

WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
THURSDAY, February 20, 2014
Northern Wasco PUD
2345 River Road, The Dalles, OR

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Chair Joan Silver, Frank Kay, Andrea Klaas, Fred Justesen, and Mary Kramer

GUESTS: Brad DeHart (ODOT & Regional Solutions), Loren Shultz (IFA), Gary Grossman, Glenn Miller (City of The Dalles), Nolan Young (City of The Dalles), Chris Highfield (Dufur Park Board), Michael Held (Port of The Dalles), Mathew Klebes (The Dalles Main Street), Steve Lawrence (Civic Auditorium), Joel Ives (Mid-Columbia Children's Council), Corliss Marsh (The Dalles-Wasco Co. Library Foundation), Scott McKay (Mid-Columbia Senior Center), Dennis Beecher (Tygh Valley Fire), Ken Poleh, John Thompson (Wasco SWCD), Anna Burkley (Wasco SWCD), Shilah Olson (Wasco SWCD), Randal Anderson (NWasco CO School District 21), John Herlocker (Barlow Water), Erin Kovalchuk (Wonderworks), Carolyn Purcell (Discovery Center), Nancy Martin (Barlow/Wamic), Robert and Randi Wallace (WyEast/Dufur), Allison Bechtol (S. Wasco Co Library), Arthur Smith (Wasco County Public Works), Scott Green (N Wasco Parks & Recreation)

EDC STAFF: Amanda Hoey, Sherry Bohn and Maggie Hanna

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 9:05 am.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2013 MINUTES

Andrea Klaas moved to accept the November 21, 2013 minutes. Frank Kay noted that the Mosier Update should be Dufur Update and seconded the motion with the noted correction. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSION VACANCIES – RECOMMENDATIONS

Amanda Hoey explained the current commission openings and the process for filling them. Frank Kay moved to recommend to the Wasco County Board of Commissioners the appointment of Gary Grossman to position 9. Andrea Klaas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT PRESENTATIONS: Maggie Hanna explained the Agora Lifecycle designations including Concept, Feasibility and Implementation. Communities, agencies and organizations presented on their projects for the review and consideration by the Wasco County Economic Development Commission.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Amanda Hoey presented the February Directors' reports highlighting the following:

Oregon Business Council

The Commission, in partnership with The Dalles Chamber, will host a meeting with members and staff of the Oregon Business Council on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 in The Dalles. The intention of the gathering is to further educate the Council on economic development and business development activities in the County, hear an update on the Oregon Business Plan and discuss further integrating our rural economic development priorities to the Plan. Currently, we are planning to host a tour of significant business investments in The Dalles

University of Oregon Analysis: Economic Impact of Events

The overall focus for the study is to events in rural Wasco County attracting primarily non-local attendees and those that would generally have people staying overnight. Amanda explained that there were three projects (including the EDC's) which were proposed to the class in January. The students will divide into groups based upon the project they want to work on. Once students are selected, we will have regular checkpoints with them as they work through the methodology.

Broadband

EDC staff is supporting a broadband applications event to be hosted at the Balch Hotel in Dufur, Oregon on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 6:30. It will highlight local businesses that utilize broadband effectively to support their business models. The event is sponsored by North-State Telephone Co. and Gorge Networks, Inc.

General EDC Activities:

Staff met with Gorge Grown Food Network (GGFN) Executive Director Michelle McGrath. She will present GGFN's programs and opportunities for collaboration with the EDC at our April meeting.

Staff is tracking opportunities to better engage and support the recently designated UAV test sites, which includes a site at Warm Springs. This is good news for the region's UAV industry as the selection will bring unique opportunities for UAV research and testing in order to safely bring UAVs into the national airspace and expand the industry into new markets.

Discussion: Andrea Klaas reported that she had been told by the airport that a large number of people fly in to hunt. Brad De Hart stated that it would be a good idea to get ODF perspective and Loren Shultz explained what he and the IFA were doing.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Fred Justenson - Cattle prices remain high and the wind project continues to move forward.

Mary Kramer – Dufur is in negotiations for a new firehall

Frank Kay – Maupin has selected Jeff Nicol for their part-time business recruitment position and that the library is moving forward.

Andrea Klaas – the wetlands is mostly funded and will get started once the private property owners are on board. She reported that North Chenoweth is under way and the site will be ready by August. She also reported that a new business, 3D Integrated, will be locating on the port and that a billboard installed at the entrance to the port has generated four new inquires. Andrea also reported that the port will be working with the airport on a combined marketing program and that the 4 gorge ports will begin marketing regionally together.

Joan Silver – The Dalles Readiness Center grand opening will be April 18th.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT SCORING

Joan Silver requested that as the commissioners work through the project scoring process they keep in mind the following:

- The idea of how the projects lead to an improved economy
- The readiness of the project in light of community
- The level of funding
- The economic impact

Amanda Hoey reiterated the scoring process and requested that the completed sheets be returned within one week.

ADJOURN: 1:05 pm

Submitted by Sherry Bohn, EDC Staff