

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
January 9, 2008
Red Lion Hotel – 7 am**

Board Members present: Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machine; Ken Croes, KCBY/TV; Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Services; Eric Farm, Menasha; Margery Whitmer, Betty Kay Charters; Jim Hough, Hough MacAdam & Wartnik; Travis Burgher, BnT Promotions; Sam Roth, Century 21 Best Realty, Inc.; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours ! Antiques; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Lila Sweet, Lila's Boutique; Karl Bender, 3 B's Nursery; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Gary Rifkin, Fiddlesticks; Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill Casino.

Others present: Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Patti Denton, Ambassadors; Joyce Jansen, City of Coos Bay; Matt Jarvis, JCI NEWS; Ron Optiz, South Coast Development Council; Theresa Haga, CCD; Chris Christoffer, Sterling Bank; Jan Willis, City of North Bend; Martin Callery, Port of Coos Bay.

President Ken Croes called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the table. Minutes were seconded and approved.

Presidents Report - Ken thanked Jenny for her support and past service. Ken will be the Champion to the committee chairs for the Board's 2008 goals. He is working on his speech for the Awards Banquet, that will be January 26th at The Mill Casino.

Executive Directors Report-

A. Economic Outlook Forum was held December 7th. The attendance was about 253 people. This is a major event for the Chamber. We share information on what is going on in our area, and it is a money maker for the Chamber. This year the Chamber made \$2000 more than last year. Evaluations were collected from the attendees, with an overall positive response to the event. Next Year's agenda is in the works. John Mitchell and Guy Tauer are expected to be key note speakers. The date for the next year's forum tentatively will be December 12th. One idea that is being looked at for next year's program is to mix Local updates and Homegrown businesses presentations.

B. Chamber Awards Banquet will be January 26th at The Mill Casino, in the Salmon Room. Invitations have been mailed. The finishing touches are being made.

C. Executive Administration Assistant Search. The Chamber received 16 applications for this position. Of those applications 5 have been selected to interview. Interviews will take place the end of next week.

D. Directors & Membership. New officers have been chosen and lists have been updated. We are looking for two new Directors to fill the positions of

Jim Hough and Joanie Johnson. Board focus will be on membership. Business After Hours are scheduled through January 2009.

Treasurer's Report - Sherry reports that new membership is up \$ 5000 from last year. The Chamber is in good shape with a balance of 149,649.57.

Ambassadors- Patti reports that the Ambassadors continue to work on the coming convention. The Ambassadors are looking to recruit new members for the Ambassadors.

Tourism- Joanie reports the committee did not meet last month, nothing to report.

CB/NB Tourism and Conventions Bureau- Timm reports the committee is finishing work on the brochure. Focus is on the Olympic Trials that will be held in Eugene June 26th – July 12th. The Mill Casino will be renting an Information booth at the Trials. We need about 100 volunteers to man the booth during the 12 days. This is a great opportunity to promote and showcase the Bay Area.

Forestry & Fisheries – Rob reports a meeting will be held in February to begin planning for the Lumberjack competition. Topics will be to add events and look at the prospect of ESPN coverage of the competition.

Marjorie adds that John Griffith is now an OPAC member, to represent our area concerning fisheries and the Marine Reserve process. John will be a good representative for our area. There is a meeting for the public in North Bend, on January 18th on Marine Reserves.

Leadership Coos – Pam reports that Leadership met Tuesday, topic was Health and Human Resources. Next month's topic is Education. She reminds the Board that Leadership Coos is a wonderful program. It is a great way to let our community know what resources and opportunities are in our area. Also, where volunteers are needed and how the public services can benefit from the help of the community. She asked the Board to invite interested persons to contact her to be added to the waiting list for next year's program.

Transportation- Martin reports that there will be a meeting January 10th at 11:30 am in the Port conference room. Mark Usselman will speak. Martin asked for the members of the Board to attend and support the need for repairs at the intersection of Hwy 101 and Isthmus Slough Bridge. This is a 120 million dollar project and needs the committee's support.

