



Morgan County Economic Opportunity Board

Location: Morgan Business Resource Center/Virtual (Teams)

April Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2025, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Attendees Invited: *John Barber, Mayor Steve Gale, Ty Bailey, Andrew Willis, Darren Rogers, Carol Brooks, Stacy Clark, Traca Wardell, Sherry Stevens, Justin Rees, Mercer Owen, Kate Becker, Andrea Brooks, Raelene Blocker*

- 1) Welcome to Morgan County Economic Development Board
 - a. Approval of the April 9th, 2025, Agenda
 - Motion by Kate, 2nd by Andrea
 - b. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
 - None
 - c. Approval of Minutes from February 5, 2025
 - Motion by Andrea, 2nd by Mercer
- 2)Economic Outlook and Current Opportunities: **(2 minutes each)**
 - a. Workforce Services: Not Present
 - b. State Parks:
 - Egg Hunt 4/19 11am East Canyon
 - Extended the bid period for the construction of Lost Creek to next week.
 - 30 to 35 campsites, not full hookups.
 - There will be a dump station, but some items will not be completed at this time due to financial needs.
 - Assistant Manager has accepted the position, and seasonal employment is happening now.
 - Docs are in the water.
 - c. Business Resource Center:
 - We appreciate the help from the County to get our new camera TV system in.
 - Focusing right now on helping businesses access and use AI tools such as ChatGPT, Perplexity, Gemini, and Claude.
 - We are also focusing on working more with Veterans Business Resource Center.
 - d. Tourism:
 - Ste of Utah Tourism Board meeting in Morgan hosted at the Morgan Creek Lodge.

- Printed Morgan Valley visitor guides and maps are shipping.
 - Social Media efforts are doing well which promote tourism around the valley.
 - Instagram account ExploreMorganUT.
 - NIKA mountain bike course at East Canyon is top priority.
 - The chart is available on the TRT tax, 2019 roughly 20 grand, 2024 roughly 110 grand, 300 percent increase.
- e. Chamber of Commerce
- Today is lunch and learn at 11:30. Topic is on AI with Chris Hayes.
 - May 30th fundraising Golf Tournament for Chamber.
- f. School District
- The board voted to change the schedule to a 5-period day from 6 periods.
 - Middle School gym will be coming down soon. Contractors are hired.
 - The CT Shop Building added to High School is coming along and will be completed by Fall usage.
- g. Governor's Office:
- James will need 1-hour next meeting to present.
 - Grants funded from past legislative sessions: The Rural County grant was reapproved at \$200,000. The Rural Communities Opportunity grant was approved but the budget was cut by about half at 2.5 million. Economic Assistance grant got 4.8 million, this is the grant for chambers and nonprofits for a project. Manufacturing Modernization was approved this year but with no budget.
 - Our Ex Director is moving on in May.
 - Morgan will be in the Fall cohort of the Goyo blueprint planning application. This will take some funding from our budget next year.
- h. Morgan City:
- Front Street Festival on May 31st. Similar to Christmas on Commercial but in the summer.
 - Working on a mixed-use ordinance to allow housing on top of commercial
 - Applied for a grant to redo the city park ballpark, no news yet.
 - Flagpole is still coming.
 - Landscaping by new bridge is coming along.
 - Clearing out a lot on the walkway going behind the high school and park.
 - On Young Street we are adding a sidewalk.
 - Working on a chicken specific ordinance on how many chickens you can have. Roosters already not allowed.
 - Removed the hotel from the historic zone so they are allowed to have a 40ft sign.
- i. Morgan County
- Fair July 26th-Aug2nd.
 - Working on a short-time rental ordinance.
 - Recycling is slowly rolling out in different quads for the county.

- Passed to add 2 Student Resource officers for the school district. We have Austin Turner in Mtn Green and Meg on a rotation.
- Resetting up the airport advisory board, should be appointed next week.
- Approved all the Mountain Green town center rezones in the very center 4 acres.
- The fairground trail starts in a couple of weeks.
- Finished fixing all bleachers at the fairground.
- Study interchange draft is done and they will present at the Commission meeting.
- Still in negotiation on extending Kent Smith Park.
- Nine Springs got approved for feasibility study that starts May 1st.

3) Part B Grant Discussion: Unsure if defunded??

- Grant was funded.
- Application opens in October.
- Bring ideas on projects at the next meeting.
- Kate would like the idea of owning a building to help with space for existing businesses. Event space is another thought.

