

**SPECIAL JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES
JULY 11, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 2:00. Those present are Commissioner Hancock, Chairman Farnsworth, Emergency Management Rebecca Squires, Clerk Colleen Poole; Audrey Moon is clerk of the board. Commissioner Martinez is unavailable.

DEVELOPMENT COMPANY – TED HENDRICKS

• **DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING – (ACTION ITEM)**

[2:00:39 PM](#) Richard Berndet with Economic Development Administration and Rick Miller who works with Ted at the Development Company.

[2:01:16 PM](#) Ted said that Rick had called Custer County Commissioners and they may be calling back in. Not sure if they will join them or not. Will go ahead and continue because they do not want to take a lot of time. Ted said some applications that are being submitted an example in Bingham County they have a bridge that is old and is in bad shape. This is the main ingress and egress for Premier which is a large employer. Looking at replacing this to make this safer and more capable. When having emergency vehicles or plows cannot get through this bridge have to protect traffic. Will submit an application to make this modern and wise to make this sufficient. This has an emergency threat because when they flood there it is a bottle neck. Main ingress and egress for Premier. They are going to present this that the bridge needs replaced with disaster relief money so this employer has a better ingress and egress. This is over by Basic American and Premier on the other side of the river. This is a concept the Bingham had come up with. This is the type of project that may be eligible. Has a tie to the employer. If there are any impacts their disasters had on employers or jobs these are something they could consider applying for. The other thing they had discussed is the possibility of having their district which is nine counties and region five which is seven counties to have a Disaster Relief Coordinator. Fund the position has an office somewhere in Idaho. Something like this where the individual could have an impact on disaster resiliency. Instead of reactionary could be more proactive. Have a training facility and be able to pull the sixteen counties emergency managers.

[2:07:36 PM](#) Rebecca said this would be economic resiliency. This is not a main function or focus of what they do as emergency managers. Ted said they would want to establish this in either Bingham or Jefferson. Have this in one of the two disaster areas.

[2:07:45 PM](#) Ted said this other position would be to get enough EDA money to fund establish and fund this. Would want to establish in either Bingham or Jefferson County. Have it in one of these disaster areas and have it reach out to all sixteen counties. Provide an economic resiliency plan. Help businesses if there is a flood that they have a plan and can withstand this.

[2:08:46 PM](#) Chairman Farnsworth said Commissioner Hancock has an excellent idea. They have Canyon Dairy out on the desert. Commissioner Hancock said they have 11,000 head of cows that they milk. Chairman Farnsworth said they have seven semi loads of muck going out not to mention the feed. It was a nightmare when the flooded out there. Rebecca said this is right in the middle of their disaster area. Ted asked what they could do to in that area to avoid this problem. Commissioner Hancock said upgrade roads by paving. Chairman Farnsworth said larger pipe. Rebecca said they have upsized some pipe to help with drainage out there. Ted asked if the roads washed away do they have any French drainage out there. Chairman Farnsworth had never heard of this flooding before. Rebecca said they flooded in 1962. They lost five miles of roads in twenty different directions. Had around a half a million in damages. Ted said this is better than anything else they had come up with. Commissioner Hancock said they would like to be able to save this dairy they had to pull the trucks in and out in three feet of water.

[2:10:49 PM](#) Rebecca said a lot of the mitigation is built into the recovery. Ted said through FEMA. Rebecca said they had FEMA and FEMA mitigation money. Have been updating pipes to keep the water off the road. Ted thought FEMA would only replace what was destroyed. So they want to augment this and improve it so it does not flood again. Rebecca said they have the recovery which is replacing to where it was before and mitigation is to keep this from happening again. These are different pots of money. Understand if they have the hole open to do both.

[2:11:40 PM](#) Ted said with Richards program this requires a match and has to be non-federal money so FEMA does not match this. Commissioner Hancock asked how much the match percent is. Richard said this would be twenty percent match. Ted said this is a really good deal with twenty percent match they could get an eighty percent grant. Rebecca asked what the scope is on the size of the grant. Richard said they can do more with disasters have had anything from a one million to ten million dollar grant ask. Ten million is significant job increase. This depends on the job impact. Good to talk about what size they are looking at as far as and look at job creation and retention.

