



**NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
Board and Membership Meeting
March 11, 2015 8:45-10:45 AM - Chelan City Hall, 135 Johnson Avenue**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ken Stanton, Douglas County
Jim Huffman, Port of Douglas
Wendy Isenhart, City of Chelan
Stacy Luckensmeyer, WVC
Craig Larsen, Port of Chelan
Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Economic Alliance
Karen Rutherford, City of Wenatchee
Steve King, City of Wenatchee
Kurt Danison, multiple
George Buckner, City of East Wenatchee
Bill Haven, City of Entiat
Kari Grover Wier, USFS
Jim DeTro, Okanogan County

Chris Branch, City of Oroville
Russell Clark, City of Rock Island

GUESTS

Wendy Delpez, The Entrepreneur's Source
Jack Anderson, Plug-In NCW
Ron Johnston-Rodriquez, Plug-In NCW
Arnie Marchand, Upper Columbia Museum
Association
Terry Mattson, WSDOT
Larry Marshall, City of Entiat
Gary Begin, Lake Chelan Mirror

STAFF

Amy Massey
Carol Cowling

Chris Branch called the meeting to order at 8:45 am, took a group photo and made introductions.

Consent Agenda

Chris presented the consent agenda of February NCWEDD board meeting minutes, and February Plug-In NCW minutes. There was no discussion. MOTION to approve the presented minutes was made by Wendy Isenhart, and seconded by Jim Huffman. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.

Financial Report

Carol presented budget covering Jan/Feb 2015, just starting to get 2015 dues. Chris shared a list of members who have paid. Chelan Douglas Trends funds shows a surplus, and EDD will be billed from EWU. The overage is "restricted" and will carry over. The current EDA grant shows us ahead, due to no director for 6 months. For the same reason, we may be short on in-kind match. Karen asked about the MOU with WVC? Stacy will find out exactly what was included in the use of the office. This information will be useful in negotiating a comparable space for the future. Wendy offers to look at use of the Chelan Council Chambers for meeting use for a match for next grant. Motion to approve the presented budget made by George Buckner, seconded by Ken Stanton. All in favor. Motion passes.

Presentation

Ron Johnston-Rodriquez shared that the Current Fest has been cancelled for this year because the auto makers could not commit to the sponsorship funds. It still has great potential for public education, to attract EV drivers to NCW, and to make a profit to leverage for the Plug-In NCW mission. Spent \$400 to send an organizer to Detroit where he connected with Nissan who gave \$1800 donation to PINCW. PINCW remains committed to attending events -- nine events are scheduled this year. Ron gave an update on charging stations and new technology developments, and GWATA "Innovative Business of the Year"

nomination. Gary Taylor confirms that PINCW is still pursuing a “legacy event” and he is in touch with TOTA, and the goal is for the event to be the “Sturgis” for NCW EV. Bill Haven suggested that “Rods on the River” could be an opportunity to have a presence. Gary welcomes information and invitations to local events. Chevy Bolt is coming out, all electric, with a 200 mile range. PINCW is going to host the first national EV Summit, to put NCW up front nationally. They still may do a modified version event this summer, as well as an EV wine tour, an Ice Age tour, and other specialty niche EV tours. Possible collaboration with an Aug. 21-23 tour fundraiser for victims of OSO slide and Carlton Complex fires. Wendy shared, on behalf of the EDD, appreciation for the hard work of the Plug-In efforts.

Jack Anderson presented on new charging stations over the region. Since 2013 have put in 18 chargers, and now people are actively seeking out PINCW services to put in more, from Coulee City, Okanogan, to Tonasket. PINCW uses a 30-point checklist to establish locations of stations. They are moving into installing the next level “Level 3” of charging stations (faster and more power), needing a large scale community effort. Chris asked about the value in the faster charging stations’ support of tourism. Mobility is what supports recreational tourism. Jack is willing to make presentations to any community interested in putting in EV charging stations.

Creating value for the EDD

Steve King reviewed his suggestions that are printed in the Feb. 11 minutes. He discussed the concept of collective impact, working retraining and industrial technology training, and the demand for workers to fill jobs. While college enrollment is down, asking what can the region do to make the connection between education and work/jobs. Customer service training is another concept that creates value to all groups at the table. Chris would like to include this discussion in the CEDS, and welcomes this discussion to continue. He suggests holding meetings in other locations like TwispWorks, etc. Chris asked if that would be a barrier to travel? Jim Huffman suggested the April meeting could have a presentation from the Weantchee Museum. Karen suggests looking at May in Twispworks, and confirm at April meeting.

