

WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2009  
Mid-Columbia Economic Development District conference room  
515 East Second Street, The Dalles, OR 97058  
10:00 A.M.

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Carina Schmidt, Dan Durow, Donella Polehn, Joan Silver (Chair), Keith Mobley, Mark Cherniack, Rob Miles (Vice-Chair),

GUESTS:

Nora Donovan (RARE, Port of The Dalles), Bob McFadden (Port of The Dalles), Jay Grussing (Oregon Progress Board)

EDC STAFF:

Jessica Metta, Layne Sylvester

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Joan Silver called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS

APPROVAL OF APRIL 30, 2009 MINUTES:

Mark Cherniack moved to approve. Carina Schmidt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OREGON PROGRESS BOARD PRESENTATION:

Jay Grussing of the Oregon Progress Board (OPB) gave a brief history of the OPB, a PowerPoint presentation highlighting Wasco County data available in preliminary Oregon Benchmarks County Data (June 2009) and also talked about pending OPB budget cuts for 2009-11 biennium. The Oregon Progress Board is an independent board created by the Legislature in 1990 to monitor the state's 20-year strategic vision, *Oregon Shines*, and keep it current. The 12 member panel, chaired by the Governor and made up of citizen leaders, reflects the state's social, ethnic and political diversity. Reports are released every two years and the ninth biennial benchmark report would explore whether Oregon, as a state, is making progress toward three, interrelated statewide goals: 1) quality jobs for all Oregonians; 2) engaged, caring and safe communities; and 3) healthy, sustainable surroundings. The goals come from *Oregon Shines*, the state's 20-year, strategic plan. This well-established, internationally-recognized, model community measurement project could lose funding due to economic downturn and state budget crisis. The Board would continue to exist but OPB will be defunded for the 2009-11 biennium. The next new full report is due out in October 2009 if the OPB survives funding cuts.

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN UPDATE:

Jessica Metta reported that Wasco County Court had reviewed the EDC's list of top ten technical assistance and infrastructure projects from the needs and issues list. The Court reordered the projects' ranking and then approved the list. Jessica asked for feedback from the EDC on the list of completed projects, the vision statements and the EDC goals in the Action Plan.

Mark Cherniack suggested adding the Mosier wastewater treatment plant upgrades to the list of completed projects.

Keith Mobley suggested adding something in the vision statements about the Discovery Center becoming sustainable and something about tourism, particularly tourism to the county's historical attractions. It was also noted that the vision statement mentioning the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Reservoir Park should be changed to 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Joan Silver suggested that a date be set for getting additional feedback to Jessica about the vision statements. The date was set for 10 days from the meeting (June 28).

Action Plan Goals discussion: Joan Silver suggested adding wording in Goal #2 that the EDC would be a community resource, which goes along with the EDC work plan. Carina Schmidt suggested "business consultant". Jessica Metta and Joan Silver said this wording is not in the EDC work plan, that it usually costs money and other are resources available. It was also suggested to change the wording in Goal #2 from completing two needs projects per community per year to one project per community per year.

Joan Silver suggested Goal #3 be reworded to read: "Be aware of, keep track or and be aware of what projects are occurring in the county".

Keith Mobley suggested a fourth goal be added and would read: "Be a source of demographic and economic information about the county and support organizations that collect that information, including the Oregon Progress Board."

**STAFF REPORT AND REGIONAL REPORTS:** *(See staff report by Jessica Metta dated June 11, 2009.)*

Staff report included: **Needs and Issues:** On May 20, Wasco County Court reviewed the needs and issues list that had been prioritized by the EDC at their meeting on April 30. The County Court organized this list according to their priorities and approved the list. The top five technical assistance and infrastructure projects have been added to Mid-Columbia Economic Development District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and will be prioritized regionally at their Board meeting on June 11. On Technical Assistance list: 1. Marine Terminal combined with 1<sup>st</sup> Street Underpass Design, 2. Airport Water Distribution System, 3. Thompson Park Pool, 4. Dufur South Basin Water Storage, 5. Mosier Comp Plan/ Downtown Plan. On Infrastructure list: 1. Marine Terminal, 2. Airport Water Distribution System, 3. Dufur Fire Hall, 4. Airport Runway Strengthening, 5. Fairgrounds improvements. **Discovery Center/Oregon Solutions:** Formal signing agreement will be on July 15, 2009. EDC is donating staff time to work on business plan. Grant funds for this have been given by Port of The Dalles, Travel Oregon, and OECDD. **Other staff report items:** Branding Workshop, Juicy Ideas 2009, Rural Fire Training Center, Columbia Gorge Renewable Energy Zone, Mobility Management, Oregon Investment Board, Grant Opportunities (USDA and Oregon Tourism) and By the Numbers (Unemployment Rates).

**REGIONAL REPORTS:**

The Commissioners provided updates on economic development initiatives throughout the County.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Joan Silver proposed that although the EDC doesn't have cash to work with, they could look at doing a project to help the county. She asked if the Commissioners be interested in being a little bit more action oriented and gave an example of reviewing highway signage in the county (example in Tygh Valley) to advertise businesses and see how welcoming we are as a county. The EDC could incorporate a project into the work plan and write grants. There was general consensus among the Commissioners that they would be open to working on a project.

**NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 17, 2009, 10:00 A.M., DUFUR, OREGON**

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ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Layne Sylvester, EDC Staff*