

2021 Economic Development Manager Year End Report

CURA

4-28-21: Created and presented a draft CURA Policy, Application and Budget Worksheet to the CURA Board with the final approval on

6-9-21: Final approval of revised Policy, Application and Budget Worksheet

6-9-21: All IGA's with taxing entities approved

6-21-21: City Planning & Zoning Commission approved the compatibility plan of URA #1 in conjunction with the Moffat County/City of Craig Master Plan.

7-6-21: The BOCC approved the TIF agreement with relation to URA #1 and the Planning & Zoning Commission approved the compatibility of URA #1. They also approved the Conditions Study, Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement and IGA in reference to URA #1.

7-13-21: City Council approved the Conditions Study, Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement and IGA in reference to URA #2

9-14-21: The BOCC approved the Conditions Study, Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement and IGA in reference to the URA #2

9-28-21: City Council approved the Conditions Study, Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement and IGA in reference to URA #2

10-13-21: The CURA approved the Yampa Valley Adventure Center project in the amount of \$7,674,235

12-1-21: Final TIF agreement was signed and executed.

Yampa Valley Adventure Center

6-9-21: Presentation was made by Frank Moe on behalf of the Yampa Valley Adventure Center/Colorado Great Outdoors Experience Museum & Hall of Fame to the CURA Board.

10-13-21: A draft agreement, executive summary, and revised tax forecast was presented to CURA for their approval.

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Golden Cavity

April: Discussion/walk-through of the Golden Cavity for potential downtown revitalization. Also received a Brownfields grant in the amount of \$300,000 in May 2021, which could help with the re-development of this property and others that have been targeted for this grant.

December: Working to set up a walk-through with the Brownfields Assessment Consultants to establish what/if there are any environmental contaminants that can be remediated with the grant monies.

Spicy Basil

6-14-21: Conducted a walk-through of the Spicy Basil. May have a potential, private buyer that could utilize the Brownfields grant and URA funds.

12-9-21: Set up a walk-through with the Brownfields Assessment Consultants to establish what/if there are any environmental contaminants that can be remediated with the grant monies.

Project Module

Working on relocating from Vernal, UT to Craig, CO. They are a high-end modular home manufacturing company that will employ between 30-60 employees at full operation. These positions range from heavy construction, electricians, equipment operators, truck drivers, etc. Have sent them a list of vendors, contractors, trucking companies, State incentives etc.

6-4-21: Project module closed on a vacant lot within the URA #2.

Housing Assessment Study

The RFP was sent out in April of 2021, and we received 5 proposals from vendors. Conducted interviews and chose Williford, LLC as the consulting firm to conduct the study.

6-8-21: Presented Williford, LLC as the final consultant to City Council.

6-18-21: Contract was signed and executed by Williford, LLC.

6-28-21: Held the first kick off call with City Staff and Williford, LLC and have established the Steering Committee.

Total Housing study cost is \$53,000. Applied for and received a grant from Chfa in the amount of \$20,000 to help assist with the study.

8-3-21: 1st Steering Committee meeting was conducted.

8-10-21: Employer survey emailed to over 400 employers within the City of Craig and Moffat County. Also included larger employers outside of the area where Craig and Moffat County residents work/commute.

8-17-21: Site visit conducted with consultants that included meetings with City Staff, local Realtors and Property Owners, Business Owners, etc. Also toured potential developable properties within the City of Craig and Moffat County.

9-30-21: Deadline to complete employer survey

October: 2nd Steering Committee Meeting was conducted. A preliminary report will also be presented at this meeting.

11-2-21: Williford, LLC conducted the review of the preliminary results of the Assessment with the Housing Steering Committee.

11-9-21: Williford, LLC presented the preliminary report of the Assessment to the City Council.

The Action Plan kick-off meeting will be held in January of 2022 and the final Action Plan report should be completed/presented by February or March of 2022.

Small Business Grant Program

Ten awardees were granted \$84,041.15 for both economic development and site improvement activities. The total, overall investment from these projects was \$1,206,115.21.

CDS Grant

6-4-21: Submitted a \$10,000,000 grant for Congressionally Directed Spending on for infrastructure for future housing, infrastructure, and purchase of land for an industrial park, infrastructure for a CDOT required turn/decel/accel lane on U.S. 40 and downtown revitalization of certain blighted buildings and sidewalk improvements. Also submitted a grant in the amount of \$750,000, on the advice from Matt Krieker with Senator Bennet's office, specifically for the infrastructure to support future housing.

9-23-21: Followed up with Matt Krieker with Senator Bennet's office to see where we stood/if we were awarded the grant. He said he is still waiting to hear.

