

Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District Board of Directors Meeting - June 16, 2023, at 1:00 pm PST

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82922778261

In Person Meeting Locations:
West Business Development Center.
185 E Church Street, Ukiah, CA 95482
West Business Development Center (707) 964-7571
and

Sonoma County Economic Development Board 141 Stony Circle, Suite 110, Sonoma, CA 95401 (707) 565-7170



AGENDA

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In Person Meeting Locations:

West Business Development Center 185 E Church Street, Ukiah, CA 95482 West Business Development Center (707) 964-7571

and

Sonoma County Economic Development Board 141 Stony Circle, Suite 110, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 (707) 565-7170

CALL TO ORDER by Mary Anne Petrillo, Chairperson

ROLL CALL by Harrison Tregenza
☐ Chairperson Mary Anne Petrillo
☐ Vice Chairperson Lisa Badenfort
☐ Boardmember Robin Bartholow
☐ Boardmember Jon Frech
Boardmember Paul Garza Jr.
☐ Boardmember Jeff Kellv

AGENDA CHANGES AND DELETIONS (TO CURRENT AGENDA ONLY) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT - Open time for Public Expression

Time reserved for members of the public to speak on matters not otherwise appearing on the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. Unless otherwise requested by a Board Member, there will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Calendar and will be considered separately.

There will be one opportunity for public comment on all consent items. Comments are limited to 3 minutes each, and the Chairperson may limit this time if reasonable under the circumstances.

Item 1 Approval of Check Register as of May 31, 2023

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION (Action Items):

- Item 2 Approve the Annual CEDS Update Process as outlined in the Annual CEDS Update Process document and Authorize the District Manager to devote EDA Planning Grant Funds to the effort
- Item 3 Authorize the District Manager to submit a Letter of Interest to the International Economic Development Council Economic Recovery Corps Program for Fellows to Engage in Economic Development Projects or Plans that Generate New Practices and Paradigms for Equitable and Inclusive Change

Item 4 Approve a Letter of Congratulations to Ethan Brown on his Appointment to the Position of Executive Director of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board

Item 5 Election of Board Chair and Election of Board Vice Chair

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

- EDA Supplemental Work Plan Status Update
 - o EDA Supplemental Extension
 - o Business Friendly Attributes
 - AgTech Workshop
- DRAFT FY 2022-2023 CEDS Update

BOARD MEMBER REPORT OR COMMENT

Time reserved for members of the Board to report on AdHoc Committee activities and to speak on matters not otherwise appearing on the agenda. No Actions.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Community Resilience Centers Program, California Strategic Growth Council
 - o Deadline Sept 5, 2023.

https://sgc.ca.gov/programs/community-resilience-centers/docs/20230526-CRC_R1_NOFA.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST (not necessarily SMEDD connected)

June 20, 2023, North Coast Farmers Convergence (more info here)

July 11, 2023, Tuesday Grand Opening of the Ukiah Visitor Center

September 21 & 22, 2023, The State of the Redwood Coast Region: Our Elemental Economy, the 3rd annual regional economic development summit, Ukiah, Mendocino County (registration required)

ADJOURNMENT by Mary Anne Petrillo, Chairperson

For a copy of public board packet materials, please visit smedd.org or email Abigail Scott (abigail@smedd.org).



SONOMA MENDOCINO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT Check Register

Checks Issued Through May 31, 2023

Transmittal on June 16, 2023, to the Board of Directors at their Board Meeting

Check No.	Amount	Check Date	Paid to (Payee)	Description
1300	\$2,956.50	1/4/2023	William Adams; Johnson and Thomas LLC	Legal Services
1301	\$28,280.22	1/4/2023	US Dept of Commerce / NOAA	Reimbursement to Grantor (EDA) of unexpended Partnership Planning grant funds: Grant No. ED17SEA3020055; Period 7/1/2017 - 6/30/2022
1302	\$20.00	3/1/2023	Streamline	Web Service
1303	\$28,303.55	3/17/2023	County of Sonoma	Sonoma County staff reimbursement for services for Partnership Planning grant funds: Grant No. ED17SEA3020055; Period 7/1/2017 - 6/30/2022
1304	\$225.00	3/17/2023	Marie Jones Consulting	Provided CEDS Project Prioritization Services



TO: Board of Directors

.FROM: Joshua Metz, RGS Senior Advisor, District Manager

SUBJECT: Approve the Annual CEDS Update Process as outlined in the Annual CEDS Update Process

document and Authorize the District Manager to devote EDA Planning Grant Funds to the

effort

STATEMENT OF ISSUE: The purpose of this item is to consider authorizing SMEDD to move ahead with Annual Sonoma-Mendocino Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update Process for FY 2023-2024 by approving an Annual CEDS Update Process as outlined in the attached Annual CEDS Update Process document, and authorizing the District Manager to devote EDA Planning Grant Funds to the effort.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the Annual CEDS Update Process as outlined in the Annual CEDS Update Process document and Authorize the District Manager to devote EDA Planning Grant Funds to the effort.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

This action would impact the CEDS EDA Planning Grant budget by approving a process to guide implementation of the annual planning activities required under the grant.

