



Director's Report

January 27, 2025

As we are revising our economic development work plan for 2025, some of our key activities include:

- Business Expansion and Relocation
 - We are holding discussions with two businesses who may qualify for Rural Jump Start. One is an existing Delta County business that is considering adding a new additional business.
 - We recently played an important role in assisting Colorado Stone Quarry in their application to extend their Rural Jump Start qualification for an additional four years. The benefits received to date by Colorado Stone Quarry and their employees from the Rural Jump Start program are some of the largest in the state. One of the goals of the application extension is to capitalize on the relationship between Colorado Stone Quarry, Technical College of the Rockies and Colorado Mesa University. Doing so will improve the benefit to students of both educational programs in the form of internships, scholarships and learning opportunities. The benefit to Colorado Stone Quarry will be building a pipeline of relationships with students as future employees.
Colorado Stone Quarry will soon be adding additional equipment within their existing manufacturing facility, which will further enhance their products and increase their competitive position within the industry.
 - Western Skyways recently received Federal Aviation Authority approval to locate Positech International, one of their subsidiary companies, in their new Delta County location. That business will be the first to locate in the new location.
 - We have been holding discussion periodically for over two years with a potential ag-related new business who wants to build a new facility in Delta County. That discussion is continuing and they are making progress in their planning process and in refining their investor pool. They are still approximately a year away from commencing construction.
 - We are advising an existing business owner who desires to build an additional building on his property. Doing so will increase his capacity to create space for additional service businesses.
 - We have seen increased interest in some of the older, larger commercial sites in the area recently, for expansion from existing businesses, as well as relocation of potential new business.

- We have requested inclusion in a grant that originated in Pitkin County to study the feasibility of a Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) refinery in Western Colorado. We believe we have the agriculture by-products required for the process, abundant crop land, potential site capacity and abundant water supply. In addition, we believe our central location in western Colorado is a good fit. The feasibility study will help determine if the process is economically feasible and if so where the best location may be.
- Industrial Park Expansion
 - Completion of the final steps of the Preliminary Plat are in process
 - We are holding discussion with sources for construction funding
 - A construction start in 2025 is anticipated
- Workforce Housing Project
 - A redesign of the 7.88-acre site is almost complete. Once the new design is complete, we will start the planning and zoning process. The goal is to develop a process that can be repeated in the other municipalities within the county.
- Business Training
 - We are planning a Quarterly Economic Update with Dr Perry for this spring
 - We were approved for a Workforce Resilience grant to fund a Train-the Trainer program and two Spanish translated classes. The Grant approval has been finalized but we are requesting revisions to the legal language. The first class was originally anticipated to be held in the first quarter of 2025 but will need to be backed up into the second quarter.
 - Additional Positive Employee classes are being scheduled