

NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
(NCWEDD) BOARD and MEMBERSHIP MEETING
September 10, 2014
8:45 - 10:45 AM
Chelan City Hall - 135 Johnson Avenue, Chelan, WA

Karen Rutherford called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Haven, City of Entiat
Steve King, City of Wenatchee
Economic Development Officer
Kurt Danison, Tonasket, etc.
Christine Perry, City of Pateros
Trent Moyers, Pangborn Airport
Craig Larson, Port of Chelan County
Julie Muyllaert, Winthrop Chamber of Commerce
Amy Strong, Twisp Chamber of Commerce
Kyle Desautel, Colville Confederated Tribes
Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Economic Alliance
Harry Raab, City of East Wenatchee

Mark Spurgeon, Port of Douglas
Chris Branch, City of Oroville
Russell Clark, City of Rock Island
Ken Stanton, Douglas County
Wendy Isenhardt, City of Chelan
Carol Cowling, EDD

NCWEDD STAFF

Jennifer Korfiatis

Approval of: EDD July meeting minutes; Plug In North Central Washington July meeting minutes; and Finance Committee meeting minutes - ACTION ITEM -

Motion to approve all minutes made by Mark Spurgeon, seconded by Chris Branch - All approved. Motion passed.

Administrator's Report - Jennifer reported positive fallout from EDD sponsorship of Plug In NCW at the Travel Writer's Conference held in Spokane----three seasoned travel writers have agreed to drive the Cascade Loop highway in electric vehicles and write articles about it. The recent EDD-sponsored PTAC training sessions were warmly appreciated but attendance was light. The sessions are aimed at helping businesses research, find and bid government jobs. If any other entities see a need and would like to sponsor this training, PTAC is eager to continue in North Central Washington.

+ **Makers SpaceCoworking Space effort** - Jennifer and a delegation of EDD members toured two cooperative working spaces, one in Olympia, one in Seattle where individuals can rent a desk by the day, week or month within a shared, open space. "The only walls in the place are around the phone booth," Jennifer said, "for privacy". Users share phone and technical services, like printers, desks and computers. Interviewing sponsors and people using the spaces, these were the takeaways: 1. Run best when run by private entrepreneurs, 2. Population is important. Seattle example has 170 members. 3. Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce new location has open 2nd floor for shared space. After mentioning this tour on KOHO and KOZI, Jennifer wondered what local interest might be and received (3) phone calls asking for

details and wanting the service available here. 4. Maker's Space is a similar concept aimed at entrepreneurial artists. Instead of desks and office space, the Maker's Space is booths filled with tools for woodworking, painting, ceramics, etc. Maximum cost for sharing Maker's Space is \$350/mo. The NWRRegional library is interested in creating a mobile Maker's Space that could be shared by towns and cities in the library system. 5. Benefits of transient office space----helps fill empty buildings and build businesses that will, one day, rent the empty spaces and grow the town's economy. Networking---getting to know others who are in your line of work or who compliment your business. Benefits of Maker's Spaces---creative people can create prototypes and models of their product that they could not do at home. Educational community/artist community/business community---working together builds community.

+Regional Visioning Process - Ongoing conversation with grassroots individuals on their vision for NCW's future. This effort is resident-driven, unlike typically electeds or leaders views.

+Tourism Research - Ongoing - Jennifer has been collecting primary data at regional events like the Omak Stampede: Where are you from? What brought you here? Results will be shared.

+Leadership training - Jennifer has been invited to participate and has accepted.

+Talking Points - Amy Massey, EDD staff, suggested that the EDD's message and monthly news might be distilled into talking points that members can share with their contacts. Members gave the idea warm approval. We will soon be receiving email "talking points" after each meeting from Jennifer and Amy.

+Community Foundation Dinner - Sun Mountain Lodge, October 1&2. \$75. EDD members will be reimbursed by EDD if they attend.

+EDA Grant Update - The EDA capacity grant is a significant portion of EDD annual funding. Last year the sequester, shutdown delays and rapidly changing (sometimes conflicting) application requirements stalled EDD funds and curtailed work. This year, after EDA received "marginal" reviews on its audits, they are examining closely all matching, "in kind" contributions.

Jennifer and Amy mailed NCWEDD's application package of materials to the EDA on time. Weeks passed before they were notified that many of our "in-kind" donations and matching funds, acceptable for years, (milage expenses and time taken to be present at the monthly meetings, for example) are no longer acceptable. In-kind contributions must be "stronger", and the deadline for the revised grant application was August 25th. Jennifer was on vacation.

