

**MINUTES OF  
THE EDWARDS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE  
MEETING**

**APRIL 13, 2009**

President Deaver opened the meeting at 8:00 AM. Directors in attendance: Deaver, Edmiston, Jamison, Novinger, Scott, Welling. Others present: Johnstone, Maben, Novinger, Uhazy, Williams.

**ECA PROJECT STATUS**

Land Use Compatibility: Mr. Welling said the proposed Senator Feinstein Wilderness Bill may be problematic for future alternative energy projects due to its restrictions on land uses. A planned solar energy project in California City is moving forward.

Education:

Dialogue II - Johnstone said that all comments received to date on the Dialogue have been positive. Although we didn't have the 300 attendees we had hoped for we had over 100 attendees. The attendees were the right folks and are willing to work to make the university a reality. Johnstone said he had sent a follow-up e-mail to Justin Stoner in Assembly member Conway's office expressing thanks for her attendance at the Dialogue and willingness to work with us on the university. Justin and other staff members were invited to attend the Antelope Valley and learn more about the programs we have implemented to feed into a university.

Edwards visit – Randy Scott briefed on the recent visit he, Ken Santarelli, and Johnstone made to Edwards. The trio briefed the senior civilian managers on educational issues and the desire to have Edwards representation on several education committees as well as hosting tours of Edwards for teachers and school administrators. The tours would involve personnel involved in many career fields to highlight career opportunities at Edwards. Opportunities for internships for students and teachers were also discussed. Edwards' personnel were very interested and would like to get involved. They are going to meet internally to figure out the best way to get involved and will get back to us.

High Desert "online" University – One of the products that came out of a working group at the Dialogue was a proposal to develop a model California State University "online" university in the High Desert as an interim step in developing a High Desert University. Accrediting organizations have expressed concern about "distant learning" programs due to the problem of making sure the "student" on the other end is in fact the person that should be there. However, there are some programs like the Fresno engineering program at the Lancaster University Center that require students to get a permit to enter the classroom and the instructor has face to face

communications with the student using active camera coverage. Controls such as these enable secure online classes.

Partner with Merced Medical School – A suggestion was made at the last EKERN meeting that we consider developing a partnership with the proposed University of California Merced Medical School to complement our efforts for the High Desert University with those developing a plan for the medical school. The primary purpose of such a partnership would be to demonstrate how both efforts complement each other and do not compete. President Deaver said he would explore the feasibility of the partnership with Assembly member Conway.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

James Welling a balance in the checking account as of April 2009 of \$33,328.79 (see attached). The only expenditures during the period were for substitute teachers to allow the primary teachers to attend the tour of Mojave Air and Spaceport.

Supervisor Maben said ECA needs to look very critically at the minimum budget they need to get by during this critical county fiscal situation. He said a new budget is needed as soon as possible. James Welling and Bob Johnstone will work on the budget.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Intermediate Space Challenge – President Deaver said he did not receive sufficient response to his request for a contribution of \$1,000 from ECA to support purchasing new rockets for the Space Challenge. On a motion by Mr. Edmiston and second by Mr. Scott and affirmative vote of the Directors in attendance the ECA will denote \$1,000 to the East Kern Airport District to buy replacement rockets for the Space Challenge. Mr. Novinger said he thought ECA should be very careful about funding local activities instead of the regional activities of ECA. Mr. Johnstone agreed and asked that this project not be a recurring funding situation. The Intermediate Space Challenge will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Mojave Air and Space Port beginning at 10:00 AM.

4-H Science Symposium-The Rosamond 4-H Science Symposium will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 AM and continuing until 12:30 PM. Dr. Les Uhazy will be representing ECA at the event and will address educational opportunities in the area.

Tehachapi Speaker Request – Johnstone said he received an e-mail from Ms. Brenda Wright, a member of the Arts, Science and Technology Committee recently formed in the Tehachapi Unified School District. Ms. Wright is requesting speakers willing to be a resource for the committee. Johnstone said he responded to her message requesting information on what exactly are they requesting so he can recommend appropriate speakers. He has not heard back.

Valley Press article – Senator Runner recently spoke to the members of the Lancaster West Rotary Club and was quoted as saying “the area doesn’t need it” when asked about his thoughts on bringing a four-year university to the Antelope Valley. “What we need is two years of upper

division work,” he said---essentially calling for bachelor’s- and master’s –degree level programs at Antelope Valley College.

Salute to Youth and College Information Night – Mr. Scott said Salute to Youth will be held in September. A specific date has not been set. There is a funding issue with the Antelope Valley High School District being able to fund for the program like they have in the past. However, the committee has stated that we can not **NOT HAVE** a Salute to Youth program this year. Consequently, various methods of funding are being explored and program changes may be in order to accommodate more students. A similar situation is facing College Information Night in that colleges that have participated in the past have not committed yet due to their funding situation. In the past more than 50 colleges have been in attendance. This event is planned for October.

Mojave Career Day – Mojave High School recently conducted a Career Day. Students were told to dress like they were going for an interview. Students that attended did in fact “Dress For Success” and the sponsors were very satisfied with the results.

Joint Land Use Study – Mr. Edmiston said the Joint Land Use Study sponsored by the Governor’s Office has been officially approved and a committee has been formed to suggest how to implement the suggestions and to track community implementation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 AM.

The next meeting will be on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Robert Johnstone, Technical Advisor

ATCH: Financial Report