

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
October 3, 2007
Red Lion Hotel -7am**

Board Members present: Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Mel Campbell, Charleston; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours! Antiques; Eric Farm, Menasha; Chris Christoffer, Sterling Bank; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Mark Mattecheck, North Bend Lanes; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning;

Others present: Deryl Beebe, Ambassadors; Chuck Freeman, City of Coos Bay Manager; Jan Willis, North Bend City Administrator; Timm Slater, Executive Director; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; Theresa Haga, CCD Business Development; Lila Sweet, Lila's Boutique; Ron Opitz, South Coast Development Council.

President Jenny Bream called the meeting to order. Minutes were approved and seconded, with a small change that Phase 1 of the North Bend Pool is not complete. Family changing room and Men's and Women's changing rooms will be going to bid.

Presidents Report- Jenny welcomed new members Lila Sweet and Crystal Shoji. She reminded the board that Chamber retreat is coming up soon. Introductions were made around the table. Jenny thanked everyone for coming.

Executive Director's Report- Timm shared a story from Bill Lansing's new book, Portland to Coos Bay in 28 days via San Francisco.

A. Area Updates – Transportation- Timm asked Ron Opitz to report on Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad (CORP) discontinued service, Coos Bay to the Valley. Ron reports, Michael Baker, ODOT planning & Financial, predicts that local clients of the railroad will be relying on trucking to transport their goods. It is estimated that 1131 new trucks will be on the road each month. Roseburg Forest Products, 375 trucks per month using Hwy 42; South Port, 90 trucks per month using Hwy 42 and Hwy 101; Georgia Pacific, 638 trucks per month using Hwy 42 & Hwy 101; American Bridge, 15 trucks per month using Hwy 38 and 101; 15-20 miscellaneous trucks using Hwy 38, 101 and 126. This will make an impact on our highways. Susan Morgan and Joanne Verger met in Roseburg with the Senior Vice President of CORP; over 30 participants voiced their concerns on the railroad pulling out. The Governor is very upset. Congressman DeFazio has asked for an investigation. The stated reason for the closure of the railroad was due to unsafe tunnels and bridges. There has been no documentation provided, discussing the safety issues or repairs needed. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 4th in Roseburg. Senator Verger, Representative Roblan, Kelli Taylor from ODOT Rail and the Rail America president are scheduled to meet. The argument is that the Railroad should have given adequate notice. Is CORP in violation of their contract? The situation is very complicated. The railroad is regulated but also a private business. The railroad has a year to make improvements. If improvements are not made and the railroad not reopened, it could be considered abandonment. Union Pacific is working with container

business. It is projected to cost over 240 million dollars to redo railroad including tunnels. Discussion opened with, who is responsible for tunnel maintenance? The railroad is responsible for the tunnels. Union Pacific owns the tracks, CORP leases from Union Pacific. The embargo holds all repairs for 1 year, this is an added cost to businesses for trucking. This is critical to our area.

B. Economic Outlook Forum will be December 7th at the Mill Casino. It has been a pleasure working with Lori Capps at the Business Development Center. This year we will hear John Mitchell and Guy Tauer speaking. Timm will welcome everyone and be the emcee for the morning. Ron Optiz is going to share the successes of our area. Local updates will be presented by BAH, SOCC, Bandon Dunes, Southwestern Regional Airport, Oregon International Port and CEDCO. Home grown businesses will be represented by Jill Hanson, Hanson-Meekins Animal Hospital; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Donna and Dave Gould, Coos Bay Timber Operators. Tickets this year will be Members \$25, Non Members \$30, Sponsorship was raised from \$250 to \$300.

C. Chamber Retreat and Planning Session will be October 26th, 7am – 11am at The Mill. Committee chairs will share their goals for 2008. Chamber Board will construct a series of Board goals from the committee goals and other inputs. The plan is to revisit the goals in three months and evaluate the progress being made.

D. Special dates coming up, BLM workshop will meet October 10th at the North Bend Library. Comments will be accepted on the BLM plan until November 9th. This is an attempt by government (BLM) to meet environmental requirements and increase, as required harvest on O & C lands. This would mean real money for the county. Sue Kupillas, Citizens for Sustainable forest and Communities will be a speaker at IBO on October 24th. Jessica Hamilton, Governor's advisor on Marine Reserves, will speak at IBO on November 28th. Question was raised had the Chamber sent out a letter to the Governor, letting him know the concerns this area has for the reserve proposal. Yes, a letter was sent last week. No response to date. A request was made for more information to be sent to the Legislature and Governor before any decision is made. This project was on a fast track. Things have been slowed down and a new time line made.

Treasurer's Report- Sherry reports that the Chamber has money, \$135,953.10. The Accountant's report is available if anyone would like to read it.

Ambassadors- Deryl reports that the Ambassadors had a good time representing the Bay Area at the Ambassadors Convention in Eugene. Thank you to everyone who participated for their time and donations. The Ambassadors hosted a Hospitality room offering local food and wine to showcase our area. South Coast Development Council provided a DVD showcasing the Bay area that was shown. The Ambassadors performed a skit. A DVD of the skit is in the making. The Ambassadors meet twice a month, the Board meets the first Tuesday of the month, Ambassadors meet the first Friday of the month. A third meeting has been added, the third Tuesday of the month for planning the 2009 convention that will be hosted in Coos Bay/North Bend. We are looking for corporate sponsors, table sponsors and gift baskets.