[2:13:15 PM](#) Rebecca said another area of concern they were going to add into the mitigation plan is to widen the East Heise River Road. They were going to take out the rock base. This is traffic safety and helps with ingress and egress for fire safety. Huge economic impact. Ted said this is a big natural hot spring. Have Kelly Canyon ski hill. This is a tourist job creation. Chairman Farnsworth said if they ever had an earthquake this has the potential to be closed off. Rebecca said there are always so many people up there so getting individuals out would be a huge issue. Commissioner Hancock said they would only have the River Bridge to get individuals out.

[2:14:08 PM](#) Ted said these would both be good projects to look at but they would need to have the match. With a two million project would have to come up with \$400,000. Would be a good time to fix these issues for a lot less money. Rebecca asked if this could be in-kind match. Commissioner Hancock said they can pave or haul material. Ted said they can have some in-kind. Other thing is if they need some money and have to wait till next budget year they have a loan program for municipalities as well. Can loan this on a short term basis. Can only incur debt for a year without a vote from the people or a bond. If they incur debt with them they could renew this for one or two years. Have done this with several communities in the past. The in-kind is great but this does not pay the bills. Would still need some funds in match. Chairman Farnsworth said they could fix the low spots and armor the sides. Commissioner Hancock said they had major damage. Chairman Farnsworth said they have seven semis of milk and twenty semis with feed. Ted said the direct jobs of the dairy plus have the trucking and feed jobs. This is something they should consider doing. Richard asked if there are any other businesses. Commissioner Hancock said there are some farmers out in the area. Ted said they could add this into the indirect argument. The Dairy has to move milk every day. Chairman Farnsworth said there were several potato farmers that were trying to get these to market.

[2:17:42 PM](#) Ted said these are both good considerations. Tourism employees a lot of people. This is one of the top three economic factors. Chairman Farnsworth said there is a lot of activity up in this area with all of the campgrounds. Rick asked if there had been a fire up there. Rebecca said not on this road. Discuss the area. Ted said they could to an application for both projects.

[2:19:00 PM](#) Richard said they can apply they have a pre-proposal which is minimal amount of work. If this gets the go ahead then they have a full application that does have considerably more work. Would know without putting a lot of effort into this. Chairman Farnsworth thinks they can roll these into two different applications. Commissioner Hancock agrees that would be the best to see if they would help with either one. Richard said can work with Ted and is happy to sound out any proposal and help talk with the folks in the regional office. Ted has been through this many times. Commissioner Hancock said that Rebecca is really good at this. Rebecca asked if they write and administer the grant. Ted said they would. Richard said the districts can. It depends how they want to do this. Knows that Ted has a lot of experience with this. Rebecca said that if someone else wants to write the grant and administer this would be happy to not have that responsibility.

[2:22:38 PM](#) Ted asked if they circumvent the environmental. Richard said no. Ted said environmental are still an issue will still have all of the red tape. Commissioner Hancock said requirements had modified system. Ted is not sure this has come down to Idaho yet. Commissioner Hancock had talked with the Forest Service and have streamlined this some. Chairman Farnsworth said that the Dairy would not have a big issue. The Heise project would be major. Rebecca has done some leg work. This is cleared with archeological. The major landowner is BLM. They will be willing to explore this further. Have the Snake River Corridor Plan and this is a concern area. Ted said when doing anything with the environment with these initiatives it goes okay. Still have to jump through the hoops. Again this is something they typically do. They are fairly well versed in these requirements. Would negotiate with Commissioners. Usually do this in two stages. Have a development contract which is the upfront stuff. The pre-application, application and development of the project. Keep this at a minimal amount of \$6,000 to \$15,000. If actually approved for funding then this helps with environmental. Then do everything they need. Up to them on how they want to do this. More than willing to help with this. Rebecca said this does allow an administrative fee with the match. Richard said this can be in the scope of the work.

