

**QUARTERLY MEETING OF NEWEDC Board of Directors - FEBRUARY 5, 2015, NEWEDC CONFERENCE ROOM, 2001 Lakeway Road, Suite D, Gillette, WY 82718**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 11:35 a.m.

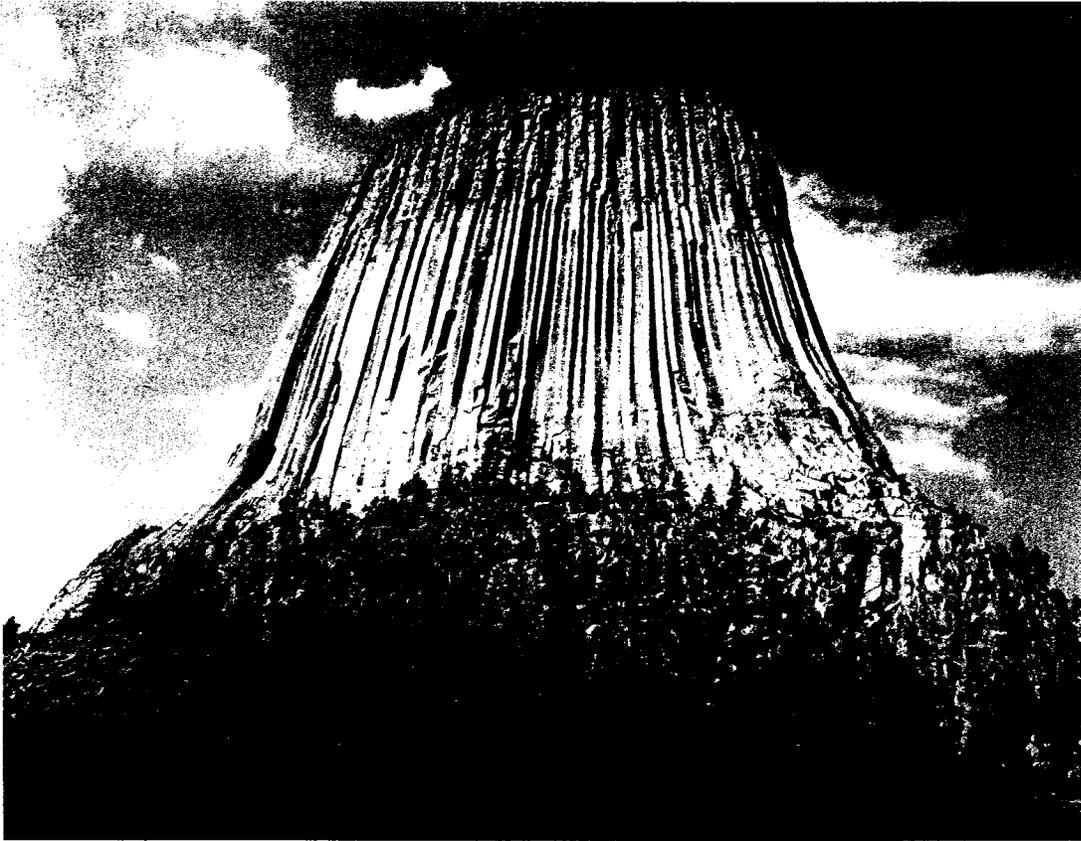
**ROLL CALL:** GARRY BECKER, MIKE COLLING, JOHN DEHLER, ROGER CONNETT, TOM HAMMERQUIST, NOEL BELCHER, BRANDI HARLOW, ED WARNER, MARGARET "BABE" LYNCH, *LINDA TOKARCZYK*

**Staff:** Dell Atkinson      **Visitors:** Val Jewell & Mary Silvernell

**APPROVED MINUTES OF OCTOBER 08, 2014 NOEL AND SECONDED BY MIKE.**

**PRESENTATION:** Mary Silvernell, Executive Director- Campbell County Convention & Visitors Bureau presented the new branding approach for Gillette and Wright, featuring the Devil's Tower in the logo. She also presented survey statistics and reasons for the new look, including visitor interest in Devil's Tower and Yellowstone National Park. She also discussed the increase in Lodging Tax Revenues and the possibility of a new Visitor's Center in the future and the history and studies that had taken place on the subject. Several promotions are planned including new events and advertising. Prairie Brewing is coming out with a new ale promoting Campbell County and other companies are helping with the promotion. Gerry Becker asked Mary for additional information of the taxes and revenues.

**VISITOR INTRODUCTION:** Val Jewell of Experience Works was introduced by Noel Belcher and discussed her business specializing in low income seniors that included resume writing, assistance in job location and other assistance. They have offices in Sheridan and Gillette.



**“BUILDING BLOCKS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT”:** Dell Atkinson reviewed this topic mainly for the board members who were not at the last meeting and handed out a brochure.

