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Economic Recovery Team

Meeting Date: 3/16/2021 10-11AM

**Short Term Economic Recovery:**

Beth Kremer – Introduced as our new SJDA director.

**Highest Priority:** Deanne – Issue is summer is imminent. Businesses are worried about staffing. Workforce housing is the other side of that issue. People are getting displaced in April because homes are going on the market, and their costs are not priced well for our working class. EMS workers are commuting from Ridgeway because there isn’t enough housing. Says housing should be our number one priority.

**Winter Season:** Jen Brill – Ski season has been busy, and everything has recovered with the regular snow. Started passholder day and everyone was participating in good COVID safe practices. Her staff has been able to get in on the Anvil housing which as been helpful. They are still looking for more housing though.

**Tourism:** Jen Brill - Tourism report just came out highlighting SJC response to the COVID crisis. Deanne agrees, we were considered the least impacted county in Colorado. They had SJC up 167% around tourism economy as the number one least affected (lodging, restaurants, visitation). Lodging is a huge concern still. Anthony wanting to get a hold of that data. If data is up that far, but our sales tax isn’t, we need to confirm what is the cause for the discrepancy. We don’t want to be denied for programs we apply for because the State has the wrong data. Agreement that a lot of that data comes from lodging, and on that line, there is much more camping and RVs.

**Grants:** SJC applied to GOCO with MSI and was approved for that grant that will provide funding for the Alpine Ranger and Kiosk for backcountry info on Molas Pass. Also partnered with surrounding counties for OHV grant and have not heard back on being awarded for that one.

**Train:** Jim H – With capacity regs still at 50% levels they are looking at 1 train 13-15 cars with a double header with the possibility of changes depending on the loads and availability. High number of RSVPs. Need 71% occupancy for the Train to break even on their runs. They are largely up on reservations with motel/train packages.

**Long Term Economic Recovery:**

Deanne – Housing and Staffing. Same as short-term. Jim normally has 6 rooms for employee housing. He’s upping that to 8-9 reserved for his employees because there is no possible way for him to operate otherwise. Those would be normal rooms that he would usually rent, but nothing to be done about it. 36 rooms for operating. It’s not good taking stock off the market, but they have to have staff and a place for them to live. Back up from Darlene, workforce housing is the number one issue.

Jen – Silverton Mtn celebrating 20-year anniversary.

**Resiliency:** Heather O – State frameworks for Resiliency Plan. There are three to look at. Went over slides for the rural economic blueprint. Highlight’s areas of focus, strategies, and framework.