[2:23:34 PM](#) Richard said they do not promise anything. Rebecca thinks she saw the notice of funding opportunity. Areas that were involved were the hurricanes that hit Texas. Richard said also the fires in California. Originally had talked about doing only those but decided to open this up to any disaster. Ted said Richard represents everything West of Denver. The funding unless DC takes this back to go to New Orleans or Houston will stay in their region. This is the advantage of working with a regional organization. That is why they wanted to come and visit thinks there is some merit to have a disaster relief coordinator but do not see this happening in just one county. All of southeast Idaho like region five and six everything Montana to Utah and out to probably Jerome area and East to Wyoming. Those seventeen counties that is more of a stretch to do something like that. Richard said most of these counties did not have a declared disaster last year. The two projects that have been mentioned seem like a better fit. The agriculture with farming is important. Chairman Farnsworth said they should take a tour of this if they have never been out.

[2:27:08 PM](#) Ted said he did not realize the dairy was that big. Rick asked where it is west of Roberts. Chairman Farnsworth said they generate their own power off of methane. Ted asked is this privately owned. Commissioner Hancock said this is owned by the Cannons. This area got affected by the flooding. Ted said this is a good idea for this type of funding since this is directly related to job retention. Chairman Farnsworth said if things were built up they may be able to expand and get bigger which would create more jobs. Ted said if they wanted to get into a developmental agreement they could do the pre-app first to make sure this is eligible. If it looks eligible they can do the full application to get the funding.

[2:28:41 PM](#) Rebecca said another idea would be on the Highway 20 corridor that are zoned commercial or industrial would be developing the infrastructure in those areas. Add in the infrastructure so this attracts business in the corridor. Jefferson County could use some business. Chairman Farnsworth said the reason businesses do not come because they are not zoned commercial in a lot of areas. They can change this if they come in and petition this with an idea. But most do not want to go through the hassle. If they zone this commercial then businesses would not have to come in. Could build up the roads and zone this commercial and then have an area for them to build. Ted is not sure this money would work for that because it is not a job creation right now. Commissioner Hancock said they could be protecting jobs. Ted said this is a good idea for the future. Then can go after the infrastructure and zone. Commissioner Hancock believes they have a ton of opportunity out on the south end of County Line. Ted said some of the normal funding is tied to job creation or retention could work on something like this. If KLINE was going to double in size and they needed infrastructure they could fund this type of stuff as can Idaho Department of Commerce. Have to have the job creator on the line. Do quite a bit of that but do not have a lot of opportunity around here. Richard said they used to have more funding but now the budgets have gone way down. What is the most likely to result in job creation and retention. Ted said to think about how they would like to proceed. Can come back and sit down again to come up with some type of agreement.

[2:34:01 PM](#) Ted said the Dairy and Heise are both good suggestions. Commissioner Hancock said they could have these as two separate projects. Ted said they would have to do two different environmental anyway. Would be two different geographical areas.

[2:34:38 PM](#) Ted mentions the urgency is critical because they are funding this now. Commissioner Hancock asked how soon they would know if it would go. Richard said once pre- app is submitted they have thirty days to have an answer. If it can then they will ask for a full application which takes thirty to sixty days until they give and answer within sixty days if they will still proceed. Do not give a final for several months but there is a push to get this done. Ted said after funding the environmental would be 90 to 120 days. Would be in the next year's budget. Rebecca asked once this is funded how long before they begin the work. Richard said usually within five years. With disaster they try and do this quickly. Ted said it would be next year's construction at the earliest. Richard said they do not want to give them any unrealistic expectations

[2:37:46 PM](#) **Motion by Chairman Farnsworth to adjourn at 2:37. Second by Commissioner Hancock. All in favor – aye. Motion passed.**

Chairman of the Board

Date

Clerk of the Board

Date

County Clerk

Date