

WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009  
COLUMBIA GORGE DISCOVERY CENTER, CLASSROOM  
5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles, Oregon  
10:00 A.M.

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Carina Schmidt, Dan Spatz, Donella Polehn, Gay Melvin, Joan Silver (Chair), Keith Mobley, Rob Miles (Vice-Chair)

GUESTS:

Todd Cornett (Wasco Co. Planning Dept.), Dennis Ross (Mayor of Maupin), Bradley Bobbitt (RARE, City of Maupin), Nora Donovan (RARE, Port of The Dalles), Bill Lennox, Carolyn Meece (OECDD), Shirley Holiday

EDC STAFF:

Amanda Remington, Jessica Metta, Layne Sylvester

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Joan Silver called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. A quorum was present.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Joan Silver stated that WEDC has received communication from Lana Jack, Celilo Village that would like to be included in the Needs and Issues process. Joan will bring the letter to next meeting.

UGB – City of The Dalles process long and slow and on going. City may host a meeting, if not they may ask WEDC/County Court to hold meeting of all government entities in National Scenic Area to bring together all local governments on same page.

Dan Spatz: Is this the mediated discussion mentioned earlier?

Joan Silver: No, this is different. Time frame: next few weeks.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 20, 2008 MINUTES:

Dan Spatz moved to approve. Keith Mobley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WASCO COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES:

This is the third year that Todd Cornett has presented the long range planning projects to the EDC.

Existing land use east of the Cascades has an 80 acre minimum. Wasco is at 160 acres. They allow property to change to an 80 acre minimum if they meet the income test.

Overview of Todd's handout:

- Address ordinance – this will not be expensive.
- M49 Implementing – not a great deal of effort to implement.
- NSA Horse Boarding – would keep things in compliance with National Scenic Act.
- Energy Chapter – ordinances are out of date. Most large scale projects. Wasco is 2<sup>nd</sup> tier with regards to wind energy development. As Sherman Co. reaches

capacity, wind development activity in Wasco Co. will pick up. They are seeing more applications for net metering (example: home use meter runs backwards when generating more than using). AOL is developing model ordinances.

- Dan Spatz – how do the two power companies feel about this?
- Todd Cornett – unknown, so there will need to be outreach to determine. Costs associated with this will be for staffing and supplies for meetings.

- Destination Resort – primary focus of planning commission. Expense would be hiring consulting firm.
- The Dalles UGB – major vs minor change needs to be defined. Cultural resources notification. If change, then not under same notification as National Scenic Act. Will take nine months to do cultural work.
- Pine Grove Rural Community – rezoning process. Would have to follow administrative rules to allow what the community wants. Would include multiple uses as defined by “rural community”.
- Commercial Events – example: weddings, concerts in rural areas. Traffic, noise issues.
- Expand “Go Below” Area – need justification which means significant evaluation process. Forty acre minimum but could go below that minimum after evaluation of the property.
- Pine Hollow Rural Community – same issues as Pine Grove Rural Community.
- Mosier UGB Expansion – the lack of water limits expansion at this time.

Discussion:

Energy Chapter Update:

Carina Schmidt – is there much activity? Todd Cornett – Not much. No ordinance in place. Applicant would have to pay for process before application.

Joan Silver – The county would need a separate fund for donations that could be tax deductible. Donations now cannot be given for specific project so the wording and process has to be general enough.

Carolyn Meece – utilize Crook and Jefferson Counties as a resource about destination resorts.

Todd Cornett – it will be important to do outreach to help determine how the communities feel about destination resort development.

Joan Silver – what is the list or prioritization of projects on planning commissions list.

Energy Chapter Update – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Destination Resort – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Keith Mobley – suggestion that there might be grant money from PUD or energy companies to pay for the Energy Chapter Update.

Donella Polehn moved to change order of list. Dan Spatz seconded. Joan asked if there was any additions to the list – none. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEED and ISSUES 2009 PROJECTS and ECONOMIC STIMULUS:**

Jessica Metta presented an alternative prioritization process which is different from what was used last year. The EDC would score each project in each category and then the scores would be tallied to get the project's overall ranking.

Joan Silver – is the process as presented and described acceptable? No objections.

The EDC Calendar of Meetings for 2009 was set as follows:

**January 15, 2009-** Mosier (tentative)

**March 19, 2009-** Dufur City Hall, 10:00 to 2:00 (lunch provided)

**April 30, 2009-** Port of The Dalles

**May 21, 2009-** Maupin

**July 16, 2009-** Mosier

**September 17, 2009-** Dufur

**November 19, 2009-** The Dalles

All meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to noon unless otherwise noted

Amanda – We have put forward projects for the federal Stimulus list:

- Marine Terminal
- CGCC
- East Gateway
- Airport – Klickitat County
- 911 Call Center

Mid February – Obama priorities (Amanda listed)

Nolan is developing letter with a common regional voice in support of the projects.

Joan Silver – ODOT list of proposed transportation projects:

- Hwy 197 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Maupin
- Hwy 197 and 8 Mile Creek, The Dalles
- I-84 from Sandy River to The Dalles

\$179 million proposed by ODOT fro stimulus packet

**STAFF REPORT:** *(See staff report dated January 15, 2009.)*

Report included: New MCEDD Project Manager Jessica Metta, Needs and Issues, Columbia Gorge Renewable Energy Zone, Confluence Project, Mobility Management, National Geographic's Central Cascades Project, Mt Hood Economic Alliance, Oregon Investment Board, EDA, USDA RBEG, USDA, Unemployment Rates. Also:

- Juniper Flats – have not been able to secure foundation funding.
- EDC website – due to format of site, will not be able to incorporate a clock showing the current local time. We will send out link to new site before next meeting.
- Oregon Solutions – County signed contract with Oregon Investment Board for \$7,000 grant to support Oregon Solutions process. OS is working to obtain designation from Governor's office as OS project and identifying co-facilitators.

- Juicy Ideas Competition – local teams placed 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in national competition. Next year marketing and number of teams will be expanded.

REGIONAL REPORTS:

Goal is to obtain a brief written report from each Commission member about their respective region before each meeting. EDC staff will send an email reminder a week prior to the meeting. Four reports were received prior to this meeting. It was suggested that they be emailed a copy of the collective regional report prior to each meeting.

Jim Azamano – is now Cluster Leadership Manager at Northwest Food Processors Association. The NW Food Manufacturing & Packaging Convention & Exposition will be held January 19 - 21, 2009 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. Amanda will send out email about this conference.

Gay Melvin – Nora Donovan did an excellent job on the Dufur Park Master Plan.

NEXT MEETING – MARCH 19, 2009, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 12:12 noon.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Layne Sylvester, EDC Staff*