

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Marshall Islands Resort

Meeting called to order by President Carlos Domnick at 12:05 P.M. Over 25 members and guests in attendance. Carlos welcomed ex-chamber president Daniel Kramer

- **Financial** - \$6,364.52 - \$1400 in membership fees collected – Pay your dues!
- **Guests** – David Miles – Australia – consulting firm helping with strategic plan for the canoe house

Guest Speaker – Dr. Troy McGrath – interim president of the College of the Marshall Islands. Thanked the chamber for the opportunity to speak. Update on CMI and avenues to work together. Thanked the community for its support. Don Lombardi was hired as a consultant and is very optimistic. He has done 44 strategic plans before. The WASC team is coming on March 24. Financial status is good, the government has been paying and is on time. The college has received technical assistance grants from DOI. Progress is going well. The best we can hope for is another six months. Not going to happen all at once but need to show on the right track. Contact Carlos if anyone wants any of the reports – there are no secrets. The crucial areas are not enough input from the community in the past. Need to ask community for its needs and what we do well and what we do not do well. Will do a survey to find out. This will drive the college. What training can CMI do to help the community? Another area is internships – practical training – work with the businesses to do this – has to be useful to the business and the student. CMI fully accredited now until they take it away. Credits still transfer. Stages – warning, probation then show cause. Our hope is to move up but not there yet. Pell grants how do they work? – covers tuition and books and student keeps rest. If loose accreditation also lose Pell. How much of the budget comes from tuition? – about _.

Committee and Other Reports:

- **Membership** – Want more Marshallese to join.
- **Education** - Ben Chutarro and Dr. Tim O'Meara from ADB. Ben and Tim working with MOE. Public service reform – focusing on MOE – biggest ministry – uses the most money – has broadest impact and is in very bad shape in regards to outputs. Four month period – develop political support and pressure from community, etc. for reform at MOE and education in general. Design an agreement that can be implemented. Main problem with earlier reports was lack of support. Go to the people that have the most at stake – the public. Results of teachers' test? Not finished marking but almost. ADB has asked MOE to coordinate release with public awareness program. Report should be available to the public. PSC issue is being looked at – must be addressed or no other changes will happen.
 - Program Outline
 - Collection of data – profile of education and outputs
 - Meetings with stakeholders – get issues, options and priorities
 - Develop issues and options
 - Go back to stakeholders
 - Meeting with main stakeholders – agree on priorities
- **Environment** – problems still with solid waste task force – no meetings. Stephen Pollard from ADB. Solid waste still pending – does not want to put any more money in infrastructure without strong demand from stakeholders and government to show it is done properly. PII sent out equipment to incinerate old dump- it took only five days to take the dump back down to ground

level – 3 _ feet deep 300 feet by 300 feet. Still calculating data. Figuring out cost and how much material per hour. New Chief Secretary asked that this be done. Public Works started on Monday but kept starting and stopping. Usually 4 – 5 people started at 9 A.M. and left at 3 P.M. When PII did it – one operator from 7 A.M. – 7 P.M. with one front loader.

Trash bins in very bad shape – MALGOV says it has no money for maintenance.

- **Tourism** – MIVA – Austech dive show – first time to go – leaving tomorrow.
Survivor show in Palau – mostly due to President’s support. Injected 3-4 million into the economy. Great publicity.
Japanese cruise ship – economic impact was approximately \$40,000 for eight hours.
- **Government Relations** –. Bank of Guam will not charge a transaction fee and machines will be distributed.
Guam has privatized telecommunications – now much cheaper
Chamber meeting in Saipan – Jerry to prepare report.
Honolulu retreat – had to agree that information was confidential. Government officials stated why they could not share information or take actions on certain things. Broad range of subjects. Continuing dialogue with the government and private individuals in the community. The key is poverty reduction
New transportation company – tabled in committee
Land registry change – tabled
The newspaper reports that the owners of Formosa Store has been charged with kidnapping regarding an shoplifting incident that happened over two years ago. This is not reasonable
- **Communications** – Outer islands – engineers coming for four outer atolls – pilot projects for Rongelap, Wotje, Kili and Jaluit. Phone service using cellular and also Internet. If successful will bring to more islands.
Satellite failure – affected 20 countries in the Pacific – 3-4 day blackout. Looking at back-up system.
Downtown area problem with cabling? – trying to replace cable boxes – might take until June to get parts.
- **Special Projects** – Decompression chamber – Kirt coordinating with doctors in Hawaii. Military surplus? Embassy will also look into it. MIVA has \$20,000 plus interest for the decompression chamber

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:

Donald Hess

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Approved with Corrections _____