

NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MEETING
Board and Membership Meeting
February 11, 2015, 8:45 – 10:45 AM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Huffman, Port of Douglas
Kurt Danison, multiple
Stacy Luckensmeyer, WVC
Bill Haven, City of Entiat
Ken Stanton, Douglas County
Wendy Isenhart, City of Chelan
Kari Grover Wier, USFS
Chris Branch, City of Oroville
Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Economic Alliance
Russell Clark, City of Rock Island
Jim DeTro, Okanogan County
Patrick Tonasket, Colville Tribe

George Buckner, City of East Wenatchee

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS & GUESTS:

Keith Soderstrom, Waterville Chamber
Terry Mattson, WSDOT Wenatchee
Jack Anderson, Plug-In NCW
Gary Taylor, Plug-In NCW
Ron Johnston-Rodriquez, Plug-In
Gary Begin, Lake Chelan Mirror
Darren Reynolds, Square Productions

STAFF:

Amy Massey, EDD
Carol Cowling, EDD

Chris Branch called meeting to order at 8:45 am.

Consent Agenda

Chris presented the January 14, 2015 EDD Minutes and Budget. **MOTION to Approve consent agenda and budget**, made by Ken Stanton, seconded by Wendy Isenhart. No questions or discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Chris presented the January 14, 2015 Plug-In NCW Minutes. **MOTION to Approve** made by Wendy Isenhart, seconded by Kurt Danison. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Presentation by Plug-In North Central Washington

Chris welcomed Ron Johnston-Rodriquez from PINCW. Ron thanked the EDD board for their support, introduced Gary Taylor, Jack Anderson and Darren Reynolds. PINCW started in 2005 at Port of Chelan, and came under EDD in 2012. Focus is on elevating NCW as a destination for EV drivers. 17 charging stations have been installed in NCW in 3 years. See www.pluginncw.org for more information.

Gary introduced the development of plans for the “Current Fest” which fits with the concept. Darren Reynolds presented the plans and synergy of this Music and Lifestyle festival for the whole family, dedication to green technologies that make our lives better scheduled for June 26, 27th 2015 at Riverfront Park, 3000-5000 attendees, featuring music acts, beer garden, food court, cycling event, fun run. Projected economic impact for region is \$2,462,110 by year 3. Darren presented some of the challenges: lodging, parking, crowd control, security, public safety, EV charging infrastructure, insurance, marketing hurdles. www.curentfest.com is being developed. Partners are Darren, Nick Chambers (PINCW committee) and Troy Olason. Darren took questions. Concern on insurance. Ron explained that major auto industry, and one beer sponsor, will donate funds and products (beer) to see this event turn a profit. NCWEDD should obtain a

Special Events beer permit. If there are upfront costs for EDD, the festival would reimburse. \$3000 is in the budget for the insurance coverage. Hopefully by next meeting we'll have the bid from the insurance company. EDD will be named as the insured, as well as the Current Festival. Amy will get the information to the EDD's insurance company. EDD has to be the non-profit umbrella, so NCWEDD, City of Wenatchee, Chelan PUD and maybe others will be named as additional insured. Most of the partners will carry their own insurance so there will be overlap. Chris suggests to reach out to the BC Okanogan market via Route 97, and involving TOTA, and also to capture more charging station hosts. PINCW is contracting with Darren and Troy.

BOARD CHAIR Report

- EDA Disaster Grant. Roni asked about the process for hiring the Project Manager, and that the communities need to discuss this. Chris suggests forming an ad hoc committee, at least including Roni, Kurt and Chris to discuss the issues. Chris will contact them.
- Mid-Year Report – Wendy offered that the REV committee can meet on the topic of the Scope of Work.
- DUES. Need a list of potential new members. Jim suggests letters to PUDS. Letter to Chelan County will be sent. Send suggestions to Amy for potential new members.
- Chelan Douglas Trends is going well. EDD's role is collaborator with in-kind staff time. Current sponsors are listed on the website.
- RC&D dissolution is needed. Cannot fulfill the obligations. Carol says there is \$18,000 in the account. Okanogan County Tourist Council has agreed to take on the work but wants the grant closed out. Decision to hold a March 11th 15 minute meeting, so partners and all involved can be notified of any actions.
- NADO CEDS changes. **MOTION to continue this item until next meeting** made by Wendy, Ken seconded. All in favor. Stacy will convene the CEDS committee to discuss.
- QWATA luncheon. **MOTION to sponsor Innovator Award at \$500 level** made by Kurt, seconded by Russ. All in favor. Amy, Bill Haven and 2 others will attend.
- Rural Pathways to Prosperity conference. Oroville, Omak, Methow, and Wenatchee locations. Stacy will facilitate in Wenatchee. Chris shares that this is an opportunity to engage communities. Roni is asking the Chambers to commit people and resources.

New Director Hire committee. Moved to next meeting. Board would like action on this. Russ suggests that Karen get the job description to the Executive Committee. **MOTION to authorize Executive Committee to approve the job description and post the position** made by Russ, seconded by Wendy. All in favor. The office location of Wenatchee was discussed, while making sure the new hire has the ability to reach out to the entire region. The new hire needs to make a commitment to travel and have flexibility. Looking for a regional minded person, so advertise as wide as possible. **MOTION to advertise statewide for the position, and the office will be in Wenatchee as the main office** made by Kurt, seconded by Wendy. All in favor.

Priority Projects. EDD has received 2 letters. Roni shared the Economic Alliance opened their Priority Process in this same time frame, closing date Feb. 20. Roni will send top projects to the EDD to also be ranked on the regional level.

Entrepreneurship. Stacy says WVC will contribute \$300 for upgrades on www.NCWConnect.org to meet the match half-way. **MOTION to contribute \$300 toward the upgrades to the website** made by Russ, seconded by Ken.

New Business. Steve shared examples of ways to create value.

1. Given our makerspace effort and that we have Twispworks here in NCW, we could hold a board meeting at Twispworks and tour their facility.
2. Cooperation between the PUD's is necessary to address economic development in the region in terms of policy development. The EDD could facilitate that discussion.
3. Commissioner Doug England was on the radio yesterday talking about the impacts of the Seattle port slow down on the fruit industry. We could invite him to speak to educate us so we can advocate for a resolution to the problem on behalf of the region.
4. Collective impact involves multiple organizations doing what they do best in a collaborative manner to move the needle in making improvements in a region. In order for collective impact to work, there needs to be a backbone organization. The EDD is the only one left in the three county area. This concept was brought up with United Way in their efforts to secure an America's Best Communities Grant which is about sustainability for small cities in terms of economic development.
5. Most all projects undertaken in the region, especially transportation, have a thread of economic development behind them. And more often than not, they are driven by economic development. The EDD could take a larger role in helping secure these projects.

Roni introduced Patrick Tonasket, the new board member from Colville Tribe. Board welcomes him.

Jim Huffman suggested that a new fire management exhibit at the Wenatchee Museum could possibly be the presentation at a future meeting.

Ken Stanton suggests Lisa Parks at the Port of Douglas to present at the May board meeting about updates for a planned development environmental assessment.

MOTION to adjourn the February meeting made by George, seconded by Russ.

Minutes taken by Amy Massey.