

WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014  
Mosier Creek Terrace  
501 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Mosier, OR

**ATTENDANCE**

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Joan Silver, Fred Justesen, Andrea Klaas, Mary Kramer, Dan Durow, Gary Grossman, and Terry Moore

GUESTS: Scott Hege (Wasco County Commissioner), Rod Runyon (Wasco County Commissioner, Loren Shultz (Infrastructure Finance Authority), Kate Sinner (Regional Solutions)

EDC STAFF: Carrie Pipinich and Sherry Bohn

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Joan Silver called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. She then asked for around the table introductions.

**WELCOME FROM KATHY FITZPATRICK**

Kathy Fitzpatrick, City Manager of Mosier, welcomed the EDC. She highlighted the Mosier centennial celebration along with Mosier's successes, challenges and plans for the future.

Gary Grossman joined at 10:12am.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 17, 2014 MINUTES**

Andrea Klaas moved to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2014 meeting. Mary Kramer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**EDC STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Carrie Pipinich opened the strategic plan update discussion. She explained that the action/work plan would help to guide her time and services.

Goal #1: Information Source

Scott Hege asked if everyone knew about the business siting guides and where they were available. Carrie noted that they were shared with several local partners, but that if there were additional suggestions from the group for distribution she would be happy to follow up.

Terry Moore asked if the group had thought about including fees and costs related to development.

Andrea Klaas stated that these were intended for more general information so that questions on more specific needs could easily be discussed with the appropriate contact.

Scott Hege stated that these were also marketing pieces, as one of the first items potential businesses saw about the community.

Joan Silver stated that these were designed to show what we have and who to contact for more information.

**GOAL #2: Business Support and Diversification**

Andrea Klaas asked if MCEDD receives the state leads. She reported that she usually receives them but wanted to make sure that all inquires are receiving appropriate responses.

Kate Sinner suggested adding Business Oregon as a Key Partner.

Scott Hege noted that it was important that everyone know the process for when leads come in.

Rod Runyon suggested that it would be a good idea to add business lead referral information to the hospitality class that the Chamber hosts.

Joan Silver suggested revisiting development of a business card to provide to potential business leads with contact information.

**GOAL #3: Coordinated Activities**

Scott Hege stated that the coordination within the county to address needs is key. And noted that an important role for EDC staff was to provide a conduit between the BOCC and the EDC Commissioners so that they were aware when discussions might benefit from their engagement.

**Goal #4: Ensure Solid Footing for Activities**

Carrie Pipinich explained that conversations continued regarding Broadband, especially in South Wasco County.

Kate Sinner inquired about the timeline for the Google grant and Carrie noted it was approximately one year.

**Goal #5: Organization Stability**

Dan Durrow asked about the process for the tracking of staff time.

Terry Moore asked about the percentages on the plan and how they relate to the budget.

Carrie Pipinich stated that the percentages were guidelines and that staff time could be designated in a different way if needed.

Joan Silver stated that the plan can be approved without percentages.

Andrea Klaas stated that the commission needs to prioritize these goals.

Joan Silver asked that the commission direct any questions and/or comments to Carrie Pipinich and that time would be allocated at the next meeting for approval

**PROJECT & COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Business Oregon August Visit – Joan Silver will forward the report from the day. Kate Sinner stated that the tour provided an opportunity for the Shawn Robbins, the new director for Business Oregon, to hear from communities directly.

Broadband—Carrie Pipinich gave updates on that various projects.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Carrie Pipinich presented the EDC Staff report highlighting the following

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

**UAS Applications for Tree Fruit:** MCEDD, OSU, and WSU are organizing a forum on UAS Applications for Tree Fruit. It will focus on ways that unmanned systems (both aerial and ground based) can be integrated into efforts to solve agricultural issues and identifying potential research topics. The forum will be September 26, 2014 from 1:30pm to 4:30pm at CGCC in The Dalles. EDC members are welcome to attend. RSVP is requested to [jessica@mcedd.org](mailto:jessica@mcedd.org).

□ **Composite Firms:** As part of the effort through IMCP to develop a regional strategy to support manufacturing firms in the region, two researchers from Washington State University Composite Materials and Engineering Center will be in the region working with major firms engaged in manufacturing using composite materials. They will be here October 8th to gather information and to gain an understanding of the composite materials and production processes being used, local firms' key products, growth trends and any key obstacles to future development.

□ **Value Added Food Manufacturing:** Girsh Ganjyal, a Food Processing Specialist with WSU, will be visiting the region in late September in preparation for an anticipated value added forum scheduled for October 28. The visit will also help him better understand of the needs of the existing value-added processors in the region and the needs/hurdles for the new processors who want to get into value-added agriculture businesses. The forum is still in planning stages, but the expected outcome will begin to formalize the industry cluster through understanding of economic benefit, and the roles for development and exploration of growth opportunities.

### **General EDC Activities:**

Staff attended South Wasco Alliance meetings held July 3rd and August 21st in Tygh Valley. These meetings focused on developing priorities and reviewing a draft strategic plan for SWA. This plan focuses on supporting community and economic development activities in South County. Additionally, staff has been engaged in their Organizational Governance Committee focused on identifying the best structure for the group moving forward. This role has included ensuring the group is aware of the resources available to them through groups like the EDC and supporting potential engagement on shared priorities to avoid duplication of services.

Staff is working with the communities of Dufur and Maupin and their economic development entities to create business siting guides specific to each community. Currently, business siting guides are available for the unincorporated areas of the County as well as the City of The Dalles.

## **EDC COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Fred Justesen – Stated that he would like to see additional outreach around the outdoor mass gathering rules so that potential events understand the timelines. He reported that wheat was doing well and that cattle prices were high this year. Fred also stated that the county fairs did

well this past season and that there is still interest in wind energy. He noted that wind energy was an important conversation to continue with.

Dan Durow – Shared that the Riverfront Trail is in the process of drafting a report with alternative routes for outreach. He also reported that he was confident that The Dalles downtown hotel conference center will come together.

Gary Grossman – Reported that Urban Renewal funded Main Street with \$10,000 to help with façade improvement applications and processing.

Andrea Klaas – Stated that construction on the Port was moving forward. She stated that completion was expected in October. Andrea reported that Dirt Hugger was in the process of moving to Dallesport. She also reported that there had been a lot of recent business interest and some business expansion downtown.

Mary Kramer – Reported that Dufur successfully hosted Cycle Oregon.

Joan Silver – She reported that the Senior Center Elevator Project had raised enough local money to match grants. Joan stated that Medicare counseling open enrollment was coming up. She also stated that three WCEDC board members have terms expiring in December. They include Andrea Klaas, Donella Polehn and Fred Justesen.

Joan also reported that the Gorge Commission was working towards large budget requests from both OR and WA

#### Guest Updates

Kate Sinner – Discussed Wasco County representation on the North Central Regional Solutions Advisory Committee. She reported that the RSC met on Monday in order to reach consensus on priorities for their request to include in the Governor's budget. Priorities designated were broadband and attainable housing.

Rod Runyon – Stated that a noise ordinance is moving forward and the county is looking for public input. He also reported that there are now two veteran services officers.

Lauren Shultz – Reported on a Seismic Retrofit Program that will be active shortly.

Carrie Pipinich announced an Energy Efficiently workshop organized by The Dalles Main Street to take place the next Monday.

Meeting Adjourn at 11:35AM

Next meeting October 16, 2014 in Tygh Valley at 10 am.

*Submitted by Sherry Bohn, EDC Staff*