

**Wasco County Economic Development Commission  
Imperial River Company, Maupin  
Minutes: May 15, 2008 - DRAFT**

**Convvene:** Chairman Mobley called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

**Attending:** Commissioner Sherry Holliday, EDC commissioners Keith Mobley, Joan Silver, Mark Cherniack, Carina Schmidt, Rob Miles and Gay Melvin; EDC staff Dan Spatz; guest Greg Hohensee (enterprise facilitator, Wy'east RC&D).

**Minutes of February 28, 2008:** Approved on motion by Commissioner Silver, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt.

**Staff report**

Staff provided updates on destination resort overlay zone funding request to DLCD (still pending), Oregon Solutions involvement in Discovery Center (awaiting assessment report), bond coordination meetings, United Fund Advisers project, Renewable Energy Zone, National Guard / 9-1-1 / EOC projects, and Needs & Issues revision.

**Rural fire training center:** Planning applications have been completed, variance request pending before county planning department.

General discussion regarding reorganization of Oregon Economic and Community Development Department and timber payments to rural counties.

**New business**

**Membership:** Staff advises that letter of resignation has been received from Renee Walasavage, EDC commissioner. General consensus that Columbia Gorge Community College should be represented on the EDC as a regional economic entity. Motion by Commissioner Cherniack that Dan Spatz, outgoing EDC staff, be appointed to represent the college, and Dana Schmidling, executive director of The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce, be requested to attend EDC meetings as invited guest to report on tourism activities. Motion seconded by Commissioner Silver, approved. Staff will advise Wasco County Court and Dana Schmidling. Also under membership, Gay Melvin now represents the City of Dufur, replacing Darrell Wolf. Melvin served more than 29 years as public works director for the City of Dufur.

**Staffing RFP:** Request for proposals for EDC staffing has been distributed by the Wasco County Court with a May 31 deadline. Commissioner Holliday advises that county court anticipates continuing support of this contract at the level of \$40,000 annually, with an additional \$10,000 for technical support (grant-writing assistance). Commissioner Silver recommends that when applications close EDC be contacted for comments on potential applicants. Staff to advise EDC upon notification from Wasco County Court.

**Strategic action plan revision:** Recommendation by Commissioner Silver to maintain needs & issues orientation within document, revised according to 2008 priorities, and that accomplished projects be included as a separate category. General discussion regarding potential for a small grants program (range of \$3,000 to \$4,000). Initial consideration was given to using current fiscal year balance for potential projects, but after discussion there was general consensus to carry unexpended balance forward to the new fiscal year since the EDC has no formal criteria for a small grants program. Chairman Mobley requests Commissioner Cherniack to draft a process for this, to take effect in the new fiscal year.

**Micro-enterprise facilitation:** Greg Hohensee, micro-enterprise facilitator for Wy'east RC&D, described his services to the region under terms of this new program. Services are extended on a 30-month contract in the amount of \$225,000 under the Sirolli Institute model; in addition, this project is pioneering a distance learning approach that allows a significant cost discount, incorporating video classes and teleconferencing. Hohensee is a resident of White Salmon, originally from New York State, where he gained experience in sales and marketing through a cabinet construction business.

**Regional reports**

**Mosier:** Commissioner Cherniack reports that second hearing will be conducted on Tanawashi development. Wastewater plant upgrade is proceeding; UPC wind project on Sevenmile Hill is apparently postponed; 10-Speed Coffee Company has opened.

**The Dalles Area Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee:** Commissioner Silver reports that City of The Dalles and Klickitat County have extended option period for golf course development by six months. In other business, City of The Dalles is now pursuing permanent rather than interim cruise ship dock at Union Street, Sunshine Mill development is progressing, as is engineering RFP for First Street pedestrian underpass. Ford Family Foundation leadership group has changed projects, from a portable movie screen to support for a new swim dock at Riverfront Park (this project was selected based on the Needs & Issues list developed by the EDC, and should be completed by June).

**The Dalles Area Chamber Economic Development Committee:** Commissioner Schmidt reported that the committee is reviewing the various economic development entities (local, regional and state); housing market is still sustaining itself, and construction projects are coming in close to engineering estimates. *Men's Journal* identified The Dalles as a desirable place to live in its most recent edition.

**Dufur:** Chairman Mobley advises he has sold his law practice in Dufur to Jeff Wilkenson. Chairman Mobley will continue to practice on a limited basis.

**Maupin:** Commissioner Miles reports that the skateboard park project is moving forward. Also, the first raft trip of the season occurred today in Maupin, Stonebridge Restaurant is now open, and a pizza restaurant will be opening. June 7 is the season opening celebration in Maupin.

**Next EDC meeting:** Thursday, July 17, 10 a.m., Port of The Dalles conference room.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:30 a.m.