

# April 2020

## I. HOUSING RECRUITMENT

**A. Sidney** – Sent out survey to members on behalf of firm that is updating an affordable housing plan for Carlsbad that was previously completed for Eddy County in 2015. Along with the survey, is a mapping tool for users to select areas they think would be suitable for housing and a comment capability to elaborate on their input.

**B. Sidney** – I contacted RV park owners/managers and inquired about any drops in occupancy over the past few weeks. All reported an increase in available spots. These vacancies ranging from 8-10%, 25%, 40%, all the way up to 60%. Only a few said this was drop in occupancy was caused by coronavirus shutdowns locally, the vast majority were due to oilfield related layoffs. One manager I spoke with mentioned offering decreased rates to individuals whom were laid off and wanted to leave their RVs there while they returned home until work became available again.

**C. Sidney** – Almost all complexes have experienced one or all of the following: short notices, requests for payment plans, move-outs. All complexes where I was able to speak with someone had units available with more becoming available by the end of this month. Some seemed less impacted than others did, but majority reported an increase in number of units available from February to now.

**D. Sidney** – I am going to send out an email to all members to see if anyone has property available for the affordable housing project partnering with Scott Williamson out of Dallas.

**E. Sidney** – Drove around the city to check on the construction status of various housing and hotel developments.

**F. Jeff** – Through contacts at the NMDWS, I have been attending different webinars and acquiring information to help people get back to work. One of the biggest ways was to figure out online work, and the state has provided some resources for that. Recently, two different companies have joined in providing employment opportunities for displaced workers. I sent this information out to all available lists, and included it on our website and Facebook page. The companies were Solo Works and Express Employment Professionals.

**G. John** – Attended a web meeting regarding housing with the head of the NM Homebuilders Association to try and get more multifamily units built in Eddy County and Carlsbad.

**H. John-** Jeff and I attended a web conference with Deborah Burns of Arctaris regarding opportunity zones and leveraging private and public money to build infrastructure for housing project in Carlsbad or Eddy County. Ms. Burns was going to meet with Governor's staff to see if their program was doable in NM. It appears that legislation may have to be passed to allow a project of this nature proceed without violating state law.

## **II. WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT**

**A. Sidney** – I have been working with individuals who have submitted their resumes online, or reached out to me personally about available positions in the area. I refer them to all online resources, and individual contacts of positions I have been informed of that are a match with their skills.

**B. Sidney** – I have been reaching out to the Solider for Life – Transition Assistance Program contacts to determine if the Fort Hood Job Fair will still be taking place this June

## **III. AVIATION**

## **IV. EDUCATION**

**A. Sidney** – Hosted career and technical education meeting for the Bridge of Southern NM at NMSU Carlsbad. There were 45 attendees from around the region, primarily educators and administrators. The conversation led to a consensus that we should target the following areas for future CTE investment:

1. Skilled Trades, with application to:
  - Oil & Gas
  - Mining/Extraction
  - Energy
  - Technical Fields
2. Healthcare

**B. Sidney** – Following the meeting, I attended an educational webinar on how to create an account and use the interface for NM PED's new Grant Management Site, which is used for managing Perkins applications.

**C. Sidney** – Assisting Jamie Cherry, NM PED, by contacting school administrators throughout the region to determine which districts will be applying for Perkins funding for this year.

## **V. OIL, GAS & ALTERNATE ENERGY**

**A. John** – Wrote and submitted a letter of support to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the Double E pipeline that will be built from Texas into Eddy County for our members that will be utilizing the proposed pipeline.

**B. John-** Met with Beverly with Chevron to discuss how things were going. Beverly was able to get Chevron's membership dues approved again for \$10,000 this year. Chevron announced that they were actively giving out gas cards to non-profit organizations across the region to help out with current situations.

## **VI. MANUFACTURING**

## **VII. MEDICAL**

## **VIII. POTASH**

## **IX. NUCLEAR**

**A. John-** John Heaton, Councilor JJ Chaves, and I attended an ECA Webinar with Chris Hanson, Professional Staff member for the Senate Appropriations Committee to learn about the budgeting for the Department of Energy and WIPP. It appears that this year, EM is going to take a hit to their budget, which will be shifted to the NNSA and weapons modernization programs.

