

# December, 2021

## I. HOUSING RECRUITMENT

- A. **Michelle-** Preparations are being made to attend the next Home Builder Expo in Dallas in March of this year.
- B. **Michelle-** Working on the second housing report, previous reported by Sidney, May 2021. The report will be shared with the board, city and county upon completion and will be available on website.

## II. WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT

- A. **Michelle-**Working on another job fair in early February with Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and New Mexico Workforce Connection. At the last job fair, we noted that there was a disconnect between employers and applicants which Jeff and I discussed with the local representative from the NM Department of Workforce Solutions.
- B. **Jeff** – Discussions continue between the New Mexico Workforce Solutions and our department related to why potential employees are not going fully back to work and filling gaps in employment. There is an apparent disconnect on some level of the recruitment process, with a great deal of job seekers saying they apply but businesses never respond to them. Others are saying once they get hired, employers will not give them full time or enough pay to cover cost of living. These are just two pieces of the puzzle. We are likely planning another job fair in February, and there is thought of putting on a town hall for employers adjacent to the job fair to cover topics like these and find viable solutions.
- C. **Jeff** – Unemployment for Eddy County was 4.6% for November. The state as a whole was at 6.2%, with our neighbors in Lea County at 7.0% and Chaves at 5.4%.

## III. EDUCATION

- A. **John-** Attended the first meeting of the SENMC Business and CIT Advisory board to which I was appointed. This board also includes the Chamber of Commerce Director and other community members with business backgrounds.

## IV. OIL, GAS & ALTERNATE ENERGY

- A. **John-** Met with Carrie Domnitch of Chevron in Washington, DC to discuss the current regulatory and legislative environment in congress and the administration. I also thanked her for Chevron's support, both financially and with their staff here in our community.

**B. John-** Met with Rolf Hanson and the leadership of the American Petroleum Institute about the Oil and Gas industry, current issues with the BLM, and their support for Hydrogen projects.

**C. John-** Met with Ryan Ullman and leadership from the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) about the Oil and Gas industry, NMOGA and its new leadership, current issues with the federal and state government and their support for Hydrogen projects.

**D. John-** Met with a company looking to install a solar project in Eddy County. The company is pursuing county Industrial Revenue Bonds for the project. Provided contacts with the NMEDD, Eddy County, and talked with them about their project. The project will help power Chevron's operations in southern Eddy and northern Reeves and Culberson Counties in an area where the power grids lack capacity. They have met with county and progressing with project.

**E. John-** Met again with D.C.-based industry representatives regarding NM/Hydrogen production from natural gas. We are currently writing an op-ed in support of hydrogen projects from NM's vast natural gas resources.

## V. NUCLEAR

**A. John-** Met with the leadership of Amentum, NWP, and Fluor in Alexandria, VA regarding at Trinity Restaurant regarding WIPP, the weapons complex, and the upcoming M&O contract process. The DOE is currently reviewing proposals from several teams for the maintenance and operation of WIPP. This group represents the current management of WIPP, who has submitted a proposal. The decision on who will get the contract is anticipated to be announced by DOE in late March or early April of 2022.

**B. John-** As mentioned above, traveled with a group of Carlsbad leaders to Washington DC and Alexandria VA to attend the DOE/ Energy Communities Alliance National Waste Cleanup Workshop, meet with our congressional delegation and other important congressional members, and with corporations and agencies affecting Eddy County and Carlsbad. With respect to nuclear, we were able to meet with Senator Heinrich and his Chief of Staff, Senator Lujan's staff, and staff from Representative Herrell and Representative Stansbury's offices. With respect to nuclear, we discussed the M & O contract, the permit modifications, the interim storage project, and thanked them for supporting the E.M. (WIPP) budget.

**C. John-** The Eddy Lea Energy Alliance held a regularly scheduled meeting on December 15, 2021. A local PR Company, headed by Danny Fletcher was introduced and passed out PR material to help educate public on the interim storage project.

## VI. RETAIL/RESTAURANTS/ENTERTAINMENT/HOSPITALITY

**A. Jeff-**Project Swayze is doing a site visit January 5th here in Carlsbad. I have provided them with a couple of sites, and we will be meeting with their reps to talk about the future plans. I was able to meet with a couple of board members who are very interested in seeing more developments on the south side of Carlsbad, which was very helpful.

**B. Jeff** – HTeaO, a project that I began working on back in early 2020, has moved from the permitting phase into construction planning. Their representative informed me that they should begin turning dirt soon in 2022. HTeaO is an iced tea franchise and will be located near the Canal and Canyon streets intersection.

**C. Jeff** – I have been working with several parties associated with Carlston Ranch, a planned development south of Carlsbad on National Parks Highway. We provided them with marketing information and other guidance related to franchises and data.

**D. Jeff** - I continue to work with a local land owner/developer who has been making new areas available for expansion of new businesses into our market. Most of this is happening on the south side of Carlsbad, but he has additional properties on Pierce Street as well.

**E. Jeff** – We will be attending the ICSC Red River show, February 1-3, 2022, in Dallas, TX. We have a booth reserved so far, and will be making plans for travel as well as setting up meetings with potential site selectors while there

## VII. CASCADES

**A. John**- Spoke again with a developer from Louisiana regarding the Cascades, its covenants, and the EDA grant projects that went into funding the development. They seem very interested in this project and Carlsbad in general. They are working with the Oxbow group to see if this is something they can invest in.

## VIII. ADMINISTRATION

**A. John**- Have been dealing with COVID quarantine and related matters through much of month, which is an important reminder to me that many businesses and people in the community are still being adversely affected by this pandemic.

**B. John**- Getting final preparation together with Roberta Smith and Al Davis at Eddy County to produce and administer another COVID-impacted business assistance program. Have met with them as far as the steps we will be taking to ensure the project is marketed and administered properly. As before, this will be a federally funded grant program with specific requirements to obtain the assistance.

**C. Jeff** – I continue to update company bios on our website. If you would like to have a short bio on your company listing page, please send them to me and we will get them published for you. [Jeff.campbell@developcarlsbad.org](mailto:Jeff.campbell@developcarlsbad.org)

**D. Jeff** – Albertsons sign update: In mid-December I received the permits for the sign from the New Mexico Department of Transportation. The permits, signed by all interested parties, have been issued. Now we are awaiting the construction schedule from the sign company to move forward and hopefully complete this project.

**E. Jeff** – Assisted a local real estate company in accessing our new, interactive traffic count map. We partnered with Souder Miller to host the traffic map tool on our website. I have also reached out to the City of Carlsbad to gather their recent traffic count data, as we can add this directly to our map and make it a more useful resource. This can be located on our website, DevelopCarlsbad.org, under the ‘Site Selection’ tab listed as ‘Traffic Counts.’