Grants should be awarded by end of year 2021

New & Existing Industry

Have spoken with CNCC regarding potential programs that could help provide training opportunities to transitioning coal/plant workers. Currently working on a solar project that has received some grant funds. Have had discussions regarding potentially mining rare-earth minerals from abandoned coal fields. Still in the infancy stages. Have also had discussions regarding replacement energy sources such as hydrogen, hydroelectric and geothermal. Again, still very much in the beginning stages of those discussions. Continuing with the approval process of the URA areas, which will help incentivize those located within the areas, whether they are existing industries, or new industries looking to re-locate to Craig.

Regional REDI Grant

May: We have partnered with the local communities, (17 or 18), and applied for a Regional REDI Grant to help with things like infrastructure, housing, transportation, and capacity building consultants to help identify and facilitate regional economic development priorities.

Workforce

Would like to push marketing towards the Small Business Innovation Center, potentially utilizing it as a Business Factory/Business Incubator. **Marketing** – Receiving all of the information back from the Opportunity Marketing Zone study that was conducted, (which also includes benefits/plans for areas outside of the OZ) and will begin ramping up the website (investnwco.com) to promote local and statewide incentives that are available to include those through the URA's, DOLA, OEDIT, Rural Jumpstart, OZ's and **Enterprise Zones** - We would also begin marketing available parcels of developable land for future housing developments, current assets as a tourist destination, the availability of broadband, and helpful demographic information for future developers, site selectors, contractors etc.

Shop Local Program

October: Visited and hand delivered posters and table tents to 20+ businesses around town to promote the program for the month of November. The City and Chamber of Commerce also promoted the program along with social media, newspaper, and website advertising.

11-29-21: The \$15,000 awarded to the program was exhausted by this date.

Brownfields Assessment Grant

11-23-21: Brownfield CORE team meeting was conducted with consultant Ayres.

11-29-21: Brownfield Steering Committee was selected, and an email sent out for the Steering Committee kick-off meeting.

12-9-21: Brownfield in-person site visits conducted

12-10-21: Brownfield Steering Committee kick-off meeting conducted.

Energize Colorado

11-8-21: Submitted an RFP for the Energize Colorado pilot program for a rural sustainable housing initiative. The program is focused on bringing scalable, replicable developments to rural markets that blend high-performance, healthy homes with community gathering areas, co-working spaces, and other desirable amenities. The homes in these communities will utilize cutting-edge products, systems, and technologies to meet today's environmental realities and homebuyer needs. Price points will include entry level, move-up and semi-custom. There will also be a blend of for-rent and for-sale units.

Business Industry Leadership Team (BILT):

November: Was asked to serve as an advisory member for the BILT at CNCC to help establish and grow new business programs at the College. Will continue to attend monthly meetings

Additional Notes:

7-7-21: Was the guest speaker at Coffee and a Newspaper. Good turnout, about 10-15 attendees. Good discussion.

7-9-21: Presented at CNCC along with Mayor Ogden and Jeff Comstock to the Colorado Science and Engineering Policy Fellowship along with Senator's Rankin and Hansen regarding Craig's transitioning economy.

9-9-21: Attended the AGNC Economic Development Summit in Rifle, CO

9-21-21: Met with Ryan Dennison, the City of Craig Parks and Rec. Director to begin planning for 2022's Whittle the Wood.

9-30-21: Attended the Western Colorado Economic Summit in Grand Junction Colorado. Also got to tour the GJ Incubator and Proximity/Co-Working space.

10-1-21: Attended the lady's leadership gathering.

10-19-21: Attended the Moffat County Tourism Workshop at the Craig Chamber of Commerce.

10-19-21: Attended the K-12 Education meeting conducted by CNCC.

10-20-21: Attended the Chancellor's Summit on Adult Education at CNCC to discuss how to better serve adult learners by offering them more support for job opportunities post Covid and the closure of our power plant and mines.

October – December: Have been attending monthly meetings with the Craig Skatepark Alliance to discuss construction of a new skatepark.

October – December: Continue to attend monthly AGNC, NWCDC, and Build Back Better meetings.

November – December: Attended an 8-part, 4-week, Energy Transition Academy hosted by the Center for New Energy Economy.

November: Served on the NWCDC selection committee for the Regional Economic Development Project Management Consultant.

11-10-21: Attended the monthly Parks and Rec. Board meeting to discuss preliminary plans/ideas for the 2022 Whittle the Wood.

11-12-21: Attended the Steamboat Springs Economic Summit at Colorado Mountain College.

11-19-21: Attended the ribbon cutting at the Hayden Regional Airport to celebrate the 13 solar projects across the NW region.