% work outside county. Routt County only 7% work outside county. Routt needs Moffat workers. 16% of out of county workers work out of state. Import and Export of Wage/Salary Income. Slide on number of returns vs. income. Strong healthy middle class in Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties, but not in Routt. 64%. This explains affordable housing issues in Steamboat Springs. Nowak will put the findings on the website.

- 8. Other Business** – Danner summarized that she heard in the discussion ideas about the YVRA and Broadband. Delaney said she is disappointed that small business is not mentioned in the Blueprint for Routt County because it is so important. Bentley said the idea was to facilitate broadband and then education creates the foundation for small businesses to succeed. Danner suggested the possibility of having Kathay Reynolds come to talk to the group – she is with CSU Extension working with ag/local food. Danner said she thinks Extension will change in next 10 years. Also possibility to invite Alisa from Moffat County/CSU, and Nancy Kramer. Danner will set up. There are aspects of broadband that could be successful – need to advocate. Eagle Net – are starting to post information about their grant process. Scott will send Danner email about Broadband – Eagle Net. She will email info to everyone. Still is a lot that is unknown - small providers looking at this area, but they need fiber. Johnson asked if there are ways that the government agencies can open doors for these groups to get here. There was discussion about Governors sitting down with FCC. Beck questioned if there is commuter trend information. Beck said other ideas (Oil & Gas and capitalize on this, Coal, and Education – key to everything we do). Nowak said it is important to coordinate with local colleges – it is all connected to workforce needs and community. Hayden (Baps and Carpenter) is through Hayden School District. Beck suggested the need for more partnerships, to build on the resources that we have.

9. Next Meeting - TBD

10. Adjourn at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginger Scott, Government Programs Analyst
City of Steamboat Springs