Jennifer and Karen Rutherford placed a conference call to the EDA to obtain pre-approval of the grant application they were re-submitting. One planned source of private matching funds would be \$20,000 from Plug-In NCW. Not acceptable, said the EDA. The NCWEDD now needed \$75,000 from "private sources" to match.

The City of Wenatchee and the Port of Douglas County responded quickly, showing the value of their time spent on NCWEDD projects. Chelan/Douglas County Trends, Patrick Jones' valuable economic monitoring and feedback site, will be coming to the NCWEDD in another match, planning to soon expand coverage to Okanogan County. Another partner, The Community Foundation of NCW, completed our matching funds. The EDA grant application, now pre-approved, was completed and mailed by the new deadline.

The turmoil takes a toll on our staff and membership. What is the likelihood that the funds will be released any sooner than they were last year?

General discussion of why the feds do not understand the area and distances involved between communities in North Central Washington.

Karen Rutherford suggested that County Commissioner Ken Stanton contact our U.S. Representative Dave Reichert. Commissioner Stanton suggested that we ALL contact Rep. Reichert or David Replogg, his district manager. Craig Larson suggested we contact all 5 federal representatives from the EDD district and that the seemingly irrational EDA behavior may be an attempt to make the process so difficult people drop off and ultimately, save the fed money. EDA, Customs, Border Patrol, USDA, FEMA, all operating as if they want people to give up and drop out, to not get the services the organizations are there to give.

Carol Rawlings reported that the financial course taken by the NCWEDD, after last year's interrupted funding, puts us in better shape to weather another delay, if we have to wait for this year's EDA grant.

+Fire relief efforts - Disaster recovery funding is available - 75% with a 25% match - to
1. Quantify impact to economy/jobs 2. Identify emerging opportunities. 3. Identify resources needed 4. Identify missing links. OSO - \$150K with \$30K local or state match.

The SBA and Okanogan are already looking into this impact, Kyle Desautel, CCT, and Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Economic Alliance, explained. Mark Spurgeon, Port of Douglas County and Christine Perry, City of Pateros are focused on housing, a real need becoming more desperate as winter approaches. July Muylleert, Winthrop Chamber, supports long term recovery.

Amy Stork, Twisp Works, said, "What disaster does is open the doors of opportunity you might otherwise miss." General discussion on resilience-building, broadening the NCW economic base beyond tourism. 100% support of the NCWEDD's involvement in this area.

Over time, collected statistics will tell a different tale than immediately after the disaster. Put people to work rebuilding the community. Identify and contact all groups in all communities. Communicate. Find our strengths for the future.

Some fire-related losses are known: 50% attendance at Omak Stampede (mostly local attendance this year, according to Jennifer's collected data; 1 million dollar loss reported by Sun Mountain Lodge, due to fire.

Presentation - Pangborn Airport - Craig Larson, Trent Moyers

+Currently relocating runway, extending it to accommodate larger carriers.
+Revenues are up 8%, most traffic at airport since 2008. +A small community airport grant is helping fund radio, tv and print ads promoting Pangborn locally. +Most local air travellers are going to Las Vegas---#1 destination. +Wenatchee Valley Shuttle is sometimes a competitor to the airport, driving people from the Wenatchee area to SeaTac, but being viewed as a partner and extension of the service in the Wenatchee/East Wenatchee/Columbia Valley area. +The airport is known locally as "Pangborn Memorial" but outside the area, marketed as the "Wenatchee Airport".
+Quincy is a 3rd regional supporter, recently 12 Pangborn passengers were identified as Yahoo employees, more to come. +Recent marketing study indicates airport is at 20% of its potential. +Additional flights come when existing flights are over 65% full consistently.

2014-15 budget approval - Ken Stanton made the motion to approve the modified budget, Wendy Isenhardt seconded, unanimous vote **APPROVED**.

2014-15 budget resiliency - Carol was asked: How long can we last, if the grants are held up? We are strong, more discretionary income than last year.

Stay on course with modified budget - Mark Spurgeon made the motion, Kurt Danison seconded, unanimous vote - **APPROVED**

Meeting adjourned - Russell Clark made motion, Wendy Isenhardt second **APPROVED**
