

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2007
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Connie Robison called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. There were 31 members present. Staff included Burnham.

MINUTES

The minutes of the general membership meeting are now being emailed to the membership with the meeting reminders. The minutes of the general membership meeting were approved as presented.

GUESTS

Terry Law with Clearwater Health and Rehabilitation introduced their interim administrator, Ralph Allen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim May announced that the 1st CVH Foundation Benefactor/Volunteer dinner is tomorrow night. He apologized that they have run out of room, so only those who have sent in their RSVP will be able to attend.

Heather Leach announced that there will be a Clearwater Business Committee seminar next Thursday on how to have a drug free workplace. The cost to attend is \$5.

Kim Browning announced that there will be a Search and Rescue Auction in Elk River this weekend. All proceeds go to the Search and Rescue General Fund.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Due to the Columbus Day Holiday, there will not be a Board of Directors Meeting next Monday at noon at the Ponderosa.

Big thanks to all President's Cup sponsors; OGCC Pro Shop (Judy Watson), Barnett Thompson Chevrolet, Lewis Clark Credit Union, Sunset Mart, Gee Electric, Frito Lay, Ponderosa/Brass Rail, U.S. Bank, Harper Chiropractic, and Jacklin Seed/ Nez Perce Ag. Also thanks to our volunteers Norman Reinhardt, Carmen Rinehart, Julie Hollibaugh, Larry Coonts, Mike Clay, Jeff Wicks, Tony Teel, Dennis Thompson and Dan Burnham for their dedication and assistance. The tournament was successful and a good time was had by all.

An email was sent from the Chamber office yesterday about a company calling businesses in Orofino selling advertising on magnets. They are saying that they are calling on behalf of the City or Chamber or that they have spoken with Janet Montambo or me. They have not. We are not affiliated with the advertising company and are not involved in a magnet project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- No Report.

Promotional- The Christmas Festival is coming up and will take place on November 30 and December 1 this year. The Little Elf Shop is in need of donations and especially need donation items for men and boys. Elf Shop donations may be dropped off at the Real Estaters instead of the Chamber office because we no longer have room at the Chamber.

Special Events- The President's Cup Golf Tournament was very successful this year. First place overall went to Gerry Davis, Pat Manfull and George Harbaugh. Second place overall was the team of Mike Clay, Steve Bateman and Larry Coonts. Coming in third place overall was Joe Waldher, Ben Cox, and Kyle Gingerich. This event pulls a lot of people from out of town and they really enjoy coming back year after year.

Welcome and Membership- No Report

Economic Development –Doug Tweedy with the Department of Labor was the guest speaker at the last CCED meeting. He presented information on some developing workforce trends in Clearwater County.

GEM- No Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No Report.

PROGRAM

Programs-October 17, Don Gardner – Fire and Emergency Services
November 7, Tom Reilly – U.S. Forest Service

Vice-President Ryan Smathers introduced our program speaker Alex Irby who thanked the Chamber for inviting him to speak and updated the Membership on P.L.A.Y.'s North-South ATV route concept.

Irby explained that the North South trail concept came from the Payute Trail in Utah and the fact that that trail system has brought a lot of positive economic impact to that area. P.L.A.Y then wondered why we couldn't have an ATV route that connects our local communities together and eventually possibly become a route from southern Idaho to the Canadian border. The system would be beneficial to the landowners whose land the trail system passes through because it would provide a marked trail and the riders would not be venturing off and causing damage in other areas.

Senator Schroeder has invited Irby to speak twice with the Senate Resource Committee about the proposed trail and how the state can help with the process.

The Orofino Chamber of Commerce, Pierce, Weippe and Elk River have all supported the concept of the North-South Trail. A pilot project, or smaller loop, is planned between Pierce and Weippe to begin by spring 2008. This will be used as a prototype for future loops to be added on later. Northwest Management is putting together a quote for a feasibility study and financial options are being looked into. According to Irby, land lease agreements and easements are one hurdle to the completion of the project, but

Potlatch is interested in the project. The Department of Lands is difficult because they are endowment lands. The Forest Service is also interested in working with the group.

Irby turned the floor over to Heather Leach who updated the membership on the technical side of the project. She stated that 25 letters of support have been procured for the project and were submitted with a grant last year. P.L.A.Y. was unsuccessful in getting the grant, but will continue to explore other financial avenues and the letters will be useful in the future. A team has been identified to tackle the nuts and bolts of the project and their plan is to start smaller and build up from there.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Robison adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Connie Robison, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director