

Emery County Economic Development (CED) Board

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2021 @ 2:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Commissioner Kent Wilson, Commissioner Lynn Sitterud, Commissioner Gil Conover, Mayor Leonard Norton, Mayor Travis Bacon (remotely), Nicole Steele, Taren Powell, Jade Powell

Meeting called to order at 2:44 pm.

1. Discuss/Approve/Deny - June 2021 CED Meeting Minutes

Mayor Leonard Norton motioned to approve minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kent Wilson. Vote was unanimous.

2. Discuss/Approve/Deny - Use of FY21 RCGP Funds for the Acquisition of Right of Ways for the San Rafael Energy Research Center

Jade Powell updated the CED board that a motion needs to be made on how to spend the remaining \$15,833 from FY21 RCGP. In a previous meeting, the CED board discussed the possibility of using the funds for the acquisition of right of ways and/or surveying for the infrastructure for the San Rafael Energy Research Center. Commissioner Kent Wilson discussed using the funds for the acquisition of right of ways/surveying for sewer infrastructure and/or for the engineering/construction costs for sewer infrastructure for the San Rafael Energy Research Center.

Mayor Leonard Norton motioned to approve the use of the remaining funds to be spent on sewer infrastructure at the San Rafael Energy Research whether that will be acquisition costs, engineering or construction. The motion was seconded by Mayor Travis Bacon. Vote was unanimous.

3. Discuss/Approve/Deny - Annual Report for FY2021 Projects

Jade Powell provided the CEDS board with information regarding the current year's grant. Powell went over the annual report that was created in the State's portal software and the information generated by Andrew Fry.

Commissioner Kent Wilson asked that additional information about funds used at the San Rafael Energy Research Center be added to the annual report under the matching component.

Commissioner Kent Wilson motioned to approve the annual report with the requested additions of funding as matching dollars. The motion was seconded by Mayor Leonard Norton. Vote was unanimous.

4. Discuss/Approve/Deny/Table - FY2022 Project(s)

Jade Powell updated the CED board on previously discussed possible projects for FY2022. One of the projects was to continue a contract with the San Rafael Energy Research Center consultant Andrew Fry. Powell was advised by the CED board to follow up with Andrew Fry to determine what FY2022 contract would need to include. The contract would be \$80,000 with Andrew Fry to provide consulting services in regards to the San Rafael Energy Research Center. Commissioner Lynn Sitterud and Commissioner Kent Wilson discussed that building of the units at the San Rafael Energy Research Center has been completed which was a part of Andrew Fry's contract in FY2021; that part of the contract will need to be revised to make up a full contract for FY2022.

Commissioner Wilson asked Powell to clarify on the \$40,000 matching component of FY2022. Powell mentioned that the millions of dollars that have been awarded to the San Rafael Energy Research Center could be counted as a match. Additionally, Powell explained that the contract work that Stuart Clason completes on behalf of Emery County for economic development could be counted as well as Powell's total wage could be added to that. Commissioner Wilson asked if the budget needs to reflect \$240,000 worth of projects. Powell stated that we would need to account for the match in the budget and that there is a spot on the budget template provided to do so.

Commissioner Wilson stated that the match could be \$40,000 that is paid by Emery County for Stuart Clason's consulting services through the Regional Growth

Program to promote and consult regional economic development in regards to the San Rafael Energy Research Center and the Inland Port process.

Powell also updated the CED board that there were discussions around using the remaining funds for FY2022 for the NEPA process. Commissioner Lynn Sitterud stated that because of a series of events involving acquiring land from the BLM, the conversations have ceased and the land swap isn't going to happen. Emery County is now going through another process with SITLA and the NEPA process may not be necessary right now. The commissioners will know more in about 60 days.

Commissioner Wilson updated the CED board that it's the desire of the County to invest the \$120,000 in the San Rafael Energy Research Center with the hiring of additional staff with a partnership with Utah State University and the Governor's Office of Energy Development. Another partner with the hiring of staff is the Department of Energy. One of the employees will manage the facility and the other employee would need to have a nuclear background to help with the development of that side of the San Rafael Energy Research Center. There is a lot of work to be completed at the San Rafael Energy Research Center in regards to building out the facility and obtaining the necessary permits and licensing.

Chairperson Steele asked if there are any deadlines associated with submitting the application. Powell reported that the CED board has until October 1, 2021 to submit the application. However, the sooner the better to get the application sent in to receive the funds.

No motion was made at this time to proceed with any projects for FY2022 Rural County Grant Program; however, direction was given to staff to proceed with drafting an application for the projects at the San Rafael Energy Research Center and the CED board will approve at a later date.

5. Other Business

a. General Updates on Economic Development in Emery County

Commissioner Wilson stated that some of the CRA projects happening in the county are exceeding their expectations. This includes the RV park in Huntington City.

Commissioner Wilson also gave an update on the four solar projects happening in Emery County and the current status of the CRA process with

the projects. There was some general discussion around how much tax revenue will be generated from the solar projects as well as how much acreage each solar project is.

Commissioner Wilson gave an update on the San Rafael Energy Research Center and stated that many of the State offices have been very proud of the investments made at the Center. However, Wilson stated there is still a lot of more work to be done at the Center with licensing and development of the Center.

Chairperson Nicole Steele gave an update on the statistics of Emery and Carbon Counties in regards to unemployment rates and additional aid given through food stamps, unemployment, and earned income child tax credit.

b. Next Meeting: August 9, 2021 @ 2:30 pm (Second Monday)

6. Adjournment

Leonard Norton made a motion to adjourn at 3:26 pm. Kent Wilson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Board Chair Signature: Nicole D. Steele
Nicole D. Steele (Sep 14, 2021 09:25 MDT)

Printed Name: Nicole D. Steele **Date:** Sep 14, 2021