

May, 2022

I. HOUSING RECRUITMENT

A. John- Met with an apartment developer out of Dallas regarding transportation to Carlsbad. They indicated that they were going to fly in to Roswell (they wanted jet service) in mid-June to drive down and look at Carlsbad properties. This company was referred to us by a person who met with us at our booth in Dallas earlier this year.

B. John- Met again with a developer and builder in Dallas for project Choctaw. This is a project that involves permanent entry-level housing and possibly upper-middle income housing, depending on their market analysis. Provided more information on the community (zoning) and contact information for City planning department. They are planning on a site visit this summer.

II. WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT

A. John- Met with NM Department of Workforce Solutions about workforce needs for Eddy County. Discussed the possibility of a campaign to promote this area as a “state hotspot” for jobs. Also discussed our Local Development Coordinator position. They are going to highlight it this month on statewide social media and promote it to generate more New Mexico interest. We are still searching for a viable candidate for this position who is interested in living and working in Carlsbad full time.

B. John- Finished adding additional data to the workforce skills assessment that Michelle worked on before she left. The study is now finished and is available to anyone interested.

C. Jeff – Working on recruiting a new Local Development Coordinator for the CDOD. The position has been advertised on Indeed, social media, and as pointed out above, with the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions.

D. Jeff –Eddy County’s unemployment was 3.8% in April. Chaves County was 4.8% and Lea County was at 5.7%.

E. Jeff – We are looking at putting together another job fair in June. More details as they emerge.

F. Jeff – John and I met with Mike McNair from the SENMC regarding workforce needs. We discussed how the college can work with industries to get training courses they can use. Additionally, Mike told us the college is looking for people to teach community education topics.

III. OIL, GAS & ALTERNATE ENERGY

A. John- Met with owners of Project Distill to discuss how new operation is proceeding. They are not yet at 100% but already are so thrilled with the results, that they are opening another operation in SE NM (Jal) later this month.

B. John- Attended a meeting with officials from Conoco-Phillips and local leaders. Tina Tiffany and other members of the Conoco-Phillips leadership team spoke about their operations and planned growth in the Permian basin. I spoke about the CDOD and our efforts to bring in additional housing and workforce to Eddy County and Carlsbad.

C. Jeff – Met with a representative from Toolpushers Supply, an oilfield supply company. They currently have an existing office in Artesia, but will close on their property for a store here in Carlsbad. They are looking at July to begin operations. The site is located off Derrick Road. I also invited them to join the CDOD as members.

IV. EDUCATION

A. John- Sent SENMC staff results of the Workforce Skill survey and spoke with Monty Harris about the safety training needs of local employers.

B. John- Attended a planning meeting for a strategy session to be given by SENMC.

V. MEDICAL

A. Jeff- Sent out a press release we put together for Cavern City Orthodontics. I worked with Dr. James Waters on background information, and received a quote from Mayor Janway as well. This is a service we provide to CDOD members.

VI. NUCLEAR

A. John- CDOD hosted a dinner meeting for Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) in Carlsbad on May 6. There were people here from across the national weapons complex visiting Carlsbad and WIPP. I welcomed everyone at the opening luncheon and President Shoemaker spoke at the dinner. Each of the members that I spoke with were impressed with and complimented NWP staff and WIPP in general.

VII. RETAIL/RESTAURANTS/ENTERTAINMENT/HOSPITALITY

A. Jeff– Met via phone with Project Whale. They are attending the ICSC RECON show in Las Vegas, Nevada at the end of May. They are working on putting together all of their costs for the project and on a proposal for the city to see what assistance can be had. We spoke to them about this and some other pieces of information related to the potential tenants they are working on with the project. I have sent them some of the retail and restaurant entities I have been recruiting and at least one of them has signed a letter of intent to be a part of the project.

B. Jeff – Albertsons Sign Update: The sign is up and operational! After nearly three years in the making, we have the project nearly completed. We are waiting on the modem to be received and installed so we can begin programming messages. Also, there are some repairs needed to the ground where the sign was installed as well as one of the Albertsons facades, as it was slightly wrinkled during install. We have received tons of compliments on the sign and how nice it looks.

C. Jeff – Met with Gary Lane, the principal of Carlston Ranch. He told us that they are ready to begin selling property for industrial, commercial, and housing usage. However, there is still no sewer to the property. He said the back-up plan is in place using septic systems. John and I also went to talk with Jeff Patterson at the city planning department to see where they are in regard to getting sewer to the Carlston Ranch property. Jeff said that much of this is based on capital outlay funding, and that can be volatile. They could have the sewer out there in 24 months, based on funding. We discussed updating some of the Carlston Ranch marketing materials to reflect the overall market better, especially as it relates to the property location to oilfield operations.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

A. Jeff- The CDOD Annual Dinner will be held on June 16th at the Pecos River Village Conference Center. Save the date cards have gone out and formal invitations will follow. As per the norm, we will be giving out economic development awards.

B. John- Working with the US EDA to defederalize our original RLF loan, which would permanently release us from their quarterly reporting requirements and any payback responsibilities for fund in the future.

C. John- Spoke at Friday Focus (attendance of 20) this month about the local economy and projects coming to Carlsbad and Eddy County.

D. John- Over the past three weeks, the entire staff has been working hard with businesses on the ARPA grant applications to ensure all of the necessary documentation is completed. We received almost 30 applications from across the county, including Artesia, Carlsbad, and Loving. We will be complete with the rating process and ready to send completed recommendations to County Administration within the week.

E. John- Attended a meeting with Mainstreet Director Kat Davis, Chamber Exec. Director Chad Ingram and Foundation Exec. Director Mike Antiporda regarding projects that are going on in our organizations.

F. John- Sent information to the County on the water-based population estimates for the end of 2021. Requested information from City and Water Coops on current numbers to update this estimate.

G. John- Distributed Eddy County invitation to bid and request for proposal notices to relevant members.

H. John- Met with staff members from the NM Economic Development Department and the Department of Transportation regarding projects in the region. Spoke about the 31/285 route and intersections as well as the planned growth in the area. NMEDD informed us that they have eliminated the LEADS eligible uses that most of the EDAs around the state apply for under LEADS, including the CDOD. We have used this funding for trade shows in the past. This is now not an eligible use. Eligible uses include using funds to design and build a new industrial park, design and build another AMITC incubator, or similar facility.