



Reno economic summit to promote Elko region

MAY 26, 2012 Adella Harding, *Elko Daily Free Press*

ELKO — Presenters at the Elko Regional Economic Opportunities Summit on Wednesday in Reno will be enticing developers and lenders to look at Elko and Lander counties for investment.

“The goal is to give people the most detailed information we have,” Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority Executive Director Pam Borda said.

The all-day summit will be at the Atlantis Casino-Resort by invitation only. Borda said 130 people had signed up so far.

The summit also is an effort to educate people about the opportunities in the region, housing needs and “to dispel the myths associated with mining” and show that northeastern Nevada doesn’t have the foreclosure rate of the rest of the state, she said.

“We have to let them know this part of Nevada didn’t have a recession,” Borda said.

The plan also is to tell about the gold-mining industry and show it isn’t boom and bust.

“Very few understand the northeastern part of the state, and they don’t understand gold mining at all,” Borda said.

The delegation also hopes to show how big of a need there is for housing in the Elko area.

“We know a couple of developers have submitted plans, but we need 800 apartments just to satisfy today’s needs in Elko,” Borda said. “And we know we will keep growing.”

Lander County also has housing needs, and that county is looking to join the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority.

“It’s really an opportunity for us to take our message on the road. I think we’ve put together a really good presentation,” Borda said.

Steve Hill from the Governor’s Office of Economic Development will give the kickoff speech, and key speakers will include Nevada Mining Association President Tim Crowley, Borda, Elko County Commissioner Glen Guttry, Coldwell Banker Algerio Q-Team Realty owner and broker Jim Winer, Greg Martin, a broker and salesman for Coldwell Banker and Greg Evangelatos, Elko city planner.



The Elko Convention and Visitors Authority is part of the event but Guttry will be giving the ECVA presentation because ECVA Executive Director Don Newman is tied up preparing for the Elko Mining Expo to be June 7-8.

Newman said earlier this week at the ECVA Board meeting efforts to bring Reno air service to Elko would bolster efforts to reach out to developers, investors and lenders.

ECVA agreed to pay the costs for a consultant to prepare an application to the federal government for a grant to subsidize air service to Reno.

The summit is for developers, contractors, lenders, investors and site selectors, and the afternoon breakout sessions will allow them to talk with representatives of the mining industry, utility companies, county and city officials and real estate people.

Borda said the committee putting together the summit includes representatives of Barrick Gold of North America, Newmont Mining Corp., the Nevada Mining Association, NNRDA, the City of Elko, Elko County, ECVA, Coldwell Banker and First American Title.

Representatives of Southwest Energy, NV Energy and Frontier will be on hand too. Lander County also will have representation at the summit, Borda said.

The summit is the first, but the committee may do one in Las Vegas later.

“We originally intended to do Las Vegas as well but decided it was too much to do back to back, so we will see how Reno goes. If we do Las Vegas, it will be in the fall,” Borda said.

All the partners split the costs for the summit, and she said the utility companies paid her costs.

NNRDA is the new name for

the Elko County Economic Diversification Authority, and the name change is official now that Elko, Wells, West Wendover, Carlin and Elko County have approved the change to the interlocal agreement.

Lander County will have a seat on the board, if the county decides to join, and Borda said if Lander County joins by July 1 the state will provide roughly \$1,200 to pay for new business cards, letter heads, new signs, an updated website and other changes because of the new name.

“It’s great starting out with Lander and getting our feet wet on that,” Borda said. “We already work together on issues.”

The state wants regional development authorities and will eventually mandate them because of a change in the law. Borda said she later will formally ask Eureka and White Pine counties if they want to join, or “they may be more comfortable with a memorandum of understanding.”



Elko County Economic Diversification Authority
Representing Northeastern Nevada

The NNRDA board currently has 40 members, including representatives of Elko County, Elko, Carlin, Wells and West Wendover and private companies. The executive committee is made up of the cities and county and the chairman and vice chairman of the board.

The cities and county pay an annual rate based on population, and the private sector can join on one of three levels with an annual fee of \$500 to \$3,000.