

WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014  
Port of The Dalles Conference Room  
3636 Klindt Drive, The Dalles, OR

**ATTENDANCE**

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Joan Silver, Frank Kay, Andrea Klaas, Donella Polehn, Mary Kramer, Dan Durow, and Terry Moore

GUESTS: Steve Lawrence (City of The Dalles), Rod Runyon (Wasco County Commissioner), Loren Shultz (Infrastructure Financing), Jeff Nicol (SBDC)

EDC STAFF: Amanda Hoey, Carrie Pipinich and Sherry Bohn

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Joan Silver called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Joan introduced Carrie Pipinich and explained that she will be taking over the EDC staff position previously filled by Amanda Hoey. She then asked for around the table introductions.

**WELCOME FROM MAYOR STEVE LAWRENCE**

Steve Lawrence, Mayor of The Dalles, welcomed the EDC. He highlighted happenings in The Dalles including the cruise ship success and their planned future visits. Steve also reported on the hiring of Gary Rains, Business Recruitment Specialist. He presented the preliminary designs for the Civic Auditorium including various stage options.

Donella Polehn joined the meeting at 10:08 am

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 19, 2014 MINUTES**

Andrea Klaas moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2014 meeting. Mary Kramer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**OFFICER ELECTIONS**

Joan explained the process of EDC officer elections. She noted that the officers are to be elected the first month of the fiscal year. Carrie explained the terms of each of the members.

Frank Kay nominated Joan Silver as Chair. Dan Durow seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Donella Polehn nominated Andrea Klaas as Vice Chair. Frank Kay seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**EDC FUNDING and PRIORITIES**

Amanda Hoey reported that MCEDD had contracted with Wasco County to support the EDC staffing. The contract is a baseline contract at \$35,000 so requires review by the EDC in setting priorities for time. Carrie Pipinich reported that the proposed scope of work discussion including the 2013 Strategic Plan Summary. Terry Moore asked about the process for updating the strategic plan. Amanda Hoey explained the process. Terry also asked for clarification of the scope of work. Dan asked if there had been additional discussion including follow up actions

regarding the University of Oregon study. Amanda Hoey explained what had been done and stated that if the commission agreed it could be added as a priority for the year. Joan Silver stated that the amount of the contract limits the time available. She also stated that an EDC committee does not need to be all commission members.

Dan Durow stated that he thought the University of Oregon Special Events Impact Study provided an opportunity for further follow-up to determine appropriate actions. Mary Kramer offered her assistance for a committee and Joan reiterated that they could bring in other people.

Andrea stated that previously the Wasco County Planning Department provided an annual presentation to the commission. She stated that she recently talked with John Roberts, Planning Department Director, and he would like to update the Wasco County Comprehensive Plan. Andrea stated that she felt it was important the commission and the planning department are working together within the county comprehensive plan. Dan Durow agreed that it was important. Joan agreed but questioned the role that the commission could play. Joan thought that she should have a more in depth discussion with John to see what role groups, like the commission, could have. Andrea stated that WCEDC needs to be instep with county planning in order to bring business to the county. Dan Durow stated that perhaps the existing Industrial Lands committee could meet with John to follow up with the study and to see what the EDC could help with. Joan agreed to open the initial discussion with John.

Frank Kay stated that the South County Alliance will continue to need support and that could be a goal in order to get that organization going.

Terry Moore asked for clarification on MCEDD's role vs. commission role vs. planning role.

Joan Silver explained the various roles, the process and stated that perhaps the commission needs an annual report.

Amanda Hoey restated that she had heard the EDC state priorities to include:

- Support for the South Wasco Alliance Partnership
- Follow-up on the results from the University of Oregon events survey
- Follow up with the Industrial Lands Committee

Mary Kramer stated that she thought the whole commission needed to be part of the conversation with county planning. Terry Moore asked if this was an action item. Amanda Hoey stated that this was informational and that a more formal scope would be presented to the commission for approval. Joan reiterated that she asked the county for input on what they thought needed to be done.

