

**MINUTES OF THE MILLARD COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION  
AT THE COUNTY OFFICES IN DELTA  
THIS 17th DAY OF MARCH 2021**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:**

Roger Killpack ..... Chairman of the Board  
Jon Finlinson ..... Economic Development Board Member  
Matt Loe..... Vice-Chair of the Board  
John Higgins ..... Economic Development Board Member  
Greg Roper ..... Economic Development Board Member  
David Styler ..... Economic Development Board Member  
Nick Killpack ..... Economic Development Board Member  
Mark Huntsman ..... Economic Development Board Member

**EXCUSED:**

Michael Wignet..... Economic Development Board Member

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**NOT PRESENT:**

Brandon Bartholomew ..... Economic Development Board Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Dean Draper ..... Commissioner  
Jenna Draper ..... Six County AOG  
Brad Welch ..... Centra Com  
Rebecca Dilg..... GOED  
Travis Khyl ..... Six County AOG  
Marcus Lee..... Six County AOG  
Patrick Mullen..... UAC  
Stuart Clason..... UAC  
Ian Finlinson ..... Guest  
Paula Dewsnap..... Economic Development Secretary

## **1. Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance – Roger Killpack**

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. Roger Killpack conducted and welcomed all in attendance.

## **2. Review and possible Approval of September 22, 2020 Minutes**

Mark Huntsman made a motion to approve the minutes as written. John Higgins seconded. Motion carried.

## **3. Broadband Update; Guest Speakers Rebecca Dilg, Brad Welch**

Rebecca said she works for the Governors center doing broadband development for the rural parts of the state. They were defunded a couple of years ago, and were not reestablished just recently got refunded and excited to get going again. It will be through state grant and they have never had a state grant before, just federal grants. She highly suggests using those grants that are our dollars sitting in the reserve. They can be leveraged very well; several providers have used those funds to branch out. They have the reconnect grant and the USDA one it will be opening again this summer. It's an interesting challenge it's like a reverse auction it doesn't go to the highest bidder, it goes to the lowest so whoever says who can go the lowest amount of money and make it work will get the contract.

Space X is a viable option for the remote area; Star Link is the main provider for a level commitment. They are trying to identify the areas with the most interest they had a Beta area they tested and the area that lights up the most interest and subscription rates, however the best is fiber. Space X is a great across the board but what they are offering they can't build out it is a decent offer for the very remote areas, they are not forgetting about those areas they have plans for those.

In Millard County of the 3500 households 602 have no internet connections that is roughly 13% of all household and what they mean by no internet it does not mean broadband, they may have something that connects to the internet but it is slow, spotty or is in adequate for the household. 154 have access to internet but do not use it. In the state the average household without internet is 2% and Millard County is 14% which is high and there are options to help fix this.

Brad said as you can see there is a gap that is currently being filled. Centra Com completed for UDOT a conduit all the way to the Fillmore south side. This year they are working on a project north out of Cove Fort that will go south through Kanosh they will have two vinyl's to build at the two exits in Cedar City. This will create a conduit path from Salt Lake to St. George and complete a web fire ring. Right now they don't have a complete ring so that will complete that ring. They are planning to have this done by the end of the year, at the end of last year they finished the south end of Fillmore to the north Meadow exit. Right now they have a plan to intervene Star Link because if they are successful these areas are not longer eligible for State and Federal funds. It doesn't matter how it shapes out they will still making a commitment to the

customer it would be helpful and in the customer pays less the in the long run there is other programs that come into play. Right now Centra Com is out of Debt which is unheard of with a business. They are an area of self-funding capital with 10 million a year, and they will continue to do that and develop these areas because technology is feasible right now.

Commissioner Draper asked about frontier, they recently ran cables on a lot of the county roads and he is not sure if there are fiber optics they came and took advantage of a standing ordinance. Bruce said they have a requirement with calf funding and have money to use and build out, with x amount of money even though there was no improvement and that is why they were able to do that. Right now there are in bankruptcy and in a holding group. So once they restructure Centra Com can make another purchase offer and change the ordinances. They believe that when they have those ordinances they don't have to have to have permission to proceed. The county and cities are different agencies, so they have the ability to change ordinances even if they have a franchise they can still make them come in and apply. They may or may not be able to charge but that is part of being a good partner.

Commissioner Draper asked if there is anything to hand out on the communities in the Utah /Nevada border. Bruce said that is in the Beehive Territory and they have received some federal funds for that and they are defiantly interested in that opportunity. They can broadcast off of a tower to feed a live area. You can go get a license and back off it off of a couple of local areas. Commissioner Draper said they have Eskdale High school and 100 homes that don't have access to internet and wanted to see what it would take. Bruce said they can put a CVRS on the high school and it can broadcast out to the communities.

Commissioner said Frontier holds a monopoly and the savings that Centra Com has brought to the county has been and to the offices is six figures and up. Because of that monopoly its puts a hold on a lot of things it would be in the county best interest to acquire this and take all of the barriers down.

Patrick asked how the board can be helpful in this process; they have a board here that is full of community leaders. Brad said it depends on Starlink and what they will do. If there are community funds they would go to the community so they could use the board support in getting those funds and looking at opportunities that way. They have a commitment to Millard County; they are not fast because they do the things that make sense and that it why they are out of debt. The County does have the gap fillers and would like to see things happen however they are not dependant on growth.

#### **4. Six County Regional Collaboration Discussion; Jenna Draper**

Stuart said the Commissioners buying into six county AOG brought some questions on how do they get to a level and knowledge of expertise and create some constancy within the communities and that when they apply for new jobs they will have the knowledge to do that. That is why they have Jenna Draper, Travis Kyhl and others here as our analyst team to help us reach those goals. So what they have found in our work instead of Utah Association Counties trying to grow into a very large organization, where capacity is being utilized and the AOG has

been a very good partner in that. In the Cares funding the EDA made funding available to the 6 County AOG and by doing that it allowed them to hire Ms. Draper. She is working the regional Economic Development side it is an exciting position and it also helps align with what they are doing so they can better provide services for Millard County.

## **5. State Legislative Discussion**

Patrick said with the application Millard County was the first one to suggest Broadband, and they really wanted each county to apply for their individual need. So the good news is the funding has been restored and things are moving forward. Roger said this can actually be good for large projects coming in and the perspective on the GOED board it shifts the focus and the emphasis which is driven by the governor away to more rural counties. Stuart said there are lots more coming and lessons learned from the cares dollars.

## **6. Other Business/Future Meeting Dates**

Roger asked Commissioner Draper what his vision is and what he sees and what does he have planned for the board. Commissioner said the ultimate purpose of the board is to improve the lifestyle of everyone in the County. That broad range from extremely technical where it requires advanced education down to the farmers who have their own version of advanced education. The skill levels are the same just in different places. It won't happen next year but will have the temporary influx of laborers that will be working on different projects. They have the 45,000 acre wind farm, which will be going in by Cove fort/Clear Lake junction, the gas units that are being brought in that will convert coal to gas at IPP, Mitsubishi collaborating with magnum. They will have at one point 2500 homeless labor in the County all at the same time because of the conjunction of their schedules. That is being addressed and looked at but the board is going to have a chance to have input on that to help us come up with solutions. The end result will be 10 years from now instead of a county of 13,000 it could be anywhere from 35 to 40 thousand.

This board has some input that will come out of the planning commission they have different things what will take place with these developments and you have to protect the agricultural base but you can't let that intrude on the industrial base and vice versa. They have to say this is the place where these things will happen.

The meeting dates looked good and can be changed as needed.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.