

Craig Economic Development Manager Reporting – July to September 2023

Economic Development Advisory Committee

7-24-23: The July EDAC meeting was not held due to lack of a quorum.

8-28-23: Two business grants that were awarded for Loadout Liquors and the Luttrell Barn were completed and after photos were shown to the Committee. A presentation was given by Shelley Siman from the Office of Just Transition regarding the workforce planning efforts that she is conducting at the plant and mines. An update was given on the Business Plan Competition. Two entries, both in the start-up category were received. Both were selected to move forward to Phase II of the Competition, which is due on 10-9-23. An update was also given on the progress of the website, and a presentation was given by David Petr of Marketing Alliance regarding options for the commercial real estate listings to be added to the website, and a future, targeted marketing campaign. The Committee voted to move forward with both of these items. A discussion was had about the \$50,000 dollar amount that would be requested from Council for the continuation of marketing efforts into 2024.

9-25-23: The final business grant for the Community Budget Center was complete and after photos were shown to the Committee. An update was given on the progress of the commercial real estate listings and targeted marketing campaign that was outsourced to Marketing Alliance. A feature article on the City of Craig in Business View Magazine was discussed and direction was given to pursue this marketing opportunity. The joint EDAC/Chamber/LMD meeting was also held after the Sept. EDAC meeting. Members of the Chamber attended and discussed the progress of their 2023 goals to date and ideas for goals in 2024. Members of the LMD also spoke to their 2023 Strategic Plan and discussed ideas on how to market their past projects in anticipation of the ballot measure for the continuation of the LMD in 2025. The EDAC also gave an update on the progress of their 2023 goals to date, and potential goals for 2024.

CURA

8-9-23: The first CURA project of 2023 was approved at the August meeting for the Old Village Inn property. One half will be Ann's Authentic Thai and the other half will be Unit 301 Sports Bar & Grill. The total investment is \$3,030,839 and the CURA Commissioners agreed to share \$1,515,421 in property and sales tax dollars once the initial investment threshold is met.

Brownfields Assessment Grant

7-20-23: A Phase I environmental assessment was conducted at 308 Yampa Ave. (The former Robinson Building)

7-20-23: An updated Phase I environmental assessment was conducted at 1111 W. Victory Way. (Former Centennial Mall property)

As of September 2023, the Brownfield grant funds have been extinguished. The \$300,000 in grant funding allowed for 13 Phase I and 4 Phase II environmental assessments. The intent is to apply for Round 2 of the Brownfield grant funding in the fall of 2023 for continued environmental assessments and remediation.

Small Business Grant Program

The three remaining grants that were awarded in 2022, Loadout Liquors, the Luttrell Barn and the Community Budget Center were completed in August and September respectively.

Housing

Currently working with a private developer on a 96–120-unit apartment complex at Woodbury Dr. and 1st St. An LOI was submitted for a DOLA Strong Communities grant in the amount of \$4.8M for horizontal infrastructure at the site. Have been invited to a pre-application meeting from DOLA on October 30th to see if we'll be invited to submit an official grant application.

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

9-11-23: First public outreach meeting was held at the Center of Craig. Had about 15 attendees.

9-22-23: Attended the RTA Advisory Committee meeting.

9-26-23: Attended the RTA Project Management team meeting.

More information on the RTA can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/YampaValleyRTA>

Marketing/Promotion

Economic Development Website

Marketing Alliance will be launching a local and regional, (within 3 hours driving distance) digital targeted marketing campaign beginning in the fall of 2023.

The Real Estate database listings on discvoeracraig.com will also go live in the fall of 2023.

The EDAC will be creating a more formalized marketing plan to direct us into 2024. Marketing Alliance is helping to aid in that process.

July – September: In conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, have been conducting in person site visits with local businesses. Have conducted 10 site visits to date.

Craig Business & Industrial Park

Currently in negotiations to purchase a 25-acre site for the Craig Business & Industrial Park. We have also applied for a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant in the amount of \$2.5M to construct the horizontal infrastructure. Ayres and Associates is in the process of creating a site plan for the Park, and providing an estimate for the design and engineering work. Plan to apply for a grant from the Office of Just Transition for the gap in the final negotiated purchase price and the design & engineering.

Colorado Space Business Roundtable Tour

9-22 & 9-23-23: CSBR Trip was conducted. Toured the Craig Station and Trapper Mine alongside potential aviation and aerospace industries. Idea is to repurpose Trapper Mine into a heavy industrial park for these types of industries. Online brochure and more information can be found at <https://discovercraig.com/site-selection/trapper-industrial-park/>.

Additional Notes

7-17-23: Attended the July EDCC Communications committee meeting.

7-31-23: Attended the July Craig/Moffat County/Tri-State Energy Transition meeting with the Great Plains Institute.

8-3-23: Attended the Moffat/Rio Blanco quarterly meeting in Rangely.

8-16-23: Attended the AGNC Economic Summit in Rifle.

8-17-23: Attended the August EDCC Membership committee meeting.

8-21-23: Attended the August EDCC Communications committee meeting.

8-22 & 8-23-23: Attended the CSBR Road Trip in Craig.

8-25-23: Attended the September Craig/Moffat County/Tri-State Energy Transition meeting with the Great Plains Institute.

9-18-23: Attended the September EDCC Communications committee meeting.

9-21-23: Attended the September Membership committee meeting.

July – September: Continue to attend monthly AGNC, NWCD, LMD, EDCC, Regional Transportation Authority and Chamber Board meetings.