Economic Development- Chris reports that the committee last met in November. The committee will develop a working document to find out what people want. Information that can be used to recruit businesses to this area. Information that can be listed on the Bay Area Chamber web site and printed on a 3x5 card, for use by Chamber members. How best to collect and list commercial property available is still being explored

4 Star Awards Committee- Timm encouraged the Board to use the cards that are available for businesses to have out for the public to let us know about great service. It is important to reinforce great service. The Chamber is in need of a Champion to follow up on this process. Businesses that use the cards and receive recognition for great service will receive a 4 Star Award from the Chamber. The Award will be posted on the Chamber Website, in the Chamber

Newsletter and on KCBY/TV. It is a good way to acknowledge outstanding service. Joanie announced she will distribute the cards to downtown businesses.

IBO/Government Affairs- Timm announced that the first IBO for the year will be today at The Mill Casino/ Salmon Room. Senator Joanne Verger will speak. This is a great kick off for the year. IBO luncheons are every Wednesday at 11:30 – 1 pm. Government Affairs will use the IBO luncheons, Quarterly. On January 30th City Government will be the topic. Mayor McKeown and Mayor Wetherell will speak.

City of Coos Bay- Joyce reports that the City Council is working on goals. The goals will be posted on the web site soon. Coos Bay and North Bend Councils have met on communication and are scheduled to meet again. The City has added a new Police Position, Crime prevention officer Randy Sparks. Randy will be the Key note speaker at the January 24th, downtown meeting at the Council Chambers at 6pm. Officer Sparks is a good speaker, he will be sharing some ideas concerning the pan handlers downtown.

City of North Bend- Jan reports that the remodel of City Hall is complete. She invites the board to come take a tour of City Hall. The remodel has made a very nice area to work and the Police Chief now has his own office. The City has met with the Architect and looked at the plans for the swimming pool locker rooms. The City is looking for donations for Phase 2 of the swimming pool project. The Ford Foundation provided \$125,000. for phase 1 of the remodel project for the pool. We are looking at a challenge grant of \$150,000 for phase 2. The Umpqua Committee is continuing with the remodel of the North Bend Hotel. Demolition will start soon. The North Bend Fire Department sponsored 29 families for Christmas. They were able to provide food and gifts to these families. The Fire Department conducted it's annual tree drive, picking up Christmas trees for a donation of can food.

Charleston- Martin reports that the Port is working on the Rail Road issue. Marjory reports that crabbers are doing well. Planning is underway for the Oyster Feed on April 28th. Annual Crab feed will be the second Saturday in February at the Charleston School. The crab feed is a fund raiser for the Merchant Association.

Martin reports that there will be a community discussion January 18th at the North Bend Library 2:30 – 4:30, on Marine Reserves. The Governors staff will meet with the community on Wave Energy, Marine Reserves, economic interest and repercussions. John Griffith will be the representative for OPAC & Coos County, State Representative Arnie Roblan and Senator Kruse hope to attend this meeting.

South Coast Development Council- Ron reports Thursday and Friday SCDC will be meeting with Representative Roblan and Senator Verger. Also they will be meeting with a California firm that is looking at our area. This firm could bring 175 jobs to the area. A retreat is planned for the SCDC Board of Directors for Saturday January 12th. Bend and Portland people are looking at investing in the area. They are interested in a multi unit commercial building. Bangor School has new owners. A group of investors from Central Oregon have purchased the property.

North Bend Downtown Association- Jan reports that the downtown area is hectic due to the renovation of the North Bend Hotel. Plans are to refurbish the outside, keeping to the historical look of the building. The inside will be renovated for low to medium housing on the upper floors and retail space on the street level. Shutter Creek Correctional System and Bay Area First Step are interested in property on Sheridan Street for a half way house. The City is expecting community input on this proposal.

CCD Business Development Corporation- Theresa reports that CCD has been very busy. Twenty –eight projects are in the works. The USDA program is very successful. Money is available to loan to Coos County businesses at fixed rate of 8-9 %.

Meeting Adjourned.

Around the Water Cooler- Joanie voiced concerns of downtown panhandling. Karl reported on Fisheries restoration grant writing. The streams along Cape Arago Highway need attention. This is Coho habitat. Cleaning up the streams would improve water conditions. Land owners along the stream deal with the pollution and habitat opportunities.

Timm reminds the Board that the BACC Award Banquet will be Saturday, January 26th, 6pm at The Mill Casino Salmon Room.

Jan wants to remind the Board about WOPR comment deadline. Eugene radio ads about it are some very bad publicity. Please write letters to BLM to sharing your views and comments on this issue. We need real dollars to meet real issues. Timm will send the board a copy of the letter the Chamber sent.