

Development District of Central Texas

Board of Directors Meeting

Central Texas Council of Governments

2180 North Main Street

Wednesday, October 4, 2007

10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Sam Listi – City of Belton

Roberto Bailon – Bell County

Councilmember Merle Stalcup – Village of Salado

Jane Crouch – Hamilton EDC

Commissioner Elizabeth Taylor – Coryell County

Judge John Firth – Coryell County

Ira Brand – Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce

Mayor Judith Hetherly – City of Lampasas

Judge Randy Mills – Hamilton County

Others Present:

George Dentry – Salado Real Estate

Beth Correa – CTCOG

Shannon Mattingly, AICP – CTCOG

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman, Sam Listi, City of Belton.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Sam Listi, City of Belton had everyone introduce themselves.
4. Mr. Listi began the new member orientation by giving a brief history of the DDCT and when and how it came to where it is presently. Shannon Mattingly, CTCOG, informed the new board members of who was on the board, and the number of seats filled and not filled. She also explained what the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is and the reasons for updating it. The original CEDS was developed and approved in 2003 before the DDCT was a designated district. Shannon had a list of acronyms for the new board members to get familiar with. She also gave them a copy of the original CEDS. Shannon said that now that we are designated as an official district, we should determine what we want our role to be. Sam Listi said that our challenge is to decide what we should be doing and how we would be most effective. He said that the COG is a great team to be with because of the resources available through them. Jane Crouch, Hamilton EDC explained how CTCOG/DDCT staff was able to help them with an EDA application to get it ready to submit. Shannon explained how the Central Texas Regional Review Committee (RRC) works in the scoring process for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). She said that the scoring process had changed drastically for the upcoming grant cycle, due to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) demanding that major changes be made to the questions on the application and the scoring process. The Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) has orchestrated the changes and given all RRC's in the state of Texas, a set of rules. Because of these new rules, The RRC will be developing objective questions for CDBG applications, but will not have to

score, because scoring will be simply adding up the points that applicants have scored. This new change opens up an opportunity for the DDCT (if the Board so chooses) to administer the CDBG Grants. Our Board could possibly write and submit grants much cheaper for these smaller communities, which would bring in money from the grant to the DDCT. With this extra funding, we would have more opportunity to serve our communities better. The COG can help with mapping, research, data collection, etc. Discussion among the board members was favorable for such an opportunity.

5. Sam Listi asked Shannon Mattingly to lead the discussion on amending the CEDS. Shannon had everyone look over the specifications on the CEDS (in a handout). She gave a brief description on what the CEDS is comprised of. Shannon recommended to the board that they look at the Visions and Goal first and find out what we keep and what needs to be changed. After that, staff could go in and revise tables and surveys and other outdated data, as well as the Action Plan. The next step would be to re-unite as a group to look at the CEDS again to make any other changes or updates that should be made. Shannon went over the list of Board members and what seats are available to be filled.

The Board went over the semantics of wording on the Vision Statement printed on page 19 of the CEDS. After much discussion the overall consensus of the board was to make a change in the wording to include the word, "support" into the Vision statement as such: "Improve, promote, and support economic growth while maintaining community character and quality of life in Central Texas."

Each goal and objective was considered and several changes were noted to be made. Goals 1 and 2 were reversed, because the board felt like the first goal should be to **"Provide, update and maintain relevant economic and business data to support economic development activities and inform communities that this information is available."** Under goal # 5 a new goal was added: "Encourage Commercial and Industrial Development within Central Texas." Besides those changes, few other changes were noted.

A decision to meet again on November 2, 2007 at 10:00 am for another CEDS workshop was made by the board. There was only one conflict; Judge Mills would be out of town. Shannon noted that DDCT Staff would make the changes to the CEDS and that Shannon would use those changes to adjust the Action Plan and when we get together again, we might possibly finish updating the document.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Denice Doss, Temporary Chairman

Date

Attest:

Beth Correa, DDCT Staff