4) Monthly Budget Update -Kate:

- A decision needs to be made if we re-allocate the BRC funding to something different because it is not invoiced until September. It cannot be invoiced earlier, or it will show a double payment for this year.
- Andrew will check to see if the BRC funding can be paid early to be on this fiscal grant year.

5) Discussion on 2nd round of local grant funds: Kate

- Advertising was a big ask for this round of fall grants. Kate proposes we contract Becca to advertise all businesses in the County in a productive way. We could allocate a certain amount of the \$50,000 for her to advertise. Next month could Becca bring a presentation of how that advertising would be done.
- A suggestion was made the grant board could stay after May's CEO meeting to see Becca's presentation on advertising. Kate would like this meeting to be before the CEO meeting in May. It was decided the grant committee will meet April 30th at 1 or 1:30. Kate will set this up with Becca.
- Sherry stated it would be ok to carry over a slush fund if needed.
- Option B The City could also take the money for advertising and work it out of the County's books in the fiscal year and then they would pay her in the fall. This would be by time.
- Kate will reach out to Becca for the presentation and how the payments will be made.
- Table this discussion until after the presentation.

- Grounds for Coffee would like to have a discussion on their gazebo area they built with a former grant. They have several questions about things such as do they have to pay the money back and how this benefits their business to lose the seating, they put in less than 3 yrs ago. Ty will have a discussion with her to show her the plan.

6) Disposal of previously awarded grant assets: Kate

7) Update on SOS grant from 2023: Kate

- The only uncompleted grant from 2023. A contract has been written up and they must complete by 31 December of 2025.

8) BRC Funding

- The state is cutting back funding for the BRC. Kate made a motion that we take \$5000 out of remaining fund balance fiscal year 24-25 and increase the BRC budget line item to \$25,000. Discussion the Mayor asked if this is enough of an increase. Motion on the floor all in Favor, motion passes.
- We should continue the discussion on the expansion of the BRC.

9) Monthly Business Visit Review:

- Kangaroo/Wilkinson Garage Door and Flap Jack.
- Flap Jack bought a new kettle. He needs to expand his heating so he can go from about 40 bottles to 250 bottles in a batch. The biggest challenge is they live in West Yellowstone. When he does a batch, he drives down from West Yellowstone. Getting this higher capacity he could reduce his driving time.
- Kangaroo and Wilkinsons biggest challenge is marketing and advertising. Getting the word out. He would like us to visit again to meet his wife. Get a marketing strategy going with Michelle.
- Bart's Machine Shop: Great visit gave a tour of the machines. He has future projects in mind but needs additional capital. He rely's on basically one company for his income. He needs a way to get his name out to other companies.
- Stacy summarized visits with two major components. They need marketing and advertising. The need for the BRC for them to follow up and move forward with needs and wants does show how much funding for the BRC is needed.
- Andrea asked why it is hard to get the businesses on board for a visit. Could it be timeframe, suspiciousness, not familiar with the CEO.

10) March Visit availability for April 23rd, 9-11am:

- Members available: Kate Sherry Raelene Ty Andrew. Suggestions Hinds and Milk Barn.

11) CRM Update:

- Met with destination IQ. Not so much a CRM for follow up but for the grant.
- Presentation to come.

12) GOEO Board Training: Kate

13) Update on grant recipients: Kate

- Bingham's barrier study. All projects done and ready to turn in receipts. Vehicle no report yet.
- Higby Honey thus far has spent just over \$1000 on graphics, digital content and consulting services. Having trouble coordinating schedules with High West companies. Have been delayed a bit in plan execution. I'm trying to get together this week to coordinate the plan execution.
- Achieve has purchased a treadmill and is still researching the other items they want to order.
- Deb's spicy pie completed and receipt on file.
- No update from Nineline, The Weight Room, Shirts to A T,
- Grounds for Coffee deli case have not been shipped, anticipating shipping date as May 1st. Electrical work is complete just need case.
- Wild Valley Farms just got the stretch wrapper yesterday waiting to be installed. Sent photo of wrapper.
- Destination Sports grant completed, receipts on file.
- Skinny Tee has not yet fulfilled an insurance company has been slow to process a payment and restricting cash flow. Will be complete before June 1st.
- Mountain Music Academy Turned in about \$1130 in receipts for music gear and should have the invoice for construction of the classroom within the next month.
- Smoking Box Car all receipts in the mail.
- BM Motorsports Viano has been purchased.
- Morgan Valley Crafts did not get back to me.
- Second Chance Ranch Down payment on the site but no finished pricing.
- Sandstone psychology has spent \$231 on signage.

Next Meeting: May 7, 2025

Next Month Agenda Items:

CEO Training from Governor's office

BRC Funding