

Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting
June 9th 2005 Jakaro Lanai Marshall Islands Resort

Meeting called to order by President Domnick at 12:10 p.m. With 22 members and guests present.

Review of the minutes of May 12 meeting, minutes approved without any corrections.

Guests: Alice Laney (Chamber Member) Working for UNDB in Tarawa for the last 1-½ years on a startup recycle business. Scott Beacon visiting from the U.S. Embassy in Manila. Scott Hogan working for the U.S. Dept of the Interior, 3rd year law student from University of Richmond.

Correspondence: President Domnick read a letter from the Chamber of Commerce, to various government departments, on the rise of violent crimes on Marshallese and visitors to the country.

A letter to EPA on the Chambers stating the location of the proposed Ching-Fu Dry dock is not a suitable location, and opposes the Uliga site.

A letter addressed to businesses in Majuro, to clean up their areas. Specific reference was made to Small Island Store and Marshall Islands Travel Agency.

A report, on the Trade Fair in Kwajalein, very successful from a potential business standpoint. Kwajalein is now receiving fresh Yellow Fin Tuna and other items from Ebeye as a result of the fair. Major Coffee has had a change of duty station his replacement is Major Klein. The President said he was encouraged that the new Host Nation representative would continue the relationship with the Marshallese community.

The new food court at the Airport has opened. There are two vendors occupying the area, and have stated they are in to give a run to Enra and Tide Table Restaurants. Ya Right !

K and K theaters were one of the first theatres in the country to show the new Star War's movie.

Email from Ambassador Morris re Island Business Leadership Forum. Monica Harryone will be here on June 16th

The Nitijela Committee on Health wants to meet with the Chamber on Wednesday June 22nd that date may change.

The Government Gazette was circulated it was advertised to be twice monthly but there has been only one issue since April.

Various Pacific Publications and an information letter from UNDB.

A publication on ADB Trust Funds in the Pacific was circulated. Ben Graham, as part of his Graduate work, wrote this publication.

Committee Reports:

Financial Report: We currently have \$4938.18 in our account. Plus a \$50.00 membership renewal from Alice Laney.

Business and Trade: Not much to report No representation from Government Trade Division.

Education: Jack Niedenthal reported that the search committee for the College of the Marshall Islands has spent a considerable amount of time doing phone interviews with prospective candidates. There have been some very qualified candidates. An average interview takes up to 2 hours to complete. Acting President Troy McGrath is in California at this time talking to the WASC. The college was granted a 6 months extension by WASC Troy and Sandi are providing them with a report on the progress to correct the shortcomings. WASC is putting their credibility on the line to grant this extension, they expect CMI to get things under control.

Jack also stated that he has to apologize to the Chamber and President Domnick for his lack of participation in Chamber issues due to his busy schedule with CMI and as a Board Member of Bank of Marshall Islands. Jack stated that the Chamber web site is updated.

Question concerning BOMI asked of Jack: Jack as a board member of BOMI are you at liberty to advise the Chamber if Koo's Fishing Venture is buying BOMI?

Answer: As a board member I am not at liberty to speak about board matters but I will say NO, Koo's fishing is not buying BOMI.

Environment:

Guest Speaker and Chamber member Alice Laney: Recycle Program Kiribati.

Alice explained that for the last 1½ year he has been working for UNDB developing a recycle program for the Government of Kiribati. The government passed a Special Fund (Waste Materials Recovery) Act. The Act was designed to put in place a recycling system for drink containers. Alice provided a hand out that explained the fee placed on various beverage containers and the amount a person bringing the containers to the recycling facility receives as payment. The system is profitable and is now privatized. The government leased the operation to a private individual that runs the program like his business. Government receives 1-cent profit from the deposit and return difference. The system requires a \$30,000 start up expense for equipment startup. In the case of Tarawa the government owns the equipment and it goes with the lease on the business. As a foot note Alice stated that the island look much cleaner and the population has really gotten behind the project.