BACKGROUND:

The SMEDD is responsible for overseeing completion, monitoring implementation progress, and supporting on-going planning of the Sonoma-Mendocino Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This core function of the District is intended to occur annually through a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process, whereby progress towards existing Goals are noted, opportunities to support improved implementation are identified, and new Goal-aligned projects are identified. The proposed Annual CEDS Update Process is presented to set a framework for how to conduct the update in FY 2023-2024.

DISCUSSION:

The Annual CEDS Update and Performance Report must include the following major components: Adjustment to the Strategy; Report on Economic Development Activities; Evaluation on Action Plan and Goals; and Schedule of Goals for the next year. Up until now, this process has been conducted by the

SMEDD in an ad hoc manner. The proposed Annual CEDS Update Process provides a comprehensive framework to conduct community outreach and engagement over the coming FY 2023-2024 timeframe, yielding a complete annual update in time to meet required deadlines. As with any planning document, this Annual CEDS Update Process is a prospective framework that may be subject to change as circumstances evolve.

ALTERNATIVES:

- **1:** Approve the Annual CEDS Update Process as outlined in the Annual CEDS Update Process document and Authorize the District Manager to devote EDA Planning Grant Funds to the effort.
- **2:** Consider, *modify*, and Approve the Annual CEDS Update Process as outlined in the Annual CEDS Update Process document and Authorize the District Manager to devote EDA Planning Grant Funds to the effort.
- **3:** Other approach(s) may be developed after public comments and Board deliberations.
- 4: Decline to act.

RECOMMENDATION for Alternative 1:

Move to:

 Approve the Annual CEDS Update Process as outlined in the Annual CEDS Update Process document and Authorize the District Manager to devote EDA Planning Grant Funds to the effort.

ATTACHMENT:

Annual Outreach Update Plan document





ANNUAL CEDS UPDATE PROCESS

THE PROJECT

Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District's primary objectives are to:

- support economic resilience in the region
- become more responsive and nimble in the face of an uncertain future

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is the primary planning tool to accomplish these objectives. While SMEDD's most recent CEDS was adopted in 2022, it is a *living document* that requires ongoing engagement. This document outlines how SMEDD intends to keep moving CEDS objectives and projects forward with an annual update process that includes extensive stakeholder engagement.

THE APPROACH

Conduct outreach by holding workshops for each of the four CEDS goals:

INNOVATION EQUITY PEOPLE RESILIENCE

THE DELIVERABLES

Updated contact lists

Workshop invitations

Presentation decks

Presentation recordings for web, social, and beyond

Meeting notes

Outreach notes (non-workshop attendees)

Draft plan

Final plan





ANNUAL CEDS UPDATE PROCESS

THE PROCESS

THE TIMELINE

1

Determine project team

- Staffing
- Sonoma EDB
- West BDC
- SMEDD BOD involvement

2

Confirm project approach

- Configuration by goal
- Timeline

3

Project team kickoff meeting

4

Update contacts

- Project proponents
- CEDS Strategy Committee

5

Logistics

- Preparation
- Facilitation
- Follow-up

Draft plan

6

- Updated regional economic overview
- Context summary
- Workshop overviews
- Updated contact list

PLANNING

July - August

WORKSHOPS

- 1 September
- 2 November
- **3** January
- 4 February

REPORT

April

Draft

May

Final

7

Final report

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ANNUAL CEDS UPDATE PROCESS

WORKSHOPS OBJECTIVES

Get efficient project status updates
Connect project sponsors
Be a forum for discussion
Identify regional trends and issues
Provide for a meaningful annual update

PREPARATION

Poll for availability
Determine venue (remote, recorded)
Send invitations (raffle prize, nudge)
Prepare for meetings

- Presentation/facilitation
- Poll questions for Zoom
- Sending out "homework"

FORMAT

90 minutes on Zoom Reports out from project sponsors Facilitated discussion Highlight next steps



TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Joshua Metz, RGS Senior Advisor, District Manager

SUBJECT: Authorize the District Manager to submit a Letter of Interest to the International Economic

Development Council - Economic Recovery Corps Program for Fellows to Engage in Economic Development Projects or Plans that Generate New Practices and Paradigms for Equitable and

Inclusive Change

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STATEMENT OF ISSUE: The purpose of this item is to consider authorizing the District Manager to submit a Letter of Interest to the International Economic Development Council - Economic Recovery Corps (ERC) Program for fellows to engage in economic development projects or plans that generate new practices and paradigms for equitable and inclusive change by the June 30, 2023, deadline via the online application form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ERChost

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize SMEDD to submit an International Economic Development Council - Economic Recovery Corps (ERC) Program Letter of Interest

FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

None.

BACKGROUND:

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and partners are beginning a program in which they will place 65 funded Economic Recovery Corps fellows to engage in economic development projects or plans that generate new practices and paradigms for equitable and inclusive change. During the IEDC hosted webinar on June 8th, the program leaders insisted that regions with active comprehensive economic development strategies are encouraged to consider hosting a fellow to implement CEDS strategies and projects. The program is described on the IEDC's webpage as, "building a nationwide corps of diverse, cross-sector talent with the skills and expertise to help activate regional economic development strategies that promote connectivity, innovation, and knowledge-sharing between urban, rural, and tribal areas across the U.S. Over the course of the 2.5-year (30 month) fellowship, selected host organizations will receive technical assistance, planning, and capacity-building support from an ERC Fellow who will be based in their community or region.

IEDC and its partners will place up to 65 Economic Recovery Corps (ERC) Fellows in economic development and related organizations in under-resourced communities throughout the nation. Hosts will reflect the entire community and economic development field spectrum, from city and county government to regional coalitions, economic development organizations, economic development districts (EDDs), and entrepreneurial technical assistance providers. Fellows will be highly-trained early to mid-career professionals, equipped to help identify and advance innovative, locally-driven initiatives to build stronger, more resilient, and inclusive economies."

DISCUSSION:

SMEDD is best positioned to submit a letter of interest to this program because it is a two-county, regional, EDA-designated EDD, and thus inherently meets key program criteria. Sonoma EDB is offering to provide facilities and administrative support to the Fellow during the program period, while they complete project work relevant to both Counties such as:

- Tribal engagements
- Blue and green economy focused activities
- Innovation and entrepreneurship

Interested parties are required to submit a letter of interest, not to exceed 500 words, to the IEDC by June 30, 2023. The draft letter of interest should outline the SMEDD's interest in hosting a fellow to implement goals one and two of the CEDS in mutual fashion. The IEDC outlines that the components of the letter of interest include:

- A clearly demonstrated project need that is ready for delivery through the support of an ERC Fellow
- The capacity to participate in planning and implementation of economic development strategies.
- A dedicated leadership team, committee or advisory board committed to collaboration and building robust and inclusive partnerships with diverse stakeholder groups.
- A good understanding of regional assets and issues that will enable (or constrain) a fellow's work in your community.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1: Authorize the District Manager to submit a Letter of Interest to the International Economic Development Council Economic Recovery Corps (ERC) Program for fellows to engage in economic development projects or plans that generate new practices and paradigms for equitable and inclusive change.
- 2: Consider, modify, and authorize the District Manager to submit a Letter of Interest as above.
- 3: Other approach(s) may be developed after public comments and Board deliberations.
- 4: Decline to act.

RECOMMENDATION for Alternative 1:

Move to:

 Authorize the District Manager to submit a Letter of Interest to the International Economic Development Council - Economic Recovery Corps (ERC) Program for fellows to engage in economic development projects or plans that generate new practices and paradigms for equitable and inclusive change.

IEDC Economic Recovery Fellows – DRAFT Letter of Interest SMEDD 6/16/23

Mendocino and Sonoma counties are no strangers to the impacts of climate change. The culmination of devastating fires and floods in the past 6 years, has led the region to focus on economic diversification that addresses a changing climate by creating better resiliency. The push for this diversification is also informed by the disparate impact natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic placed on the region's historically underserved community members such as tribes and people of color. While efforts to close these economic gaps are under way, there is still more to be done to strengthen relationships and economically empower all members of the community.

To address these pressing issues, it is the Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District's (SMEDD) goal to foster equitable economic prosperity through strengthening and developing efforts and partnerships among local tribes, nonprofits, governments, and businesses to embrace business growth, job creation, job training and education, research, and innovation around the blue (ocean related), green (land and agriculture related), and creative/tourism economies. This goal is outlined through various objectives and strategies in the SMEDD's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS identifies sectors that diversify the region's economy to build resiliency, create positive job multipliers, and an opportunity to engage and economically support historically underserved communities that have a cultural connection to this region's natural resources and who are most affected by disaster, pandemic, and climate change.

Key partners in this initiative are the proposed host organizations; Sonoma County Economic Development Board (EDB) and West Business Development Center (WBDC). EDB is a government agency within the County of Sonoma focused on growing a healthy economy through various services and regional planning. WBDC is a nonprofit agency in Mendocino County dedicated to growth and development of the region's small businesses and communities. Both organizations were instrumental in the development of the current CEDS.

To create equitable outcomes from this initiative, stronger partnerships are needed with the region's 16 federally recognized tribes, some of which have their own CEDS. Tribal historical and cultural connections to the land, ocean, and waterways can better inform economic policy and economic development around these target sectors, giving the initiative strength and resiliency. With existing tribal connections, SMEDD has learned there is alignment and opportunities to partner to reach shared goals.

Other opportunities for partnership strengthening are the region's numerous environmentally focused government agencies and nonprofits such as Ag + Open Space, Climate Action and Resiliency, and County of Mendocino. Existing relationships could benefit more on collaborating around shared regional climate goals. Furthermore, utilizing current partnerships with regional tourism agencies such as Sonoma County Tourism and Mendocino County Tourism Commission, will enhance current efforts of "leave no trace behind" campaigns focusing on environmental stewardship while showcasing the regions natural beauty and conservation initiatives.

The CEDS guidance, current partnerships and programs, and regional appetite to grow businesses and jobs in the blue, green, and creative/tourism sectors, provide support for a thrilling opportunity to foster resilient and equitable economic development in Mendocino and Sonoma counties.



TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Joshua Metz, RGS Senior Advisor, District Manager

SUBJECT: Approve a Letter of Congratulations to Ethan Brown on his appointment to the position of

Executive Director of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board

STATEMENT OF ISSUE: The purpose of this item is to consider approving the attached draft letter and authorizing the SMEDD to send Ethan Brown a letter on behalf of the Board of Directors congratulating

him on his recent appointment to the position of Executive Director of the Sonoma County Economic

Development Board.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the attached draft letter of congratulations to Ethan Brown on his appointment to the position of Executive Director of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

None.

BACKGROUND:

Ethan Brown has served the Sonoma County Economic Development Board for many years in many capacities.

DISCUSSION:

Ethan Brown has been serving the Sonoma County Economic Development Board in the capacity of Interim Executive Director. He was appointed as the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board on June 6, 2023.

ALTERNATIVES:

- **1:** Approve the attached draft letter of congratulations to Ethan Brown on his appointment to the position of Executive Director of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board.
- **2:** Consider, *modify*, and approve the attached draft letter of congratulations to Ethan Brown.
- 3: Other approach(s) may be developed after public comments and Board deliberations.
- 4: Decline to act.

RECOMMENDATION for Alternative 1:

Move to:

• Approve the attached draft letter of congratulations to Ethan Brown on his appointment to the position of Executive Director of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board.

ATTACHMENT

Draft Letter of Congratulations to Ethan Brown on his appointment to the position of Executive Director of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board from the SMEDD Board of Directors.



June 16, 2023

Board of Directors

Mendocino County

Mary Anne Petrillo, *Chair*West Business Development
Center

Jon Frech
Black Oak Coffee

Paul Garza Jr.

Garza Consulting

Sonoma County

Lisa Badenfort, Vice Chair North Bay Realtors Association

Jeff Kelly, *Treasurer*Tri Counties Bank

Robin Bartholow Sonoma County Farm Bureau

Team

Josh Metz

District Manager

josh@smedd.org

Abigail Scott

Management Analyst

Abigail@smedd.org

Bradley Johnson Management Analyst bradley@smedd.org

Tracy Fuller
Financial Manager
tracy@smedd.org

SMEDD.org

Ethan Brown 141 Stony Circle Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Dear Ethan,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board. The Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District (SMEDD) Board recognizes this achievement as a testament to your leadership, dedication, and expertise in driving economic growth and prosperity in our region.

Your professional approach, and deep understanding of the local economy, make you the ideal candidate for this role. We believe that under your guidance, the Sonoma County Economic Development Board will flourish, benefiting our region, its residents and visitors alike.

