



Director's Report

July 15, 2024

In addition to our normal weekly economic development activities, updates on our major projects include:

- Business Expansion and Relocation
 - We introduced Western Skyway's purchase of a building in Delta County on May 30 thru a press release. Western Skyways is an aviation support business that employs 55 employees in their present location in Montrose where they have been for over 30 years. Their future move to Delta has room to allow them to continue to grow. They like the pro- business climate in Delta County and believe the location between Montrose and Grand Junction with more communities to draw employees from including Surface Creek and the North Fork valley's, will help them attract new talent to fuel their future growth
 - We assisted an existing Delta County startup business to find a new location for expansion of their business. We recommended a location and a lease was negotiated between the business owner and property owner. We will be introducing the business soon. We hope to qualify them for the Rural Jump Start program

- Workforce Housing Project
 - With the recent purchase of Unit 1 of Streeter subdivision on 7th Street in Delta, we are beginning work on a redesign of the 7.88-acre site. Once the new design is completed, additional Community Outreach meetings to include potential buyers and employers will be held
 - We are considering having a video made to help explain the project proposal
 - We are working on additional grant opportunities to fund sources for additional pre-planning expenses

- Industrial Park Expansion
 - We were delayed for several months on one of the two Boundary Adjustments needed to extend Gunnison Ave to the east. That has been completed and we are working on submitting the Preliminary Plat for approval
 - The next step will be applying for construction funding
 - The delay will move the construction start into 2025

- “The Positive Employee Program”
 - Our Spring class began April 3 and concluded on May 15. It had 20 attendees
 - Since inception in the fall of 2022, a total of 271 attendees have been through the program
 - We were approved for a Workforce Resilience grant to fund a Train-the Trainer program and two Spanish translated classes. Grants are expected to be awarded by the end of July
 - We intentionally didn't schedule any summer classes
 - We are working on an Employer Overview class for August and one or two Employee classes to begin in October. We hope to have enough interest to hold one of the classes in Hotchkiss to better serve the North Fork Valley