

MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, December 16, 2005 • 1:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
By conference call

ATTENDANCE

Members present: (by phone): Guillermo Castaneda, Pete Garza, Billie Heath, Mike Gempler, Alicia McRae, John Smith, Mario Villanueva, Tomás Villanueva Michael Youngquist. Members not present: Juan Aguilar, Dixie Kracht, Erik Nicholson, Heyward Watson. Ex Officio members present: Janet Abbett – CTED and Mary McBride – Office of Senator Murray. Staff present: Tom Byers Cedar River Group, and Brien Thane - Office of Rural & Farmworker Housing.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

In order to expedite the conference call, Tom Byers facilitated the meeting in the absence of the chair and co-chair.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 18th, 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Annual Meeting Date.** It was announced that the annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the January meeting of the Board.
- **Board vacancies.** With the resignation of Lupe Gamboa, the Board has two vacancies to fill: a grower position, and a community stakeholder position. Mike Gempler and Mike Youngquist have agreed to develop a list of potential grower representatives, and several Board members have identified possible replacements for Lupe. The staff will send out one more request for nominations and the schedule a conference call with the Executive Committee to develop recommendations.
- **Executive Director Search.** Alicia reported that the conference call with Executive Search services had gone well. It was decided that the holidays would not be a good time to launch the search so the committee will work with ESS to execute the contract and refine the job description.

FINANCIAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Brien Thane reported that as of November 30th, the Trust had a favorable balance of \$79,990.63 and expenditures are at or below projected levels in all budget categories except supplies and postage.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

- **2006 Federal Appropriation.** Mary McBride reported that the President signed the bill containing the Trust's appropriation two weeks ago. The appropriation is now secure, pending the execution of a contract with HUD. The Board expressed its appreciation to Senator Murray and her staff for all her hard work to keep the Trust's appropriation at the \$1.5 million level.

- **Current fundraising.** Tom Byers distributed the updated fundraising report, showing the amounts in-hand, committed but not yet in-hand, and pending. \$5,000 grants were received this month from Wells Fargo and Banner Bank bringing the amount received to date in 2005 to \$290,450 and the amount committed but not yet in hand to \$1,602,000. Tom also reported that Craig Nolte of the Federal Reserve Bank has renewed his offer to convene community bankers in each agricultural region in order to familiarize them with the work of the Trust and lay the groundwork for future contributions. The idea would be to coordinate those meetings with the start-up of survey activities, and potentially, with visits to local editorial boards. Tom will provide more details at the next meeting.

FARMWORKER SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mario Villanueva and Tom Byers said that Peter Connery and Alice Larson have been traveling a great deal recently and the report on the pilot survey is not yet complete. The committee will continue to work with Alice and Peter to finish the analysis and prepare for the full implementation of the survey this spring.

WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT

Tom Byers reported that work on the Trust website is now well underway. Rhonda Peterson of the Cedar River Group staff is assembling the text and graphics, and has contacted a technical expert suggested by Pete Garza. The technical expert is from a farmworker background, and has solid credentials and reasonable prices. The goal is to have the site operational this spring.

2006 STATE ACTION AGENDA

Progress of State Farmworker Housing Initiatives:

- **Infrastructure Matching Fund.** Janet Abbett reported that the first six IMF projects are ready to move forward.
- **Housing Trust Fund.** Janet reported that three farmworker projects were funded in the fall round, totaling \$4.6 million. The projects are in Yakima, Wenatchee and the Skagit Valley. Mike Lowry's home-ownership project was not funded, however due to the limited amount of funds available.

“Home Security Fund”:

- **Discussions with the Low Income Housing Alliance**
Mario, Brien and Tom reported that a number of conference calls have taken place with the leaders of LIHA about cooperating in support of the bill. An op-ed piece has been drafted to demonstrate the need and the breadth of support. Mike Gempler has been asked to sign the article along with Hugh Spitzer, chairman of the State Affordable Housing Advisory Committee. Mike has agreed, and the op-ed is scheduled to run in the Seattle Times.
- **Review of Trust's Proposed Package**
Mario led the discussion of the Trust's package. The proposal assembled by the committee was discussed. The primary areas of concern were the size of the package, its complexity, and the issue of funding for seasonal housing. Tomas Villanueva expressed serious reservations about supporting on-farm housing and the need to protect the human rights of the workers. Mike Gempler took issue with some of Tomas' assertions, but acknowledged the importance of having a clear process for workers to complain if they

believe their rights have been violated. Tomas stated that there is a need for an on-going oversight committee review the State's expenditures for on-farm projects. Pete Garza pointed to the need for training of camp supervisors. Guillermo Castaneda suggested that the Trust write a letter of concern to the State about the issues that had been raised. Janet Abbett said that the issues are difficult for CTED because they do not have enforcement powers which are vested in other departments. Tomas also stated that he felt our package contained too little for home-ownership. The discussion resulted in changes of wording to make it clear that self-help home-ownership projects were included as eligible projects, and make several other clarifications. **With those changes, Guillermo moved approval of the package for submittal to the legislature. Mike Gempler seconded the motion. It was adopted unanimously.**

- **Trust membership in the Low Income Housing Alliance**

Tom Byers announced that the Trust has been invited to join LIHA. Dues for an organization with our 2005 budget would be \$125, while dues for an organization with the budget we expect to have in 2006 would be \$250. A number of Board members expressed support for joining at the higher level. **A motion to join the LIHA at the \$250 level was passed unanimously.**

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board will be in Seattle on January 27, 2006

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: _____
Secretary

Approved: _____
President/Vice President