A 40-minute teleconference was coordinated by the four attendees (above) to gain an update on the previous day’s meeting with HTEDC regarding loan forgiveness requirements for the JVSP project funded by the EDB.

While the meeting was positive and many ideas were exchanged, HTEDC still strongly desires business development activity that would be required prior to loan forgiveness. While there may be some movement in terms of the timing and nature of business activity that would ultimately forgive the loan, such business development activity is still strongly preferred by HTEDC.

Those on the call all agreed that the scope of the JVSP project, as designed (and funded by EDB) did not include/require business development activity. Nonetheless, the group brainstormed ways to accommodate such a requirement.

John Hawkins indicated that he had some small-scale business development activities that could be profitable and meet the spirit of this business development requirement.

Brian Cole reported that he had connections with the Shoalwater Bay Tribe in Washington state that have toured assets associated with the Hopi Tribe and HTEDC. The group from Shoalwater Bay is very interested in immediate business development investment that could meet the business development requirements as defined by HTEDC. (Andrew Gashwazra established a teleconference between HTEDC, the Shoalwater Bay Tribe representatives and Brian Cole for 3:15 pm, later in the day.)

Brian Cole also noted that there have been preliminary discussions with Lower Moencopi Village about a possible hydroponics business opportunity that would meet these expectations/requirements.

John Hawkins noted that there was some discussion of fashioning the “loan” as a “line of credit.”

Andrew Gashwazra stated that Upper Moenkopi Village has requested to be on the agenda for the Hopi Tribal Council at 9 am on September 6. The purpose of the discussion would relate to the award by the EDB for the JVSP project. Upper Moenkopi Village continues to strongly desire the award to be offered as a grant rather than a loan or line of credit. John Hawkins indicated that he would be able to attend the Tribal Council meeting.