

NCW Economic Development District

November 9, 2016 – Membership Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Craig Larsen, Port of Chelan County; Lyle Markhart, City of Wenatchee; Janet Conklin, City of Bridgeport; Stacy Luckensmeyer, Wenatchee Valley College; Jack Anderson, Plug-in NCW; Randy Agnew, Mayor of Rock Island; Keith Soderstrom, Town of Waterville; Kurt Danison, Highlands Associates; Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Economic Alliance; Chris Branch, City of Oroville; Hannah McIntosh, TwispWorks; Ken Stanton, Douglas County; Wendy Isenhardt, Chair, City of Chelan

GUESTS

Randy Brooks, Plug In NCW

9AM – Welcome and Introductions

Chairman's report - Ted Anderson, our USDA Rural Development grant manager, met us at the NCWEDD office on Monday, October 8th. NCWEDD board members Stacy Luckensmeyer, Treasurer and Jack Anderson, who chairs our Plug In NCW committee, joined us. The three of us will be responsible for correct handling of the \$16,500 in USDA grant funds, intended to buy High Amp Level II charging stations for continued building out of EV infrastructure in North Central Washington. Ted Anderson came in person to answer our questions and put us on the road to success. He also wanted to know more about charging stations.

Treasurer's Report - Stacy Luckensmeyer lead the board through NCWEDD finances with a financial statement arranged in categories. Each of our grants and projects, with amounts payable and obligation due dates, were listed separately. Each had a box alongside for us to enter how much we have to raise in match and how much we already have raised. The TOTA contract is our largest deficit. We still owe \$20,000 of the \$30,000 cost in 2017.

Although considerable ad support went into "Drive Curious", the tourism travel guide and social media campaign, advertising dollars went straight to TOTA, without passing through NCWEDD where they could have been counted as match. If we are to continue the TOTA/NCW partnership, we must find donors willing to support the expense. Visitor Centers, Chambers of Commerce, the Tribe and Port Districts have been identified as potential supporters. Wendy and Stacy promised to get the ASK out, as it's budget time.

Consent Agenda - Resolution 16-9-1 to approve the October minutes and November treasurer's report.

Discussion: Chris Branch reports the Oroville Reman and Reload grant has \$2000-\$2500 extra in the \$15,000 grant fee that the NCWEDD will keep. The grant states that NCWEDD's executive director will administer the grant and do a single audit.

Ken Stanton suggested the EDD move today to raise dues so that he can put it in his budget NOW.

Roni Holder-Diefenbach said there was donor fatigue in asking for dues, TOTA donations, C/D Trends and the like separately. Putting all the programs and suggested donations in one letter would be better.

Ken Stanton moved, Janet Conklin seconded motion to approve the consent agenda. Resolution 16-9-1 passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Plug In North Central Washington (PINCW) - Jack Anderson recapped our USDA meeting and explained how charging stations were bringing EV tourism and new economic activity to small towns from the BC boarder to Rock Island. EV drivers want to plug in from 20 minutes to 2 hours and spend that time shopping, sightseeing, or having a bite to eat while their car battery is topping off.

Jack displayed maps of North Central Washington highways showing PINCW's station locales and rationale for choosing places that complete loops, support an 80-mile capacity battery and invite adventurous EV tourists and travelers to explore a bit farther. The USDA grant-funded stations will be Clipper Creek 80-amp Level II chargers that support all current EV models, including the Nissan Leaf and Chevy Volt.

Randy Brooks, a PINCW founding member, explained how charging stations in the PINCW network are monitored quarterly and data collected to inform station hosts and the EDD how many cars were served and what they spent on electricity.

PINCW brokered a deal to cover Chelan PUD's cost of electricity with a "Pledge for Power" campaign. Cascade Motors, where the all-electric Chevy Bolt will debut this spring, will have signage on the chargers at the PUD and pay the annual cost of electricity dispensed.

Chelan/Douglas Trends – Stacy Luckensmeyer Stacy reported we have one more payment to C/D Trends this year, to be made in December. The economic data trends website is constantly researched and updated by Eastern Washington University and fully supported by financial contributions and direction from both counties. The EDD collects the funds and takes care of the costs, including a recent expansion requested by the Alcoa Future and Our Valley, What's Next studies. The EDD provides an independent funding platform for the critical data website.

