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## **Routt County Awarded Support for Economic Development Initiative**

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS — August 2, 2017

On Monday the Executive Director of the <u>Colorado Office of Economic Development and International</u> <u>Trade</u> (OEDIT), Stephanie Copeland, awarded a Routt County application coordinated by the Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association (SSCRA) for a county-wide Blueprint 2.0 economic development project. The initiative, titled <u>Data Driven Approach to Economic Development</u>, will identify and measure key economic drivers indicating what is uniquely important to businesses that operate in Routt County thus allowing for the tracking of business changes and issues over time.

The Strategy and Analytics team for the OEDIT, in conjunction with the SSCRA, will facilitate three community workshops in Hayden, Oak Creek and Steamboat Springs, with local business owners and community leaders starting in 2018. These workshops will help define the key economic drivers for business success and aid community members in data-based economic development decision making that facilitates economic diversification. Additionally, the OEDIT team will provide support to SSCRA's economic development team to define a cluster-based economic development strategy targeting key sectors poised for expansion and adding to economic diversification efforts.

"We recently completed a community assessment project with OEDIT and are moving forward with the recommendations in that assessment. Having more information and data from this project will help

provide the Town with the foundation necessary to begin our strategic plan." said Mathew Mendisco, Town of Hayden Town Manager.

"We are grateful for OEDIT's technical support and excited to implement this county-wide project," said John Bristol, SSCRA economic development director. "Working to diversify our economy is the key to creating a stable and sustainable economic future for Routt County."

Back row: Meredith Marshall, Luis Benitiz, Margeret Hunt, Stephanie Copland, Ashley McMurray, John Bristol, Jessica Valland; Front Row: Mathew Mendisco



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Celebrating over 100 years of service in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, the Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association works to support a vibrant, healthy economy in Steamboat Springs and surrounding areas as well as marketing Steamboat Springs as a year-round destination. To learn more please visit steamboachamber.com or call (970) 879-0880.