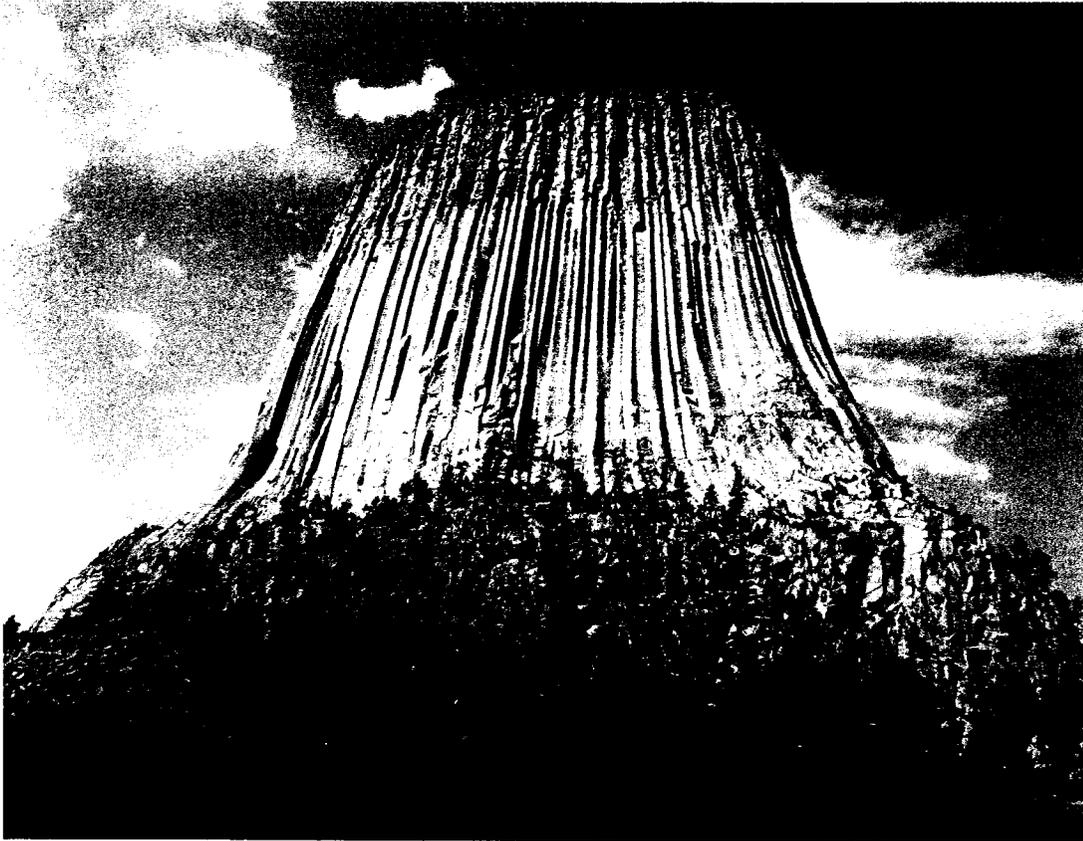
**OFFICE RELOCATION:** Dell discussed the move to our new NEWEDC location on November 1, 2014. The move cost about \$2,000. Rent is about \$420 per month. He pointed out that if we hire another person, and we need to take another office, it will cost us more than the old location....with less space. May sell conference table and chairs...\$1,000 for table and \$50 each for the chairs.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW:** Dell presented the major challenges facing NEWEDC...Large Economic Development District (EDD), very heavy administrative work load...means less time in the field, lack of funding to hire appropriate personnel, competition from state and other agencies, past perception issues, financial struggles in small communities, and frequent changes in elected official make it hard to establish long term relationships.

**REVOLVING LOAN FUND:** Reviewed current loans and their status. There is about \$71,000 available to lend. Dell to follow-up with attorney on some of the delinquent accounts...Liens a possibility. We currently have about \$500,000 in loans.

**FUNDING:** Dell presented a preliminary funding plan as well as a chart suggesting increases to current to investors that would make it possible to hire another full time person if they are achieved. We need to bring Weston County into the fold if possible. We were awarded a grant of \$60,000 from EDA for 2015.

**PROFIT AND LOSS & BALANCE SHEETS – FY Budget vs Actual:** Net income is on target with the budget when the recent \$15,000 EDA quarterly grant amount is included.



**COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs):** A new 5 year strategy for the Economic Development District (EDD) must be completed by year end. A great deal of work and time is involved in the process. Dell will explore a possible grant. Timing will be an issue!

**NEWEDC ACTIVITIES:** Discussed 2014 Progress Report to EDA, Wright Visitors Center, Moorcroft Lighting Project, Assisted Living and Housing in Lusk, Pine Haven Harwood Sports Park- Restrooms and Two proposals were made...Project Aluminum and Project Mighty. The Logistics Center in Upton has rail service and good infrastructure that these proposals require. Dell worked with Tom Barritt, the CEO of Tiger Transfer in Upton, WY on the proposals.

**OPEN BOARD SEATS:** Dell presented a Summary of Board Rules from the NEWEDC By-laws as well as a current list of NEWEDC Board Members. He also recommended action that must be taken.

**OPEN FROM THE FLOOR:** Ed Werner discussed the status of the Feasibility Study for Plastic Resin Manufacturing. Study completed. Positive outlook for the future, but it may take several years, more studies, and investment before it comes to fruition. Converse County and CANDO will continue to pursue it. NEWEDC will discontinue active efforts on this project unless needed in the future.

Garry Becker mentioned the Campbell & Converse Counties Symposium on Raptors and invited people to participate. Brandi Harlow mentioned that the Wyoming Business Council will have quarterly deadlines for grants for small municipalities. Linda gave an update on the Rare Element Resources situation. It is now delayed until 2017. Dell is to write a NEWEDC letter of support and send to Linda for review. It is to be placed in the local newspapers to try to help speed the process along.

**NEXT MEETING PROPOSED:** April 23, 2015 **MEETING ADJOURNED** at 2:15 p.m. **AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOLLOWED THE REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING.**