Community Attributes (CAI) – Kurt Danison The product is good. Kurt reports that the Okanogan Fire Recovery Strategy website is complete save for a few last-minute additions and encouraged members to look at it on their devices. The site is available at www.ncwedd.com. Stakeholders contributed direction, information and funding to the in-depth studies of data trends from the Carlton Complex and 2015-16 Okanogan wildfires. The site is owned by the EDD and stakeholders can choose to continue funding updates as time goes on. Having the latest data and economic trends information can be thought of as critical infrastructure for members involved in making decisions and investing. Kurt and the Committee will do a news release. He believes the site is valuable enough to continue updating and making sure it has a secure funding platform. Either continuing support for the CAI-developed site or choosing Chelan/Douglas Trends to include Okanogan County may be future considerations.

Roni has already used the website at a meeting with medical professionals and they felt it was quite valuable and offered to help with future funding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Hiring an Executive Director - Roni Holder-Diefenbach

Roni asked that members read the current job description and make changes as they see fit. She says the last time we did this, there was discussion of where the person must be located. The WVC office is donated, Stacy says the value is \$10,000 but Michael had notified the EDA he was moving the office to Brewster. Roni thought it was important that the job be advertised across our region and not be limited just to Wenatchee. The pay is a little over \$40,000. The previous ED said that was consistent with what most EDDs pay.

Roni asked for volunteers for the Executive Search committee and asked that members all look over the job description and send any changes or comments to her by next week.

Kurt Danison made a motion to move ahead with advertising for an executive director and, at the same time, revise the 5-page job description. Seconded by Janet Conklin. Resolution 16-9-2 - After the above discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mark Urdahl wants to return to their commissioners today with information as to whether the Port will be asked for an additional donation to the EDD and whether that will be an ongoing expense. All the money is in the process of being distributed. We need to make people aware of what we need immediately or lose the chance to do it this year.

NCWEDD Report – 2016-2017 - Power Point

Wendy presented a draft presentation listing all the work done in Okanogan, Douglas and Chelan by NCWEDD. It's an impressive list of our accomplishments and total economic development impact. Once the show is complete, it will be available to members.

Ken Stanton proposed the presentation be shown to Chelan County Commissioners.

Legal Report – Craig Larsen

Craig reports that the Port of Chelan County is funding a search for an attorney to do a cost analysis and potential recovery action against US Mat Systems. Craig believes that the work could be done by an associate or junior member of a law firm.

Stacy asked that the estimated \$2000 for legal fees be paid to the EDD. We will then pay the legal fee and be able to use the \$2000 as match.

Chelan/Douglas Trends – Stacy Luckensmeyer

Stacy was looking for approval of Resolution 16-9-2, extending the economic data website for six months, until June 30, at an additional cost of \$10,250. The site is valuable and funded.

Resolution 16-9-3 - Ken Stanton moved and Roni Holder-Diefenbach seconded a motion to extend the existing contract with EWU/Chelan/Douglas Trends from January 1 until June 30, 2017.

Resolution 16-9-4 - Craig Larsen moved to raise dues 25% across the board, the first dues increase since the creation of the organization 10 years ago. Kurt Danison seconded the motion. Discussion following emphasized the importance of acting immediately and making sure members are aware there is a presentation available about the successful programs, federal infrastructure grants and dollars generated into North Central Washington thanks to the EDD.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 16-9-5 – Limit payment to TOTA to monies raised for TOTA. Craig Larsen moved to pay TOTA only what can be raised from membership to support the site, seconded by Randy Agnew. Following discussion, Larsen amended the motion to make November's payment of \$10,000 to TOTA from EDD funds, but limit the last payment of \$10,000 to what can be raised in donations. Randy Agnew seconded the amended motion and it passed unanimously.

Yes, we will have a December meeting on the 14th, as we may have Executive Director applications to consider.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Isenhart, Chair NCWEDD

