

Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce

May 4, 2011 Regular Meeting

Present: President Nathan Sponseller (First State Bank), Vice Pres.- Bill Long (TDS Telecom.), Corresponding Secretary - Katherine Colwell (Rivendell Retreat), Co-Treasurer - Rhonda Duclo (Hotchkiss Library), Co-Treasurer Gloria Crank (North Fork Merchant Herald), Recording Sec. – Tom Wills (Wills Gallery and Used Books), Marsey Moore (Delta County Federal Credit Union), Margaux Hakes (Hanson Mesa B & B), Katie Gnauck (Hotchkiss Trading Company), Dan Miller (Town of Hotchkiss),

President Nathan Sponseller called the meeting to order. The Chamber presently has 75 paid up members including 59 commercial members at the \$60 level, plus non-profits and non-voting individual memberships. This is a good rate of renewal at this time of year. In comparison as of December 2010 had 86 paid memberships.

Gloria Crank moved that the minutes for the April 6 meeting be accepted as e-mailed earlier in the month. Seconded and unanimously approved.

Rhonda Duclo presented a Treasurer's report including a year-to-date financial statement. In the year so far the Chamber has had \$3,992.70 in income including \$3,590 in membership dues paid. 2011 expenses so far totaled \$2,858.93. The current account balances were: \$5,409.30 in general checking and \$6,977.02 in the Special Projects account. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Katherine Colwell reported that she is learning a lot and working on website issues as well as continuing to streamline the Chamber's communication processes. For example in the future the Chamber policies as well as the monthly minutes will be available on the website.

It was announced that all of the available Chamber yard sale spaces had been rented for Stock Dog Trials weekend. Use of the lots on Bridge Street was donated by the First State Bank. The Chamber will also have community information available to the Dog Trials themselves.

Elaine Brett of the Western Colorado Food and Agricultural Council, the area Slow Foods chapter and a new Chamber member, and one of the leaders of the ongoing 20/20 community planning process, attended in response to the Chamber Executive Committee wondering how the Chamber could best express support for the 20/20 process. Elaine presented the Delta County results of the recent Governor's Bottom Up economic survey. The results are available on line at the Delta County Economic Development website. The data from the surveys will help the Governor's office with figuring out the best ways to address economic development across the state. Elaine also discussed the possibility of applying for an Orton Family Foundation – Heart and Soul of Community grant. The \$100,000 grant, if approved, would require a \$25,000 match from the community but this could consist of in-kind donations. The grant could fund a two-year paid position (planner etc.) to help write and implement a valley wide, ten-year economic plan.

Hotchkiss Marshal, Dan Miller reported that the Town's new website is up and running at www.townofhotchkiss.com. There is a Chamber link on the site. There was some discussion of the newly purchased park located at the intersection near City Market.

In other discussion initiated by Elaine the members approved sending an e-mail letter in support of Senate Bill 258 (Local Foods to Local Markets) sponsored in the State Senate by Gail Schultz and in the House by Don Coram. The bill would lighten the health regulations on farmer/growers who want to produce low risk value-added products in home or community kitchens for sale directly to local consumers. *(Update: the bill ran out of time this session. And, unfortunately our vote to support SB258 was premature in light of the provisions of our By-Laws. That vote will need to be considered void. We can reconsider the issue next year, giving our membership timely notification of the vote. Nathan Sponseller, President)*

Bill Long reported on the options for repairing the visitor's center roof. He recommended accepting a bid by Trey Denison of Mountaintop Coatings for \$1,186, which included a ten-year warranty and can be recoated to add another 10 to 15 years to the life of the roof. Gloria made a motion to approve up to \$1,300 for the roof from the special projects fund. Katherine seconded with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills – recording secretary.