

Economic Development Report to the Chamber of Commerce

12/17/15

Project Updates:

Chamber Docs Online: We have been working on getting past Chamber Documents on the website for those who miss the meetings and would still like to access the information shared at the meetings. Go to www.daggettcountry.org/ChamberDocs to access this information. It is still a work in progress.

TRT Board recommends a tax increase for the TRT Tax. Several years back the State Legislature increased the rate that Counties can levy for Transient Room Tax. Daggett County Commission held a meeting on December 15 and heard comments both for and against the proposal. After discussion they approved the increase to the maximum allowed of 4.25%. We are the 21st County to raise the rate to the maximum and one county raised to 3.5%. These funds will be used for additional marketing projects and personnel to carry out these projects.

Rural Tourism or "Rourism" – We have been holding phone meetings with Roger Brooks monthly and he visited our area on July 2nd and we met with him again at the Tourism Conference. We are still looking for article links, scenic and action pictures and/or video to help promote our area on social media, the website and through email marketing. Send or deliver them to Mark Wilson (markw@redcanyonlodge.com) or Brian Raymond (braymond@daggettcountry.org).

Dowd Mountain Trails Project – The majority of the Trail work has been completed. We are now working on the signage and maps in preparation for the 2016 season. Anyone interested in helping with this please contact Brian. One last volunteer work day will be held in the spring to rework the trails after the winter snows.

Redevelopment Agency (RDA) – The Town of Manila has entered into an MOU with the Daggett County Redevelopment Agency to develop a project area within the Town of Manila. The project will be ongoing through the early months of 2016.

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings/Events:

- December 28th – County Newsletter Deadline – news@daggettcountry.org
- January 22-24, 2016 – Burbot Bash – www.burbotbash.com
- January 29, 2016 - Rural Day at the Legislature
- February 1, 2016 – Tourism Day on the Hill: \$30 for Lunch
- February 16, 2016 – Manila Shooting Range meeting at Courthouse for those interested
- February 24, 2016 – Job Fair at Manila High School??
- March 2016 – Possible Flaming Gorge Tourism Conference at Manila High School??
- September 27-29, 2016 Utah Tourism Conference at Zermatt & Homestead in Midway

Mav Getaways – We have signed a one year contract with Mav Getaways. A training and introduction was held today to explain this promotion. Contact Brian to learn how you can participate at 25% of the normal cost. We are also looking to hold a sweepstakes this coming spring as a part of this promotion. Let us know if you are interested in participating. Funds are limited so contact Brian immediately!!

Business Incentives – Contact Brian Raymond at braymond@daggettcountry.org or 435-784-3218 ext. 134 for more information on any of the programs listed on this section.

Co-operative Marketing Grant and Event Grants – Thanks to the support of the Economic Development Corporation of Utah (EDC Utah) we have received money to help with Events and business marketing. Check out the website at www.daggettcountry.org/co-op or www.daggettcountry.org/eventmarketing for more details.

Rural Fast Track – State Grant for up to \$50,000 with at least a 50% match for Daggett County businesses that have been in business for 2 years and have at least two full-time employees/owners for expanding, renovating their facility, purchasing new equipment or hiring new full-time employees (\$1000 to \$1500 for each job). This is a year round program with no deadline, but limited funds. For more information about this program visit: <http://business.utah.gov/programs/incentives/rural-fast-track/> . Application must be submitted prior to construction beginning.

Enterprise Zone – The entire County is now in an Enterprise Zone which has Tax Credits specifically for rural manufacturing businesses, including woodworking companies, perhaps fly tying companies, to purchase equipment or buildings. It will not assist with purchase of supplies needed in manufacturing. See <http://business.utah.gov/programs/incentives/enterprise-zones/> for more information. There is also a 50% tax credit for companies to donate to a Community Development Corporation that is a 501(c) (3) (up to 100,000) and we have an agreement set up with the South East Utah Community Development Corporation to take donations and give the tax credit for manufacturing companies and individuals.

RCAC & RLF Loans – Business loan programs are available through either the Uintah Basin Association of Government’s Revolving Loan Fund (\$200,000 max) or the Rural Community Assistance Corporation’s Small Business Loan Program.

Geocaching Program – The Geocaches have been generating a little bit of interest. The cache on the Green River was moved, but has been returned to the correct location. If a visitor gets to at least 3 of the 5 they can claim a patch at either Slauch’s Sinclair or Trout Creek Flies. For more info see the webpage at: <http://www.daggettcountry.org/geocache> .



Chamber Facebook Pages: Visit Flaming Gorge is a new page started this year as part of the Rourism effort: <https://www.facebook.com/visitflaminggorge> . The standard Flaming Gorge Chamber page can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Flaming-Gorge-Chamber-of-Commerce/325921463390>. While business information, training and meeting dates are added to this page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Flaming-Gorge-Chamber-Meetings-Trainings/393000970839411>. If you have a cool post on your page and you don’t see it shared on the Chamber site, send me an email so I can go find it and share it to promote your business and the area!!

Recycling has been halted for the time being, but we are trying to reactivate the program. We are looking for a barn, garage or other large building where the materials can be sorted and stored. We encourage you to continue to recycle by taking your materials to other areas when you travel, while we work on funding to begin the program again. A recent grant application was denied, but we did receive a \$1000 grant from the Conservation District and the Flaming Gorge Country Community Foundation and \$500 from the Town of Manila. We are looking for a new location and volunteers to help develop the program and put these grants to work!

Upgrading your Facility Or adding new services?? The State Tourism Office is looking for information like this and we will add these types of news stories to the County newsletter to help get the word out. Send me your stories along with a couple of pictures!!

Brian Raymond
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Economic Development Director
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