Australia has available \$400,000 in grant and loan money to Pacific Islanders to develop similar projects.

Tourism: Bill Weza

We have recently had two ships visit Majuro, the Pacific Princess and the Taiwan Navy. The Princess emailed MIVA recapping the very positive visit. The Taiwan Navy used this visit mainly as a Liberty for the seaman. The Admiral hosted a reception on Friday June 3rd for the community in addition to a tour of the ship on Saturday. There is an Italian TV crew coming during the PREL conference. We will probably house them at Murphy's Island or Rongrong.

Government Relations: Jerry Kramer reported that he received from the Attorney Generals Office a list of the Laws that were passed during the last Nitijela session.

- 2005-22 Judge Qualification, pertaining to requirements for Judges.
- 2005-23 Rules of Evidence, relating to criminal cases.

- 2005-25 Reorganization of the Board of CMI, says how many Ministers or Secretaries can be on the Board.
- 2005-26 modernization of Limited Partnership Act.
- 2005-27 Corporation Law same as the State of Delaware in the U.S.
- 2005-28 Partnership Act (Relating to the Trust Company).
- 2005-29 Limited Liability Act (Same as Delaware).
- 2005-31 Rewriting of Criminal Code.
- 2005-32 Mode of Traffic, You still have to be 18 to get a drivers license.
- 2005-33 Criminal Procedures.
- 2005-34 Customary Law and Language.
- 2005-35 Public Holidays, there are 10 legal holidays.
- 2005-36 Authority of Special Agents, Maritime law.

Jerry commented on the littering problem in Small Island, to name one place. There is a local ordinance the gives the Local Council authority to fine individuals or businesses for littering. The Chamber should pursue that avenue.

Jerry stated that he would be off island attending a seminar in Australia on Australia's relationship with Pacific Islands and East Timor.

Transportation:

The rumor that Aloha Airlines would be returning to the Marshalls was just that a rumor. Air Marshalls has had to cancel some flights lately due to pilots running into excess hours. It was thought that the airlines would be bringing in some temporary pilots to ease the lack of pilots.

Continental Micronesia will increase flights in July to support the 22nd Pacific Education Conference scheduled for Majuro July 12-15. There are 1200 participants scheduled to visit Majuro.

Financial Services: Jim McLean, the Banking business is very interesting. Stay tuned things will be heating up. What????? That's all I can say!

Question: Why is it that some VISA cards charge an additional 3% interest for International transactions?

Answer: Well not all do, you will have to check you individual cards policy. But yes some charge extra for International service.

Toni Redy Bank of Guam: She has been instructed by her main office to increase the staff at the Majuro Branch of Bank of Guam. She is happy to report that she has two new employees and two more to come. Business is very good, thank you.

Special Projects: No report

Old Business: None

New Business: Our friend Paul Hogan will be returning to Majuro. Paul was here a few years ago and did a Private Sector Assessment on Laws that Effect Business. He is returning to do phase two and to analyze the current private sector environment and make

recommendations to the body that facilitates laws that affect the private sector. That would include taxes, better scheme of laws that are easier to monitor.

Sports Program: Gif Johnson, The Marshall Islands is on the verge of being recognized for acceptance into the International Olympic Committee (IOC), this greatly due, in part, to the efforts of Ken Kramer and Terry Sasser. If this happens it could be as early as next year.

There is a problem however, not enough activity in International Competition. There is some but we have to be out there getting involved in sporting activities. At the present time there is also not enough money allocated by the Government to support more activity. It seems that Government wants to be recognized by the IOC but not enough enthusiasm is being exhibited. Yes the President and Gerald Zackious are behind the IOC but others are not. Here's the catch. Once we are recognized, money will come in to support some of the sports efforts. The Chamber has to contact their elected officials and ask them to support more sporting events and International competition.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:30 pm

Minutes by Bill Weza
For
Secretary Don Hess