Your accomplishments in the field of economic development and your contributions to the Sonoma Mendocino region have not gone unnoticed. Your efforts have played key roles in creating job opportunities, supporting small businesses, and enhancing the overall economic well-being of our region. Your ability to forge meaningful partnerships and collaborate with various stakeholders has been instrumental in driving sustainable growth and prosperity.

We have every confidence that you will lead the Sonoma County Economic Development Board with dedication, professionalism, and integrity. The SMEDD Board and its members extend our sincere wishes for your continued success. We look forward to witnessing the positive impact you will make as you champion economic development initiatives that will transform our region into a thriving hub of innovation and opportunity.

Congratulations once again on your well-deserved appointment.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Petrillo Chairperson, Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District Board of Directors



TO: Board of Directors

.FROM: Tracy Fuller, RGS Senior Advisor

SUBJECT: Election of Board Chair and Board Vice Chair

STATEMENT OF ISSUE: The purpose of this item is to elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson to serve for the term beginning July 1, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2024.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive nominations for Board members to serve for the term July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 in the positions of Chairperson from amongst Sonoma County appointees, and a Vice Chairperson from amongst Mendocino County appointees. After receiving public comments, and deliberating, elect individuals to those positions.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

None.

BACKGROUND:

The SMEDD must adhere to numerous and varied laws governing its operations. One such law requires that the SMEDD adopt a set of Bylaws and adhere to them. The current Bylaws were approved by the District's Board of Directors on November 18, 2021. The Bylaws stipulate that the SMEDD shall have a Chair and a Vice Chair, and what their responsibilities and duties are:

ARTICLE VI – ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES

Section 1. The SMEDD Board of Directors shall have a Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be appointed by SMEDD members by election. Unless sooner replaced by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, the Chair and Vice Chair will serve a term of one year each, with annual elections. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected annually from within the membership of the SMEDD Board of Directors. The sitting Chair and Vice Chair shall at no time represent the same member county. Each role shall rotate between representatives of member counties; no member county shall have a representative as Chair or Vice Chair for more than one consecutive year. They shall be elected beginning on July 1, and continuing to June 30, of the following year, or until their successors have been duly elected.

Section 2. Chair. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the SMEDD Board of Directors and call for special meetings. The Chair shall carry out the duties listed in the Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council Policy and Procedures.

Section 3. Vice Chair. In the Chair's absence, the Vice Chair shall assume the Chair's responsibilities. The Vice Chair shall carry out the duties listed in the Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council Policy and Procedures.

Section 4. Removal of Chair. If the Chair is found to be in violation of any of the conditions for removal outlined in Article IV, Section 2, he or she may be removed by a motion from any member, and by majority vote of the SMEDD Board of Directors, with a quorum being present.

DISCUSSION:

In June 2022, the Board of Directors selected Mary Anne Petrillo to serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors, and Robin Barthalow to serve as the Vice Chair. Chairperson Petrillo was appointed to the SMEDD Board of Directors by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. Vice Chairperson Barthelow was appointed to the SMEDD Board of Directors by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

The SMEDD Board may choose any member of the Board to serve as its Chairperson as long as the selection adheres to the Bylaws. The Bylaws state: Each role <u>shall rotate</u> between representatives of member counties; no member county shall have a representative as Chair or Vice Chair for more than one consecutive year.

This language requiring an annual rotation between the counties requires the Board to choose its new FY 2024 Chair from amongst the Sonoma County Appointees, listed alphabetically:

Lisa Badenfort

Robin Bartholow

Jeff Kelly

The Board would then be required to elect a Vice Chair from the group of appointees from Mendocino County, also listed alphabetically:

Jon Frech

Paul Garza

Mary Anne Petrillo

The SMEDD Board of Directors is comprised of nine seats, three of which are vacant.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1: Entertain nominations for the positions of Chair. Entertain nominations for the positions of Vice Chair.
- 2: Other approach(s) as may be developed after public comments and Board deliberations.
- 3: Decline to act.

RECOMMENDATIONS for Alternative 1:

First Motion:

o Move to nominate Sonoma County appointee (name) to serve as Chair for the 2024 Fiscal Year.

Second Motion:

Move to nominate Mendocino County appointee (name) to serve as Vice Chair for the 2024
 Fiscal Year.



AGENDA

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DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

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 - EDA Supplemental Extension
 - Business Friendly Attributes
 - AgTech Workshop
- Draft Fiscal Year 2022-2023 CEDS Update