Big Land.
Open Opportunity.

Chamber Merger
WEDA September 2017
BIG LAND
OPEN OPPORTUNITY

CULTIVATING BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY
Why

1. Timing
2. Streamline efficiencies, economies of scale
3. Lack of funding
4. Redundant services
5. Changing of the times – ahead of the curve or get run over
What went well?

1. Organizational chart
2. One board
3. Being prepared with clear messages to members and public
4. Met regularly during merger
5. Member benefits
6. 1 stop shop
7. Clarity in small town and community
8. Streamline efforts
9. Have a good accountant!
## CHAMBER TRANSITION COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, August 24th, 2016**

**4pm-5pm**

**GOSHEN ENTERPRISE CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendees:</th>
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### AGENDA

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<td>A. Wally Wolski, GCEDC President of the board</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Agenda</td>
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<td>A. Timeline</td>
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<td>B. Communication strategy</td>
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<td>C. Member lists &amp; benefits</td>
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<td>D. Legal</td>
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<td>E. Financials</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>A. Misc. discussion</td>
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### NOTES

- Scheduled meetings – frequency?

### NOTES:

- Attendees:
December 19th, 2016

Dear Valued Membership,

On January 1, 2017 Goshen County Chamber of Commerce and Goshen County Economic Development Corporation will be merging under one umbrella.

In the past, a merger had been suggested to provide streamlined services to our community. The time has come where this makes sense for both organizations. To start this process, a few months ago, we formed a Transition Team consisting of both Goshen County Chamber of Commerce and Goshen County Economic Development Corporation board members and staff. We began by researching the pros and cons with keeping the ultimate benefit in mind for the businesses and community.

Here are just a few of the benefits you will receive as a member: one fee for both organizations, monthly newsletter and correspondence, rotary service, bulk mailing stamp, invitation to ribbon cuttings and networking events, voting privileges, legislative voice, plus much more! The Membership Committee will be reaching out to you the first part of 2017 to explain the details and enhanced membership level.

Additionally, our new organization will become a one stop shop for all your business and community needs. We will embrace a 360 degree focus on businesses from start-up, to retention, expansion and everything in between. The Chamber arm will continue assisting businesses with promotional activities and promote tourism events for the County and will remain as the 21st & Main Building at the Women’s Center. GEEDC will bring its expertise, infrastructure development, quality of life issues, grant management, and business recruitment in the Goshen Enterprise Center located at 130 West 22nd Ave.

With this merger, you will become a member of a great organization and receive enhanced benefits while only paying one annual membership fee. Enclosed outlines the benefits in the membership. If you have any questions, please contact our CEO/Executive Director Ashley Harpstrand 307-932-5142 or ashley@foshen.com.

This is an exciting new venture, we hope you will join us!

Sincerely,

Goshen County Chamber of Commerce & Goshen County Economic Development Corporation

“Fostering the past traditions of our local Chamber will remain and continue to serve both the business communities and residents’ interest into the future.”

— Mary Womick, Past President of GEEDC Board of Directors & Co-Chair of Transition Committee

“On behalf of the Goshen County Chamber of Commerce it has been a privilege to be a part of this process and serve our community.”

— Linda Evans, President of the Board, Goshen County Chamber of Commerce & Co-Chair of the Transition Committee

GOSHEN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

CHAMBER
Investment Levels for Enhanced Membership

- Board seats, as available
- Complimentary Ag Breakfast sponsor
- 2 complimentary tickets to the Annual Meeting
- 20 hours technical assistance for grant writing
- Company logo included on GCEDC monthly e-newsletter
- Company logo on website banner ad
- Complimentary use of GCEDC meeting room(s) (scheduled in advance)
- Complimentary use of 20th and Main event space (scheduled in advance)
- 20 hours technical assistance and marketing strategies
- Complimentary Partnership Breakfast program
- Marketing Materials included in Tourism Packages
- Performed vendor
- Business listings included in all printed Chamber materials for relocation and hospitality packets
- Business promotion opportunities on weekly Chamber Chat emails and Facebook posts
- 10 hours technical assistance and marketing strategies
- Voting privileges
- Networking opportunities at Business on Tap
- Access to the Wyoming Chamber Health Benefit Plan
- Progress Program applications fee waived for Capital Enhancement projects
- Invitation to all ribbon cuttings for new businesses and locations
- Business development services
- Invitation to quarterly Partnership Breakfast
- Chamber Chief (Chamber weekly e-newsletter)
- View from Big Land and Open Opportunity (GCEDC monthly newsletter)
- Rotary service
- Fuel and parking ramp
- Listing in business directory on www.goshen.net
- Business Accountable to Boards
- Legislative voice in Goshen County
- Event promotion on social media network
- Progress Program applications fee waived for Community Enhancement projects
Challenges

1. Front end work
2. A lot of meetings
3. Nay sayers
4. Membership +/-

Pros definitely out weigh the cons
Big Land.
Open Opportunity.

Thank you!