

MT. BAKER FOOTHILLS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting – May 16, 2007

Phil Cloward, Foothills Chamber

Jeff Margolis, Everybody's Store

Carole Sharpe, Glacier

Rebecca Boonstra, Citizens of Columbia Valley

Jan Eskola, Glacier Water District

Russ Angus, Foothills Chamber

Matt Aamot, PDS

Pam Brown, PDS

Meeting called to order at 1:00 by Phil. Welcome and introductions made.

OPENING COMMENT SESSION

- Rebecca Boonstra, representing Citizens of Columbia Valley, reported that the Friends of the North Fork Community Library gave a presentation to her group which included Joan Airoidi and Georgina Head. Rebecca also reported the following upcoming events:
 - CITIZENS OF COLUMBIA VALLEY Economic Development Event co-sponsored by the Mount Baker Foothills Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with Sustainable Connections - the event will focus on promoting a "Local Living Economy" in the Foothills and showcase local businesses. Please join us at the SHUKSAN GOLF CLUB at 1500 E. Axton Road from 6:30 - 8:30 pm for appetizers and a unique networking opportunity. For more info please check your e-mail for a special invitation to our members and the business community in the Mount Baker Foothills or see our article in the May 11-24 2007 edition of the Foothills Gazette.
 - PUBLIC MEETING - Assistant State Attorney General, Greg Overstreet will hold a public meeting to discuss OPEN GOVERNMENT and PUBLIC RECORDS at the Kendall Elementary School from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. MEMBERS are encouraged to take advantage of the valuable opportunity that Mr. Overstreet has provided to our community and turn out to hear his presentation and ask questions. Mr. Overstreet will be accompanied by Hal Schloman from the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts, who will also be available to answer questions.
- Jan Eskola reported that the Colstra Company is asking Glacier residents to go to their website: www.colstra.com/signup and sign up if they are interested in getting internet service. Signing up would not commit them to buying the service it's an attempt for Colstra Company to get an estimate of the number of people interested. The internet service will use "boosters" which will boost the signal and cover more distance.
- Joseph Garcia reported that there is a website that anyone in the area can post to, things like businesses, local events, and community items. The website is www.east542.com. The resident that runs the site is Scott Rainey.

East County Update – Matt

- Matt gave a general announcement as the news that PDS director Hal Hart and PDS assistant director Dennis Rhodes had both submitted their resignations.

The Foothills Subarea Plan committee continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. The meetings begin at 6:00 and are held at the Kendall school. The public is welcome to attend. At tonight's meeting the committee will work on project prioritization (this may include issues relating to prioritization of the Kendall library, Deming Water Association upgrade, and Welcome Center). Also, the committee will continue to work on policy development.

Aiki Homes – In April there was a joint meeting between the County, WSDOT, and the applicant. The County and WSDOT agree that the traffic study needs to be based on the ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers) manual. The applicant has not yet resubmitted the traffic study.

The RF to UR4, 80-acre Rezone has to be scheduled for Planning Commission hearing. The planner that has been assigned that rezone is Gary Davis.

Sensor Link, 1975 Valley Highway – The Hearing examiner approved a 9,800 square feet expansion of an electronics assemble business in the Acme area. In January this decision was appealed by neighbors. On April 10, 2007 the County Council remanded it to the Hearing Examiner because the site is within an alluvial fan and apparently, this was not considered in the Hearing Examiner's decision.

PDS made a presentation to Planning Commission on a school impact fee ordinance on May 10th. The current concept is to have a framework ordinance that school districts could plug into if they wanted to have impact fees. Schools would have to adopt six-year capital facilities plan and the school's capital facilities plan would have to be adopted by reference in the County's comprehensive plan. It is anticipated that another Planning Commission work session will be held in June.

Evergreen Water & Sewer District, Shoreline Permit (SCH06-00012) – The Hearing Examiner approved a shoreline permit to replace an existing 4-inch water main that crossed Kendall Creek with a new 10-inch water main, parallel to Kendall Highway In April.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing –Russ

- Russ reported that the Health Department had compiled a list of OSS (On-site Sewage System) Licensed Operation & Maintenance Specialists and OSS Licensed Pumpers. These lists are available through Whatcom County Health Department. Russ also reported that the new regulations that went into effect April 2007 are a statewide directive that each county will adopt and those counties can require additional requirements. The sewage systems must meet county requirements upon transfer of ownership. The Health Department will keep the On-Site Sewage System Report of System Status Checklist on file in their office. You can get more information about this program from the Whatcom County Health Department at 676-6724.

Infrastructure –Phil

- The transportation corridor plan for Highway 542 has been under discussion and needs to be updated. Phil understands that the updating procedure will be much different in that the City of Bellingham and the Port will not be sponsoring the update. Those working on the update will be seeking grant money. A consultant may need to be hired. Phil stated that the project would need local input and he would like to see the process started with the EDA.

Phil explained that WSDOT (Washington State Department of Transportation) had recently conducted their annual mid-week count study. The count is conducted mid-week to separate out the traffic that occurs on the weekend in the area. Phil will contact Tim Hostetler with WSDOT to get the count.

Phil also reported that Water District #13's comprehensive plan will be ready in approximately 90 days. The water district is in the process of selecting a waste water specialist.

Recreation and Trails – Jeff Margolis

- KAVZ radio station is now on the air from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm daily. It can be heard at 102.5. The radio station has arranged to showcase local ensembles one of which is the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra. KAVZ radio also participates in the EMS (Emergency Management Services). Emergency warnings will be broadcast from the station.

Jeff is also working on getting crosswalks areas painted that crossover to the parks in Van Zandt. He's been working with WSDOT for some time. The Railroad crossings are also a problem.

Sustainability Committee –

No Chair

Steering Committee –

Carole MacDonald reported that the steering committee will be meeting in June.

Carole also read a letter from Puget Sound Energy. Because of the work they are doing in the area there will be a scheduled power outage in the area on either June 6th or June 7th and which day would be better for the community?

Ad-hoc Committee Reports

Cell Phone – Carole Sharpe

- Money needed to get cell phone service may be available through the EDI fund. Phil continues to work on getting the path to the tower cut down from 6 miles to 1.5 miles. Phil will contact the DNR and ask them open up some old access roads.

Other Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 20, 2007, **1:00 - 3:00 P.M.**, in the Mt. Baker School District Office.

Submitted by: Pam Brown