

BOS Report May 14, 2024

Business and Economic Development

- 1. The Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce will be presenting on their new Relocation Package called “Move In”, next week or at your first meeting in June. They are putting some final touches on their program after releasing their new website dedicated to this topic and getting some feedback. This has been a joint effort by several entities, and I believe it will hold some promise for our future.**
- 2. On Wednesday, the CORE Economic Committee of the Recovery Support Functions will meet from 2:30 pm to 4pm.**
- 3. This Saturday, the DFC will host its monthly Greenville Community Meeting, from 11am to 1pm.**
- 4. As you may know, the CalOES is the only permanent office of emergency services in the nation. In speaking with the Senior Emergency Service Coordinator recently, I learned that CalOES offers a number of services:**
 - A monthly bulletin with funding opportunities, upcoming trainings, webinar events, and new resources focused on disaster resilience and community planning from a variety of sources, including FEMA and the grants that it offers.**
 - CalOES also posts weekly grants and resources on its website www.caloes.ca.gov/RSF; click on the + sign next to Upcoming Training and Grant opportunities to view the latest lists.**
 - Finally, if the County or other eligible entity has a specific project that you are trying to fund or have a local organization that needs funding, the CalOES Team can leverage its partnerships with state and federal agencies outside of FEMA to identify opportunities. As an example, CalOES put together a collection of resources that we recently put together for Feather River College, which I found to be quite extensive. A majority of the funding opportunities that CalOES tracks are for local governments, non-profits, Tribal governments, and special districts.**
 - Just yesterday, CalOES sent me grants on the following that could directly benefit Plumas County:**
 - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services offers a grant program for Community Economic Development that Community Development Commissions can use to address economic mobility in low-income communities.**
 - The EPA grant “Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities is a technical assistance program that can help build capacity, especially in**

coordination with the Recreation Economies for Rural Communities that Quincy received two years ago.

- HUD has a Rural Capacity Building program that Community Development Commissions can apply for.
- I also received information on FEMA grants, but I was not able to analyze them, but like the CalOES grants, much of their grant purpose is to grow capacity in rural areas that are hit with disasters, in particular Presidential Declared Disasters like the Dixie Fire.

5. There are some new and interesting construction models that may help lower the cost of construction. Typically, a General Contractor will hire subcontractors for a specific part of a project. Subcontractors generally bid on the materials they use with a markup that inflates the price of the project. Some general contractors are now hiring subcontractors to perform the work, but the general orders all the materials in order to keep the costs down on a project.
6. On May 23rd, Seneca Hospital in Chester will hopefully open bids for their new hospital. If a contractor is successfully awarded the bid, then work could begin soon. I cannot overemphasize the importance of this project for Chester and western Plumas County. It's a game changer for the future and CEO Shawn McKenzie is working 24/7 to make this project happen.
7. More people are getting their homeowner policies canceled by various insurance companies as we speak. I personally know of 6 people that had their policies canceled last week, including myself. The economic consequences are devastating on every level, including personal and commercial. I personally would like to see someone from the CA Department of Insurance be invited to speak to you and tell us what is in our future. Perhaps we could use the High School Gym for such a presentation.
8. On the bright side of things, the IVIH recently had its Plumas Business Directory phone app approved by Google and Apple. With this app and data base, the HUB will have the capacity to send out notices to all businesses on important issues and topics, such as the Corporate Transparency Act that only 3% of businesses have complied, to avoid costly finds by the end of the year. We will be making a presentation on that soon.
9. Through all of the State's wildfires and other disasters, high construction costs, and insurance nightmares, the population is starting to stabilize from depopulation. We have a long way to rebuild our counties and communities. None of us are getting any younger or richer over our efforts, but I applaud the fortitude and resilience in the people that still believe there are better days ahead.

Thank you.

Clint Koble