**B. Jeff** – On approval by the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance chair, John Heaton, I upgraded the ELEA website to its own site, capable of housing its own documents and information. There was a price upgrade as well, but Mr. Heaton just said we can forward the bills to Lea County. The site address is still [www.eddyleaenergyalliance.com](http://www.eddyleaenergyalliance.com).

## **X. RETAIL/RESTAURANTS/ENTERTAINMENT/HOSPITALITY**

**A. Jeff** – Had several conversations with a developer looking for land on the south side of Carlsbad, particularly National Parks Highway. I did a property search for him, and also put him in touch with some land owners closer in town, but his retail client specifically wants to be more south. We also talked about the market dealing with the downturn in oil prices and COVID-19. I responded with the diversity aspect of our economy, noting that we have various industries that can absorb displaced workers better than other markets in our part of the state.

**B. Jeff** – Talked with the developer holding the former Lucy's Cantina property on Canal Street. He informed me that they are indeed going to be putting a second Taco Bell there, and are currently looking for more tenants and ideas on what to put there with Taco Bell. I will be sending him information on other retailers and restaurants we have been talking with recently to see if there is a possible fit.

**C. Jeff** – Albertsons Sign: I was informed that the virus lockdown conditions have affected the progress of the large monument sign located on the corner of Canal and Church. However, everything is being put into place for the construction. Power for the sign is being installed in the landscaping between the parking lot and the street. All of that work is in place and the parking lot is good to be paved without any worry of future trenching for the sign power. The owner of the Little Caesars tract is not going to be repaving his portion of the parking lot, so they are working with a boring contractor to bore under his lot into the new sign pier to reach the electrical conduit. The new sign will be located just east of the existing one, and the old one will not be torn down until the new one is reaching its final stages. Estimated completion is now June 2020.

**D. Jeff** – COVID-19 Recovery Efforts: We continue to stay in contact with the State Economic Development Department and other entities to provide the most useful resources to local businesses. Efforts range from business funding solutions, to include our local lenders as well as state resources, alternative methods of doing business so that money is still incoming to people, and basic safety tips. We conducted an impact survey, and received over 40 responses. I have taken the email addresses from those surveys and included them on mass emails to provide assistance. We continue to update both our COVID-19 website page and CDOD Facebook pages as well. Various businesses have asked for help, and I have been providing them with information and contacts for further assistance. Work continues daily

**E. John**- Spoke with Noel Adams, with the company that is building the New Hyatt House on National Parks Highway. He is finishing a conference meeting room adjacent to the hotel and plans on opening the facility in June.

## **XI. CASCADES**

## **XII. ADMINISTRATION**

**A. John**- At the City's request, I did an estimate of the population change from 1<sup>st</sup> Q of 2019 to 1<sup>st</sup> Q 2020. This estimate only takes into account water usage up to March 31 of this year. The population change is about 4-6% decrease from last year. I anticipate a much larger drop for this quarter we are in now.

**B. John**- Craig and I submitted funding requests for FY 2021 to both City and County Administrations. We asked for budget that was equivalent to last year's amounts.

**C. Jeff** – Working on correcting information on the CDOD website that we thought was completed by a former employee. It was brought to my attention by a board member. If you see anything on the site that is incorrect, please let me know so we can rectify the situation.

**D. Jeff** – In addition to the above posting, I have continued to work with our web host provider, Golden Shovel, on various items related to the CDOD website. We have had zoom meetings, and they have been instrumental in getting news items posted very quickly for us so that they are timely for people to see and take action. We never had this kind of interaction with our last provider, CivicPlus.

**E. Sidney** – Attended all available webinars held by NM EDD and other sources.

**F. Sidney** – I sent over calculated estimates of Carlsbad's population of essential and non-essential workers to the city. These numbers were gathered from two different recent dataset and the governor's guidelines.

**G. John**- Met with Carla Sonntag of the NM Business Coalition about the impact that COVID and the oil prices were having on our economy. We also discussed the Coalition's impending letter to Governor asking her to consider reopening some of the businesses and non-emergency medical/dental procedures with reasonable precautions in place.