### **PROJECT & COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Oregon Business Council - Amanda reported that there is an update of the projects in preparation for the August meeting. Andrea Klaas stated that she will contact Jeremy Rogers to set a meeting with herself and Terry Moore.

Major Employer List - Carrie Pipinich presented the 2014 Wasco County Major Employers List compiled and updated by EDC staff. She explained how the list was compiled.

Broadband - Carrie explained about the work happening with access in South County and a grant submitted by MCEDD in order to more fully support that work. Andrea reported that Dufur is way ahead than most with fiber to the home. Carrie also reported about the Oregon Connection Conference in October with topic being Big Data and Internet of Things

## **STAFF REPORT**

Carrie Pipinich and Amanda Hoey presented the EDC Staff report highlighting the following

### **FY 2015 Meeting Calendar**

Amanda Hoey reported that at the last meeting the EDC approved its FY15 meeting calendar. She asked the commission to make a small modification to the locations for the next few meetings in order to correlate our visit to Mosier with their 100 year celebration and ensure EDC member attendance. A revised calendar was provided to the

### **Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP)**

Amanda presented highlights from the report from the May 20 IMCP event.

### **General EDC Activities:**

EDC staff provided the following support services:

- Staff presented a quarterly update at the Wasco County Commission meeting. A contract for services will be presented at a future meeting.
- Thank you notes have been sent to Anne Westmoreland and Nhi Dao for their support in the development of the Wasco County Events Analysis.
- Staff supported a business seeking to reuse a historic building in The Dalles. Staff helped them make appropriate connections to resources.
- Staff attended the South Wasco Alliance meeting held on June 19, 2014 in Dufur.

## **EDC COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Dan Durow – Dan provided a Riverfront Trail update. ODOT is preparing preliminary report on the recent brainstorming meeting in order to move forward. The sense from the meeting with the tribes was that the alternative route will be acceptable.

Terry Moore – Terry thanked the commission for rescheduling the EDC September meeting to include the Mosier centennial celebration.

Mary Kramer – The Dufur Threshing Bee is scheduled for Aug 9<sup>th</sup> and 10 and Azure Standard is the major sponsor. She also invited everyone to the Balch Hotel music series and reported that Azure Standard recently purchased the hardware store.

Andrea Klaas – Construction is ongoing and they had found more rock than anticipated but were able to reconfigure. She reported that she is sitting on the Key Industries Initiative Committee and presented the following highlights from the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting

- Smart Grid Northwest
- Drive Oregon
- SOAR Oregon
- ORSPORT
- Oregon Wave Energy Trust

- Oregon Internet of Things
- Oregon Storyboard
- Precision Farming

Donella Polehn – Doni reported that cherry harvest is over except for Dufur and South County. Good crop but smaller and soft.

Frank Kay – Frank stated he was surprised with the number of visitors reported in the University of Oregon report. Maupin is preparing for Cycle Oregon by coordinating with all the districts to provide the volunteers. Splash for Pink was successful. The library project is moving forward. He reported that getting broadband into the library is an ongoing problem because of perception that libraries are only about books. He stated that there is agreement to tap the fiber that runs under the city. Fundraising for the library has kicked off for larger donors. Frank stated that there will be an upcoming discussion about combining the library project with civic center/city hall project next week.

Jeff Nicol joined at 11:09 am

Guests Updates:

Jeff Nicol – SBDC going great and will be offering a small business management course for \$500 will possible scholarships available.

Rod Runyon – John Roberts came to the Wasco County commission and explained that he had hired someone to help with code compliance. John reported that planning ordinances need be set up to receive businesses. Rod offered his help with the communication and the gathering of information on behalf of the planning commission. Rod stated that there are forest fires all over Oregon. Rod also stated that the options for Mosier’s water problem keep coming back to a large rate increase. Amanda stated that MCEDD and Regional Solutions have been working together on the project.

Joan Silver – Joan shared the example of the SAGE Center at the Port of Morrow. The community of The Dalles is very busy. She also reported that many non-profits continue to struggle with finding volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am

Next meeting September 18, 2014 in Mosier at 10 am.

*Submitted by Sherry Bohn, EDC Staff*