

**MINUTES OF
THE EDWARDS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
MEETING
JUNE 18, 2007**

President Deaver opened the meeting at 8:05 AM. Directors in attendance: Deaver, Jamison, Novinger, Scott, Welling. Others present: Gocke, Johnstone, Uhazy

ECA Project Status

Land Use Compatibility

Johnstone said the letter to Lahontan Water Quality Control Board objecting to the proposed expansion of Piute Ponds was sent. Copies were also sent to Bob Wood at Edwards, Mayor Hearn, Mayor Ledford, Senators Runner and Ashburn, and Assembly Member Runner. No response has been received but it appears that Lahontan is not only supporting fines on District 14, they are proposing increasing the fines and strengthening the compliance with the Board order for clean-up of the lakebed and ponds.

Education

A meeting with investors was held in Mojave to discuss private financing of the university project. Investors are very interested in the project and believe they can raise the money. Johnstone has put them in touch with the developer to discuss possible financial arrangements.

The summer intern program is down to 15 students. Although the program starts today it has been very difficult to arrange for internships for the participants. It seems most companies are not interested in supporting internships for high school age students. The community is going to have to step up and support these programs if we are going to be successful in encouraging students into these career paths. Hopefully, we will be able to set up a firm program before next summer.

Johnstone said the ROP in Palmdale passed out a survey to students in pre-engineering programs asking them about what they think is important to getting a technical degree. Surveys were passed out during the classes and then again after Engineering Week activities that exposed the students to engineering activities. The most significant change in the responses had to do with internships and job opportunities. In the first survey these two items were rated as relatively low in importance. After Engineering Week activities they were rated as very important. Having an opportunity for an internship while still in school and the variety of job opportunities after graduation were very important to students.

Assembly Member Fuller had an interview with the Tehachapi newspaper. During the interview she was asked about the four year university. She is very supportive and said now is the time to

work this because it is 10 years away. She said working for an engineering school is the wrong answer, but getting a polytechnic university is the right answer.

School Briefings – Mr. Scott briefed on proposed school briefings to let schools know what ECA is doing on preparing students for math and science careers. Southern Kern Superintendent Rod Van Norman suggested we brief the East Kern County Superintendents during one of their regular meetings. Once school is up and running again this initiative will be worked in earnest. Mr. Scott also briefed Betsy McKinstry at the Antelope Valley High School ROP. Betsy will be replacing June Battey as the Director on July 1.

Les Uhazy briefed on the MESA (Math, Engineering, Science) Grant that Antelope Valley College is applying for. This program will have approximately 90 students in it when it is established.

Financial Report - James Welling presented a financial report and proposed expenditure report for next year (attached). The checking account balance is \$43,778.93. Outstanding expenses remaining are for Les Uhazy's Oklahoma trip and the Technical Director's quarterly invoice.

Open Discussion-

The annual Salute to Youth career day will be September 21st at Air Force Plant 42. Kern county schools are encouraged to attend this event which hosts approximately 2,500 students each year.

James Welling said Dwight Deakin at Edwards is working on a frequency interference study for Edwards. He will provide a copy of the results to James for consideration of action by the Edwards Community Alliance.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in the Lancaster City Hall on July 16th.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Deaver adjourned the meeting at 9:15 AM

Respectively Submitted

Robert Johnstone
Technical Director

2 Attach.

1. Financial Report
2. Planned Expenditures