

WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

THURSDAY, February 19, 2015
Columbia Gorge Community College
Large Board Room
400 E. Scenic Drive, The Dalles, OR

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Joan Silver, Terry Moore, Kathy Ursprung, Fred Justesen, Gary Grossman, Jeff Renard, Mary Kramer, Frank Kay and Greg Johnson

GUESTS: Loren Schultz, Kate Sinner (Regional Solutions), Carolyn Meece (Business Oregon), Nolan Young (City of The Dalles), Robert Wallace (City of Dufur), Kathy Fitzpatrick (City of Mosier), Linda Cassidy (Youth Empowerment Shelter), and Barb Seatter (MCCFL)

EDC STAFF: Carrie Pipinich and Sherry Bohn

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joan Silver called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. There was a quorum present. She then asked for around the table introductions.

Frank Kay joined the meeting at 9:05 am.

Fred Justesen joined the meeting at 9:16 am.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2014

Gary Grossman moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2014 meeting. Kathy Ursprung seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Joan and Carrie explained the process for the annual Community Enhancement Project Presentations. Communities, agencies and organizations presented on their new or significantly changed projects for review and consideration by the Wasco County Economic Development Commission.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT PROCESS NEXT STEPS

Carrie explained the scoring process. She requested that the EDC Commissioners prioritize the projects based on the discussed criteria and provide their completed matrix to staff by 3pm, February 24th, 2015 so that staff could compile the prioritized list for review. Carrie stated that staff would provide a list of priorities to Commissioners for feedback on February 25th, 2015 via email. She requested feedback and approval of the prioritized list be provided to staff via email by no later than Friday, February 27th.

Carrie stated that staff would present the EDC's Community Enhancement Project List to the Wasco County Board of Commissioners for their adoption on Wednesday, March 4th, 2015. She stated that after the Community Enhancement Project list was adopted, staff will badge projects on Agora as priorities for the Wasco County EDC. Carrie stated that the project list will be provided to MCEDD for inclusion in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. She stated that the MCEDD Board will prioritize regional projects at its March 18th Board meeting.

Joan Silver reminded the Commission that when scoring the projects they needed to consider the community/project readiness and the community/project impact and support.

Carrie explained the Commissioner's Choice Points.

Discussion: Greg asked if the scoring was an average. Terry pointed out that the focus of the EDC was on economic development objectives rather than community development or quality of life/social objectives and asked when scoring if they all had equal value. Joan discussed the value of non-profits to our local economy and the impact they have in addition to their jobs. Greg noted that ensuring communities had the infrastructure needed was vital to the work we do. Terry asked if there was any guidance in terms of where to put the points as he noted that several Commissioners represent organizations with projects on the list and that this might influence their use of the extra points. Frank noted that leadership, readiness, and capacity to proceed were key. He also noted that a way to use the additional points could be related to identifying projects the EDC could have the most impact with in terms of moving them forward.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ROLE & MEMBERSHIP

Joan reported that through conversations with the Board of County Commissioners, with individual EDC Commissioners, and while undertaking the WCEDC planning and projects, the Wasco County Economic Development Commission had begun to discuss revisiting its role in the county to better reflect current conditions and needs.

Carrie noted that staff discussed the economic development commission role with the Board of County Commissioners in January in order to gather their input into a new direction for the EDC with a more active role rather than a purely advisory. Additionally, staff discussed focusing the Commission's work on two areas: increasing community capacity and job creation. Carrie reported that the discussion also included some potential changes to the EDC's structure and processes to further align our efforts with the role being considered, including a more active role for the EDC Commissioners.

Carrie reported that as a result of positive feedback from the Board of County Commissioners, staff had drafted an update to the EDC's enabling Ordinance. She requested the EDC discuss these changes including the number of Commissioners. Carrie stated that an additional member would provide additional engagement in a different sector, as well as provide an odd number of EDC Commissioners which is best practice. She also noted that the Chamber focused position would be opened up to reflect that there are three active Chambers in Wasco County.

Frank Kay moved to **approve** the staff proposed new order and include any changes staff might implement after reviewing to ensure it reflects the EDC's focus on whole County efforts. Jeff Renard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

Discussion: Frank Kay asked if this change was more in line with the political thinking of the board of commissioners. Joan stated that this was prepared and presented at the request of the commission. Jeff noted that the change to support increased engagement with all of the Chambers in the County was something he was excited to engage in. Terry noted that as the EDC moves to a more active role they should make sure to consider the needed funding to support accomplishing their goals. Terry also encouraged staff to

review the ordinance to ensure that it is reflective of the Commission's focus on supporting the full county.

STAFF REPORT

Carrie Pipinich presented the EDC Staff report highlighting the following

Community Enhancement Projects

- Staff conducted significant outreach to entities throughout the County to support project submission for the 2015 Community Enhancement Project List. Additionally, staff hosted two sessions to provide assistance in uploading projects and discussing necessary information for completeness.

Industrial Lands Committee

- The Wamic Water and Sanitary Authority and the City of Mosier participated in conversations with staff at these sessions in addition to several non-infrastructure entities. Staff is working on developing detailed overviews for each system that the Committee will then be able to use as it works with communities to support addressing basic infrastructure needs throughout the County.

Broadband

- Staff have begun planning a regional broadband meeting that will be an opportunity for those working on broadband issues in the region to gather and discuss opportunities to further leverage existing and planned investments, explore collaborative approaches to addressing broadband access and utilization challenges, and provide an opportunity for public and private sector entities focused on broadband to network. The meeting will be Friday March 6th, 2015 from 10am to 12pm in The Dalles, location TBD.

EDC COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Gary Grossman—Gary noted that the Rapoza Development had been before the Urban Renewal Committee as had conversations around the Elks Building rehabilitation.

Mary Kramer – Mary reported that the hardware store had been purchased by Azure Standard.

Kathy Ursprung – Kathy reported that the final touches were being completed on the Columbia Gorge Industrial Center and that she had begun working on a food co-op concept that was being well received in the community.

Loren Shultz—Loren shared that IFA is going to be conducting outreach related to their CDBG program guidelines in the coming months and encouraged the EDC's members to engage either by submitting written comments or attending one of the meetings.

Fred Justesen – Fred reported that the Tygh Valley Tavern had recently been purchased, the Grass Valley pavilion project is moving along and that there had been a drop in wind leases in South County

Frank Kay – Frank reported that in November he was elected mayor of Maupin and that his most recent focus had been on resolving staff and other issues.

Greg Johnson – Greg reported that he had attended Forest Collative meeting

Joan Silver – Joan reported that along with new role, the EDC would be asking for \$45,000 this year to provide the level of support needed to fulfill the role. She noted it is important to communicate with the County about the impact and importance of the EDC as funding conversations are continuing.

Meeting Adjourn at 11:30AM

Next meeting March 19th at 10 am in Maupin

Submitted by Sherry Bohn, EDC Staff