Tourism- Mark reports that the Promotions web page is live and running. Please visit www.oregonsadventurecoast.com. Please let the committee know what is missing. The Prefontaine Committee has received a grant of \$5000. The money will be used to purchase 10 Bronze plaques that will be placed along Ocean Blvd, showing the training route that Steve Prefontaine used. This is the same route ran during the Prefontaine Memorial Run. A map and brochure will be available to visitors. Prefontaine is the #1 hit on the web site. Olympic trails that will be held in Eugene, should bring people to this area because of Prefontaine. Tourism Committee meeting will be October 18th, Noon at the Red Lion.

Joanie reports that the committee established a mission statement. The mission statement outlines the intentions of taking a Leadership role and promoting Tourism year round. Goals include Prefontaine promotions; Tall Ship the Lynx is scheduled to dock June 13 – 15; Other promotions to honor Tall Ships to take place on waterfront; Charm Bracelet promotion.

Forestry & Fisheries- Eric reported that BLM is doing a very nice job with the tours they offer. The tour explains BLM's new plan, very educational. Forestry and Fisheries meets the 3rd Friday of the month at the Red Lion 7am. He also reminded the board that Sue Kupillas from Citizens for Sustainable Forest and Communities will be the speaker October 24th for IBO.

Leadership Coos- Pam reports that Leadership Coos second session will be October 9th. The topic for the day is Natural Resources and Agriculture. The group will visit Millicoma Interpretive Center and take a Mystery Tour with Marty Giles.

IBO- Timm reports that the new Steering Committee for IBO, Dick Leshley, Sam Roth and Andy Post, is coming together well. IBO's are scheduled thru December. Always looking for informative and interesting speakers for IBO. Umpqua Bank has offered to sponsor the New Member Table at the IBO luncheons. October 31st County Commissioners will speak at IBO.

Transportation- Transportation Committee will meet October 18th.

Economic Development- Chris reports that Economic Development is taking a new focus and becoming proactive for the Chamber. Chris met with Arlene Soto the new director of the South Coast Business Development Center. Arlene has a strong business background. She has some good ideas for Economic Development for the Chamber. The next meeting will be exploring what direction to go.

City of Coos Bay – Chuck was at a Council retreat last week. Continue to look at business facades in the downtown area. The Fire Station is looking at purchasing the lot where the Presbyterian Church is vs the property on 4th and Curtis. There is controversy on what property is owned by DSL (Department of State Lands) in downtown Coos Bay. A letter has been sent looking for specific action to be taken. The City is looking at state funding and/or grants to fix the contamination at Central Dock. The City has added two new positions, a Planner and a Code Enforcement Officer. The City is preparing for the growth to come.

City of North Bend- Jan has met with DSL representative. A request was made to educate community and distribute maps to show ownership of land along the waterfront. CEDCO resolved DSL issue and ownership of land. ODOT

is working with OBEC on the engineering of the Boardwalk. Hope to have an idea of the cost to engineer the boardwalk soon. The timeline for construction is 2009. League of cities conference was excellent. Debra Roberts was one of the great speakers. She addressed issues such as Quality of Life, Integrity, Fair/Honest, Treat People Right. A grant has been received to erect a Veterans Memorial at the Wayside on 101, north of the transpacific parkway turn off. Jan asked to revise last month's minutes. North Bend waterfront project is scheduled to be completed in 08/09. This project is not in relation to CEDCO. Phase I of the North Bend Pool is underway, to add a family changing room and redo the Men's and Women's changing rooms. Thank you to the Ford Foundation, Bay Area Hospital and many anonymous donations that have made this project possible. Fund raisers have gathered over \$240,000. The North Bend Municipal Pool will celebrate its 50th birthday on October 6th, from 11am to 6pm at the pool. The theme is a Hawaiian Luau. Food and beverages have been donated, with free swimming and raffles to raise funds to Save our Pool Project. It will include a Hawaiian Luau and the Umpqua Ice Cream Truck.

Charleston- Mel reports that things are very quiet in Charleston. Tourism has slowed down. Concerns for Charleston are that because we are county and not city we stand alone on development. There is no county money for improvements. Beach signs are working, many people enjoying the beach. Working on a Christmas promotion for Christmas shopping in local shops. October 13th South Slough is hosting a fund raiser at the Charleston School for the Food bank.

Downtown Association- Joanie is promoting a safe Trick and Treat Halloween. Working with Checkerberry's on a holiday shopping promotion for downtown Coos Bay. Working to coordinate the promotion for the same week-end of the Holiday Craft fairs. One idea is "Come Find Santa". Have Santa move from shop to shop. Sincerely Yours! will host Business After Hours on October 31st. Joanie shared with the board that Dunes Coastal Gift was broken into last night. The thieves broke down the front door and took cash.

CCD Business Development Corporation- Theresa reports that Eileen is very active. Loan department is making loans and Douglas county loan operation will be taken over.

Meeting Adjourned