



SCOEDD - FULL BOARD MEETING / MINUTES

Date: August 1, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: Klamath County Government Center (Room 219) or via Teams Meeting
(meeting was recorded via a recorder)

Name	Organization / Title	Board Role	
Mark Albertson	Lake County Commissioner	Chair	Present
Dave Henslee	Klamath County Commissioner	Vice Chair	Present
Randy Cox	KCEDA	Exec	Present
Jonathan Teichert	City Manager for Klamath Falls	Exec	Present
Shiela Strubel	Town of Lakeview	Exec	Present
Barry Shullanberger	Lake County Commissioner		Present
Kelley Minty	Klamath County Commissioner		Present
Ellsworth Lang	The Klamath Tribes		Absent
Keith Harra	Mayor - Paisley		Absent
Betty Tyree	Mayor - Bonanza		Absent
Julie Bettles	Mayor - Chiloquin		Absent
Johnathan Hughto	Mayor - Malin		Absent
Joanne Johnson	Mayor - Merrill (pro tem)		Absent
Mark Ahalt	At Large – Klamath County		Present
Shelly Batty	Lake County Chamber of Commerce		Present
Lindsey Birch	Member – Private Industry – Lake County		Absent
Larry Dugger	Member – Underrepresented		Present
Brienne Humphrey	At Large – Klamath County		Present
Hallie Neupert	Higher Education (OIT)		Present
Johnathan Van Roekel	Lake County Resource Initiative (LCRI)		Absent
Rick Strubel	Under/Unemployed Student		Present
Steve Vincent	Prive Industry – Klamath County		Present
Alison Smith, Natalie Parker, Janine Cheyne, Denise Stilwell (admin. leave)		SCOEDD	Present

Other attendees: Dan Bunch (SCOEDD legal counsel), Paige Sulley (Lake County legal counsel), and other public attendees

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1. Call to Order:

- Chair and Commissioner Mark Albertson called the meeting to order.
- Roll call was conducted, and video conference participation was confirmed.

2. Discussion of Investigation Findings:

- An investigation, led by Greg Olsen (retired police officer), was conducted regarding several issues, including allegations that Denise Stillwell, Executive Director, admitted to drinking on the job.
- Findings indicated performance issues, such as a lack of loan approvals for Lake County residents since March 2022 and lapses in project management, specifically the Klamath Neighborhood Revitalization Program.
- Concerns about incomplete projects, unaccounted funds, an unapproved pay raise, unprofessional behavior, and administrative mismanagement were raised.

3. Project and Financial Concerns:

- Loan Program: No loans have been approved in Lake County since March 2022. Over five community leaders expressed concerns about the lack of communication and follow-through.
- Klamath Neighborhood Revitalization Program: Several properties were behind schedule, and funds were unaccounted for. Denise submitted final requests for funding but did not provide sufficient documentation.
- Brownfields Assessment Grant: The program experienced delays due to federal procurement issues. Consultant Ginger Casto discussed the challenges and lack of clear communication with the coalition members.

4. Employee Handbook and Policies:

- During Denise Stillwell's tenure, changes were made to the employee handbook, including removing the alcohol policy, which violated the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. The board did not approve these changes, and no meeting minutes indicated the approval.
- Questions were raised regarding salary adjustments, including a 22.5% pay increase for Denise, which lacked documented board approval.

5. Board Concerns:

- Some Board members expressed concerns about the lack of performance reviews and general negligence in board communication.
- Other Board members did not list specific concerns but were interested in hearing from other board members or were listening to both sides but did not have immediate comments.

6. Legal Guidance:

- Paige Sulley provided legal clarification on the investigation and emphasized the Chair's authority in disciplinary actions according to the Bylaws.
- Further discussions were recommended to be postponed for an executive session to address concerns around due process and the investigation.

7. Public Comment:

- Several community members shared their frustrations with project delays, lack of transparency, and communication issues.
- Alison Smith noted that she was under no impression that Commissioner Mark Albertson or Commissioner Dave Henslee were aiming to replace Denise Stilwell with a man and confirmed that she was unaware of any gender discrimination occurring.
- Other community members expressed that they thought Denise Stilwell was doing excellent community work and that the Board should consider reinstating her.
- Plans for improved project management and financial oversight, including quarterly meetings and better engagement with community members, were outlined.

8. Next Steps:

- **Motion Approved:** Vice Chair and Commissioner Dave Henslee motioned to continue the investigation process and hold further discussions in a closed executive session. Jonathan Teichert seconded the motion. Some favored, and some opposed, including Commissioner Barry Shullanberger and Commissioner Mark Albertson.

9. Meeting Adjourned:

- The meeting concluded after approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes.