

February 9, 2009

Hello Everyone,

I have some new developments for you to present/consider at the next Platte Canyon Area Chamber meeting:

I. DESTINATION BAILEY

I took it upon myself to research and contemplate possible "next steps" for Destination Bailey. I have solicited input from four professionals in their respective fields of economic development, community development and tourism. Presented below is a summary of the feedback I received:

A. Colorado Office of Economic Development:

website: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/OEDIT/OEDIT/1162927366334>

- Many Colorado communities are struggling with the same issues as Bailey.
- COED offers free assessments to help communities create a stronger economic base. The Economic Development Assessment is a 48-hour process with a TEAM of industry professionals who will meet with community leaders and hold four (4) public forums about future development.
- The community will be provided with a draft report at the conclusion of the assessment process. The report provides the community with recommendations to assist in planning their economic development future.
- The assessment will be tailored to the community; will provide an outside perspective to objectively identify challenges and opportunities in the community; will be conducted by a team of industry experts; and follow-up support will be provided by the State.
- After the community assessment is complete, the Community Action Plan program can help identify next steps, action items, responsibilities, timelines and resources needed to accomplish the top 3-5 recommendations for Bailey.
- To be selected for the program, the Platte Canyon Chamber needs to submit an application on behalf of Bailey, identifying Park County as the government co-sponsor. **Action/Decision to apply (See Below for process and POC)**
- The same 48-hour Economic Development Assessment process will be conducted for Fairplay on February 23 and 24.
- If interested, Platte Canyon Chamber reps should attend the Fairplay process to see if it's worthwhile for Bailey (call Fairplay Town Hall to get on the invitation list). **Action/Decision to participate and to identify representative.**
- The assessment process totally changed the economic development direction of Craig, Colorado, to the surprise of community participants!

B. USDA Rural Community Development Program:

- They have read the Bailey survey and it looks like a good start, but it may not have sampled every sector of the population.

- The community needs to decide between economic development (tourism economy) and community development (i.e. movie theater.) **Action/Decision on focus of development.**
- What do they really want and how tolerant are they of growth?
- It seems the town needs to have a strategic plan as well as benchmarks to measure their success.
- If we (USDA) are to consult with them, we might want to expand the public process to cover more of the population.
- We don't want to create an atmosphere where a small segment of the community drives community development.
- When plans are prepared, the immediate focus should be on simple changes that everyone can agree to.
- They (USDA) are available to come to Bailey to speak to the committee regarding community development and offer USDA assistance. **Action/Decision to invite speaker.**
- If Bailey wants to shift their economic base to tourism, the Colorado Office of Economic Development assessment program might be useful.

II. FARMERS UNION

I have spent considerable time trying to come up with alternatives to the Farmers Union lease scenario mentioned in last week's Flume. I started with my land trust contact (Dieter Erdmann) about the possibility of securing a conservation easement, as well as Ben Rainbolt with Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. After some discussion, Mr. Rainbolt referred me to Clay Pederson with the National Farmers Union. Apparently they have leased the property to an undisclosed party who wants to use it as a private fishing resort. Mr. Pederson also said that the meeting facility was included in the lease, but that they are not planning to use the facility (just the stream). I then inquired as to whether there was still an opportunity for Park County government to secure an easement or agreement to ensure continued public use of the meeting facility. **At that point he asked me to prepare a "proposal" for his board's and lessee's consideration. I am just starting to work on that now so it may be a while before I have an answer. My proposal has too many moving parts to explain it here in detail, but I'll issue a memo to the Platte Canyon Area Chamber after I refine it a little further. Action/Decision to assist Gary in the proposal preparation/review.**

Thanks Much,

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Community Economic Development Assessment

The Economic Development Assessment is a 48-hour process with a TEAM of industry professionals who meet with community leaders and hold four public forums to learn about the community and future development. The community will be provided with a draft report of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats (SWOT) at the conclusion of the process. It provides the community with recommendations to assist in economic development planning for the future.

Please submit a letter of request for an Economic Development Assessment to Darlene Scott. Upon receipt of the letter, an application form will be e-mailed for completion. Action/Decision The Business Development division will review the application and will notify you by a letter of determination.

Contact Information:

Darlene B. Scott,
Eastern Colorado Business Development Representative
Assessment Program Coordinator
Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade
P.O. Box 386
Burlington, CO 80807
(719) 346-4644 Phone
(719) 346-8675 Fax
darlene.scott@state.co.us

Website: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/OEDIT/OEDIT/1167928136610>

Community Action Planning (CAP)

The CAP program is designed to help communities prioritize Community Economic Development Assessment recommendations. The planning process includes identifying the next steps, action items, responsibilities, timelines and resources needed to accomplish the top 3-5 recommendations for each focus area.

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Website: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/OEDIT/OEDIT/116500969982>

Colorado Assessments Programs Fact Sheet:

http://www.fairy-lamp.com/Bailey/Colorado_Assessment_programs.pdf