Board Chair Update

- EDA Disaster Recovery Grant – IRC in mid-April, decision by end of April. This grant fits within the organization that already is in place in the region because there are already groups set up with momentum. The scope of work is to analyze the actual impacts in an objective analysis. Roni reminds that some organizations have pledged a match, and they have set expectations. Karen clarifies that there are 3 groups to be “the conduit” for this process. Kari shared that this is a long-term process, to compliment the initial efforts on the ground. This grant can be a tool to lead the communities with a plan or strategy on using the \$500,000 funds, if that comes through, to help communities grow from the disaster and see economic opportunities. Jim DeTro cautions a “wait and see” on the state funds. Chris asks for a committee to “evaluate the landscape” and nominates Roni, Kurt, and Karen to serve on the committee. Wendy asks to focus the grant on future opportunities. Chris asks the committee to evaluate, collaborate and coordinate, and plug this effort into the existing organizations. Jim Detro emphasizes the good work of the long term recovery efforts.
- 2015 EDD dues letter and invoice – Amy can send out a follow-up letter to those we haven’t heard from next month.

NADO CEDS rules changes and EDD CEDS process and plan

Karen Rutherford shared that the collaborative process for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is coming up and hopefully the new ED will be hired for this process which involves financial and scope of work. The CEDS team in place. Karen will convene a conference call, and after the April meeting will begin the process, starting with a webinar to watch on the rules updates.

Rural Pathways to Prosperity conference

This conference is occurring in multiple locations. EA and EDD did the overall collaboration to secure the local communities to host in the locations. Stacy shared the opportunity to submit local success stories to get statewide recognition. Stacy offers opportunity to endorse by having their logo on the website. In May, we could expect reports on the outcomes from this conference.

Revisoning Report

Wendy Isenhardt presented the plan to reconvene committee briefly. Recognizing that EDD is very thin – just a part time director, part time assistant, suggests fewer meetings and at regional locations as an enhanced experience. Develop a “toot our own horn road show” type presentation. Wendy shares that the current guiding mission and goals are good, but we need to find a balance and recognize that EDD is a membership driven entity. Karen offers the importance to leverage the new Executive Director to be supported by the membership, that the impact of the Executive Director is their involvement. The vision of the EDD has become clearer. Stacy would like to see a written report from Revisoning Committee.

New Director Hire

MOTION to authorize expense to post ad in Seattle Times, made by Wendy Isenhardt, and seconded by Kurt Danison. All in favor. Motion passes. Karen presented that the Executive Director job offer is \$30 to \$33 \$/hr or \$45K to \$53K, with caveat to grow the organization and create a revenue stream. Karen emphasizes board-driven directive for funding. Can EDD member organizations can commit to funding the position so the Executive Director can create value for the EDD and the region rather than chasing grants. Discussion on RCW 82.14.370 Sales and use tax for rural counties. Karen will schedule a conference call for job search committee and process for review, phone interviews and final interviews. Interview location in Chelan. June 1 start would be optimal. Need is for an office co-location and defined tasks that will be board directed.

Priority Projects

Craig shared there are 17 letters submissions. Committee will review, get a fuller application from selected projects. Wendy would like to do something for each submission, even lowest ranked ones, and give them guidance. A letter will be written to each submission with referrals when appropriate.

New Business.

A letter of interest was received for a reciprocal membership with the Borderlands Historical Society with Arnie Marchand as representative. Arnie presented the shared the importance of tourism for economic development, and Highway 97 and the Cascade Loop, and that they can help promote ideas. They will submit a packet of information with info sheet and a map. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting for approval.

The RC& D meeting follows, to discuss the close of the 501 (c) 3 status and disperse the leftover funds to the EDD.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am by Chris Branch.

Next NCWEDD meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Minutes submitted by Amy Massey.

The mission of the NCWEDD is to promote diversification and development of existing and potential economic opportunities that enhance the stability and future of the NCW region.