

# PRAIRIE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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## COLORADO'S CENTRAL PLAINS



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### PRAIRIE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 22, 2014

#### **Call to Order**

Chairman Siekman called to order the January 22, 2014, meeting of the Prairie Development Corporation at 7:28 PM held via teleconference. Members attending were: Steve Burgess, Rol Hudler, Ed Rarick, Robert Safranek, Dana Siekman, Dorothy Stone and Marilyn Ward. Other participants included Maryjo Downey, PDC Administrator and Candace Payne, Special Projects Director. Jerry Allen and Robert Rowland were unable to attend.

#### **Minutes & Financial Reports**

Minutes of the November 20, 2013 meeting were presented. Steve Burgess made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Dorothy Stone seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board again reviewed a list of bills for October totaling \$23,218.21. This report had been previously approved at the meeting in November. Jo explained the November and December financial reports were not ready at the time of the packet mailing so they will be emailed out January 23, 2014, to be approved at the next meeting.

#### **Business Loan Recommendations**

There were no loans presented at this time.

#### **Housing Recommendations**

There were no housing loan requests above \$25,000 to approve above. Loans below that amount are reviewed and approved or disapproved by staff and do not need Board approval.

#### **Ag Business Entrepreneur Loan Program**

Candace reported there have been no loan applications even though the bankers thought it was a good idea during the visits she made recently. Candace will visit the bankers again starting in February as January is already fully scheduled with end of year reports and other work.

#### **CDBG 2014 Application/Public Hearing**

Jo Downey reminded the Board members that the current CDBG contract with Lincoln County had been previously extended to January 31, 2014...bringing the total contract period to sixty months. Downey stated that there was over \$440,000 of the \$1,000,000 granted loan funds still to be lent out. As administrative costs are tied to performance (a percentage of the loans)...no admin costs are currently being charged to the CDBG grant. Because the time period is much longer than originally projected, additional admin dollars could have been requested from the State at such time loan activity increased and such additional dollars could be justified. However, as the time frame for the grant to expire is fast approaching, there would not be time to expend the funds even if some of the remaining dollars are committed by the end of January. Jo stated that support costs for the loan program were not a problem as those costs were being charged to revolved funds or general operating funds. If the contract is not fully expended before it expires next January, the funds will be de-obligated. Due to Federal funding cuts, an additional CDBG grant may not be available, but OEDIT (Office of Economic Development and International Trade) staff is strongly encouraging the region to apply for another new grant. Downey recently met with the Lincoln County Commissioners to once again ask them to be the lead applicant. The Commissioners agreed. Downey said that Cheyenne and Kit Carson County have also agreed to participate. She will meet with Elbert County once the Public Hearing has been held. Though Lincoln County is the only actual applicant and sub-contracts the grant to PDC and ECCOG to administer, all four counties must sign the application and enter into an intergovernmental agreement if loans are to be available in their county(s). The changes of receiving additional funds will not only be dependent on their availability but the ability to demonstrate need for loan activity for the first few months of any new

grant period. Downey said at this time, there appears to be four possible loan projects and assuming the Public Hearing is positive, she will proceed with a new application to be submitted sometime in February.

### **SBDC Counseling Update**

Candace Payne reported the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is planning their monthly events now. She asked for any topics for seminars/webinars to be emailed to her. This year Candace and Craig plan to have events in our specific areas instead of participating through the Internet with Greeley's activities. The intent is to bring more awareness of SBDC to our area and develop more business opportunities. Dates were chosen in late April for Jon Schallert to present to our area but this is still in the collaboration and planning stage.

### **Drought Impacted Business Loans Update**

Candace reported twenty-three "mini-drought" loans throughout the service area have been funded. The loans total \$284,590 for various purposes including feed, seed, inventory, equipment, and working capital. Loans may be up to \$15,000 and up to five years at 5% fixed interest. Credit score must be above 650 and only existing businesses qualify. These loans are not collateralized. Two loans were late in December but should be back on track in January. Candace will visit with area bankers and businesses starting in February to promote the drought loan program as well as the other PDC loan programs.

### **Potential Loan Activity**

Candace shared one loan application may be forthcoming using CDBG funds. The business has the application but it has not been completed and returned yet. If the application comes in before the next meeting we will call for a teleconference.

### **Enterprise Zone Boundary Review Status**

Jo Downey briefly discussed the time frame and process for the legislatively mandated Enterprise Zone Boundary review and its possible impacts on the current East Central Enterprise Zone boundaries. A time line for that review has previously been distributed and was included in the minutes of the November PDC meeting minutes.

### **2014 Board**

Jo welcomed Marilyn Ward to the board as Mark Snyder's replacement for Cheyenne County. Robert Rowland had previously indicated that the Commissioners in Elbert County would appoint someone else to fill out his term since his schedule did not allow him the time to be an active participant. The two new Board members will be appointed for only one year as each will complete the last half of both Mark and Robert Rowland's two-year terms.

### **PDC Appointment of At-Large-Member to ECCOG**

Unlike the PDC two year Board Member terms, the East Central Council of Local Governments Board members serve only one year terms. The Board consists of 13 members including one County Commissioner appointed by each of the four County Commissions. The municipalities in each county elect/select one mayor or councilperson to represent their respective incorporated-communities. Each County Commission also appoints an economic development/stakeholder representative. The thirteenth or at-large member is appointed annually by PDC. After brief discussion, Steve Burgess made a motion to reappoint Troy McCue as the 2014 At-Large member on COG. Dorothy Stone seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **Next Meeting Date/Location**

The next "in-person" meeting was scheduled for March 19, 2014, at Turkey Crossing Café in Hugo. Robert Safranek offered to schedule the meeting with the café owners beginning at 5:00 PM with Loan Committee. A snow date is planned for March 26. Should a loan(s) decision be needed prior to that meeting, Dana will schedule a conference call.

### **Other**

### **Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before the Board, Chairman Siekman adjourned the meeting at 7:59 PM.