

MT. BAKER FOOTHILLS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting – March 15, 2006

Alan Seid, Maple Falls
Joseph Garcia, Mt Baker Trailhead
Phil Cloward, Mt Baker Foothills Chamber
Tony Kelley, Mt Baker Foothills Chamber
Joseph Heller, Foothills Chamber, BMFC
Carole Sharpe, Glacier
Lou Piotrowski, MB Foothills Chamber
Dodd Snodgrass, Port of B'ham
Rose Lathrop, Aiki Homes

Rob Staveland, Aiki Homes
Richard Gantman, MBSD Superintendent
Catherine Miron, Glacier Creek Lodge
Jan Eskola, Glacier Water District
Maryann Angus, Keller Williams Realty
Russ Angus, Angus and Associates, Inc
Jim Davis, Conservation Partnership Center
Matt Aamot, PDS
Sharon Digby, PDS

Call to order by Alan at 1:00PM. Welcome and introductions made.

OPENING COMMENT SESSIONS

- Phil: Black Mountain Forestry raised \$6600 at their St Patrick's Day Banquet. The money will be used to acquire Lopez Island railroad, which will be located in the new arboretum.
- Tony: The Sumas Chamber of Commerce donated \$2500 to the Sumas Business Job Information Center, which is located in the Sumas City Hall.
- Rob asked if the EDA would be updated on the Foothills Subarea Plan process. Matt replied that he will provide updates
- Jan asked for a list of the Foothills Subarea Advisory Committee, which Matt provided.

PRESENTATIONS

Pandemic Flu Task Force – Lou, Alan, Phil

Lou, Alan and Phil gave an overview of the first meeting of the Pandemic Flu Task Force. The focus of the planning is: Limit the sickness and death during an emergency, Maintain continuity or essential services, Minimize social disruption, Reduce economic losses. Alan stressed that it is not a matter of "if", but "when". The plan will be for the worst case scenario where services could be affected for several years. Lou will forward an electronic version of the meeting summary to Sharon for distribution.

East County Update – Matt

- Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee (FSPAC). FSPAC held their first meeting on March 8th. Resolution 2005-062 creating the committee, the Scope of Work, subarea boundary, and public participation was discussed. The next meeting is March 29th where transportation, public participation, subarea boundary, election of officers and Chapter 1 of the Comp Plan will be discussed. Planning is still working on funding for Phase 2.
- Nextel – no progress, still on hold
- Secret Harbor – no application
- Comp Plan Amendments – There were 30 application. The County Council docketed about half of the requests. The application to limit building permits was not docketed.
- Aiki Homes – no additional information.
- Lou asked if FSPAC meetings are open to the public – Matt responded that they are.

Wildlife Research – Jim Davis

Jim Davis is President of Conservation Partnership Center and a former professor at the University of Missouri. His research focus has been on the social aspects of health and the environment. He gave a slide show with the results of 100 intercept interviews he and assistants conducted in the Baker Lake area. He found that interviewees rated wildlife viewing as number one in the importance of forestry uses. He cited research from 500 interviews of people east of State Route 9 in Skagit and Whatcom County, conducted by the Grizzly Bear Outreach Project (GBOP) that interviewees in general strongly favored grizzly bear recovery, did not find grizzly bears very dangerous to humans and strongly disagreed that there is no need for grizzly bears in the North Cascades.

The main point from this research is that people are supportive of wildlife, even predatory wildlife. Expenditure is increasing for wildlife viewing by the public. This information is useful for tourism planning in the foothills area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Infrastructure – Phil

Phil summarized the number of acres in Whatcom County and the amount (6.7%) that is public land. He cautioned against loss of acreage and the need to protect the tax base which generated funds for infrastructure.

Recreation – Jeff

Nothing to report.

Steering Committee – Alan

Alan said that the Steering Committee has been meeting, but it will be several months before they bring something before the EDA group.

Marketing – Russ

Nothing to report.

Cell Phone – Carole/Dodd

Dodd reported that T-Mobile included establishing cell towers in Whatcom County in their budget. They have since hired a consultant to do the ground work. Dodd has been in touch with the consultant who felt that the March meeting was premature. The consultant will try to attend the April meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Joseph announced will be attending a geothermal meeting in Yakima. He said it would cost \$500,000 to bring 50° C water to Glacier, which would bring a 75% reduction in energy costs. Expenses could be recouped in 3-5 years. Joseph said he was willing to give an evening presentation.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 19th, 2006 at 1:00 pm in the Mt. Baker School District Office

Submitted by: Sharon Digby