

# PRAIRIE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

COLORADO'S CENTRAL PLAINS



**PRAIRIE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
May 26, 2010**

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Dana Siekman called the meeting of the Prairie Development Corporation Board of Directors to order at 7:25 p.m. at the Health Services Building of the Elbert County Fairgrounds, Kiowa, Colorado. In addition to Dana Siekman, board members present included Dorothy Stone, Myron Sams, Craig Curl, Ed Rarick, Nancy Bogenhagen and Rol Hudler. Staff members present were Maryjo Downey, PDC Administrator, and Terry Blevins, Special Projects Director.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Board members proceeded with review of the Minutes of the February 24, 2010 meeting. Myron Sams moved the February 24, 2010 meeting Minutes be approved as submitted; Ed Rarick seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## **Financial report**

Jo Downey presented the monthly list of bills totaling \$53,511.23, along with financial reports for the months of February and March 2010. Nancy Bogenhagen moved the Board accept the financial reports and ratify payment of the listed bills. Dorothy Stone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## **Business Loan Recommendations**

There were no business loan recommendations to come before the Board.

## **Housing Loan Recommendations**

There were no housing loan recommendations to come before the Board.

## **CTB Marketing Grant/Event Selections/First Saturday**

Jo Downey reminded the Board that the \$15,000 Colorado Tourism Board marketing grant, matched with \$7,500 in other PDC funds, is to pay for special, heavy promotion for four events in 2010—one in each county. The events, selected by committees comprised of East Central Council of Local Governments and Prairie Development Corporation Board members in each county, included: Simla Days in Elbert County; Burlington's Celebration of Summer in Kit Carson County; the Limon Heritage Festival in Lincoln County; and the Cheyenne Wells Tumbleweed Festival in Cheyenne County.

The grant funds also will fund four "fam" tours, bus tours from the metropolitan areas to familiarize tour companies, recreation media and the general public with the attractions in this region.

**PDC Board of Directors Meeting  
May 26, 2010 Minutes, Page 2**

Jo also reported on plans for the First Saturday event on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion in Denver June 5, describing expected participants and scheduled events. This event will give the Denver general public an opportunity to see examples of heritage tourism and other summer events on Colorado's Central Plains that are suitable for families looking for day or weekend recreational activities.

**2010 Events Guide**

Jo Downey said the new Events Guide has been completed, and she circulated copies to Board members. Events scheduled too late or otherwise missed in the guide can still be included on the copy posted on the Our Journey website, she added.

**Off the Beaten Trail and Our Journey Updates**

Jo Downey said the 2010 Our Journey season is under way, and visitors to each museum will this year receive a "carabiner," a colorful clip bearing the name and symbol of that museum, upon presentation of an Our Journey ticket. Visitors will be encouraged to collect all 13 carabiners, Jo said, and those collecting eight or more will be eligible to win a free stay at one of the region's bed & breakfast facilities.

**Limon Housing Rehab Bids**

Terry Blevins reported that two contractors bid the rehabilitation projects in Limon, with the apparent low bidder being Hake Construction of Stratton. Rol Hudler moved the Board affirm a contract with Hake Construction, the apparent low bidder for the project. Ed Rarick seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Jo Downey also circulated copies of the new federal low- to moderate-income guidelines, used as one of the benchmarks to determine eligibility for the housing and business loan programs.

**Little Homes on the Prairie Web Site dba Home Sweet Prairies**

Jo Downey said this website is being developed and plans are completed for marketing its availability. Jo said PDC hopes to link this site to all real estate offices within the area, to make it easier for homebuyers to find available properties in this region. She said she expects the site to also help promote home businesses.

**PDC "Real Estate" Update**

Jo Downey gave this update during the non-public Loan Committee meeting immediately prior to the Board meeting.

**Stratton Office Concrete Repair Status**

Jo Downey said anticipated concrete repairs in front of, and behind, the building rented to East Central Council of Local Governments in Stratton has not been implemented, to date.

**PDC Board of Directors Meeting  
May 26, 2010 Minutes, Page 3**

**Loan Activity Status**

Jo Downey said she continues to have contacts with individuals needing to refinance existing debt or hoping to find grants to finance their businesses. However, she said she has referred a half-dozen of the individuals with more promising ideas for assistance with business plan development.

**Enterprise Zone Legislation**

Jo Downey gave a brief report on Enterprise Zone legislation from the recent legislative session, and described SB 10-162 as a “challenging change.” Beginning January 1, 2012, businesses must be pre-certified prior to earning any of the EZ tax credits, except in the case of the contribution credit. This bill also established a time frame for development of an on-line pre-certification and certification process so that certifications can be signed electronically.

**Next Meeting Date/Location**

The next meeting of the PDC Board of Directors will be Wednesday, August 25, 2010 in Flagler.

**Other**

Craig Curl circulated brochures and discussed briefly formation of the Plains Art Guild to provide education and support for artists throughout the four counties. Artists based in the region are eligible for free membership in the guild, he said.

**Adjournment**

There being no other business, Dana Siekman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.