



## Southwest Washington Economic Development District Meeting

Parker's Restaurant ~ Castle Rock

February 4, 2016 ~ 11:30 AM

### MINUTES

#### Present:

Mike Karnofski, Cowlitz County  
Mike Backman, Wahkiakum County  
Ellen Rose, City of Castle Rock  
Peter Abbarno, City of Centralia  
Bonnie Canaday, City of Centralia  
Adam Smee, City of Kalama  
Rick Roberson, City of Kelso  
Dave Campbell, City of Longview  
Joe Phillips, City of Longview  
Michelle Whitten, City of Toledo  
Richard Swart, Town of Cathlamet  
Randy Mueller, Port of Chehalis

Troy Stariha, Port of Kalama  
Dale Boon, Port of Woodland  
Marcel Goulet, Kalama Chamber  
Bill Marcum, Kelso Longview Chamber  
Ben Thomas, Woodland Chamber  
Scot Walstra, Cowlitz EDC  
Chris Bailey, Lower Columbia College  
Gary Fredricks, WSU Extension, Cowlitz  
Carrie Backman, WSU Extension, Wahkiakum  
Sheila Gray, WSU Extension, Lewis  
Alyssa Joyner, SW WA Workforce Development  
Jeanne Bennett, SW WA Workforce Development

#### Staff:

Bill Fashing, Deborah Johnson, Anisa Kisamore

Guests: Dena Horton, Senator Cantwell's Office; Jacob Macias and Sharon Metiva, Economic Development Administration

Chair Mike Karnofski called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. and everyone introduced themselves.

#### **Approval of October 29, 2015 Minutes**

A motion was made by Bonnie Canaday to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Dave Campbell. Motion carried.

#### **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**

- A. 2016-2017 Update: The CEDS Committee will be meeting to review the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT), and to rewrite the 2016 Strategy. Before the end of June, the new strategy will be completed. A call for projects will be coming soon, so entities should be thinking of projects to submit. If anyone is interested or would like to nominate folks to be on the CEDS Committee, please submit those names to Bill or Deborah soon.
- B. Economic Resilience Workshop: A handout (attached) is within the packet talking about economic resilience. Economic resilience will be hot topic to be included in the CEDS strategy.

#### **EDA Presentation**

Bill introduced Jacob Macias and Sharon Metiva from the Economic Development Administration. Jacob gave background information on the planning grant program and how economic development districts came to be. EDA provides funding for staffing to assist districts in applying for grants to fund projects through the CEDS program. Grant funding is made available to entities within the EDD.

Sharon stated that funding is a challenge. How well the district performs is important as Sharon's office is audited on each district's performance. She further talked about the importance of match requirements. In-kind

match requires more documentation and that those contributing in-kind are documenting their time. It has to be vetted. Cash match is fairly flexible; in-kind match requires constant monitoring.

Jacob further mentioned there is a big push for pre-disaster planning and disaster resiliency.

#### **CEDS Committees**

- A. Housing for Economic Development: Bill and Deborah have had several meetings throughout the counties; but because of Cowlitz EDC, Cowlitz County and the “40 for 2020” project, more work has been devoted to Cowlitz County. Bill referred folks to the handout that is a summary of the “40 for 2020” strategies. Bill and Deborah will be going to Lewis County and Wahkiakum County to conduct a similar workshop with folks.

Bill shared the six strategies outlined in one of the handouts and shared a little about each one and the thoughts behind them.

- B. Farm-Fish-Forest: Deborah stated that there will be three workshops by county for a couple of hours each; save-the-date information will be coming soon.

Legislative tracking information was provided in the packet. Members can email Deborah asking for “live links” to the information. Several bills are under consideration. Deborah highlighted several which members might find of interest.

#### **Director’s Report**

- A. Interlocal Agreement Update: Bill gave a status report on the Interlocal Agreement document. Members received a copy of the latest draft with their packets. Discussions are still taking place with legal counsel from both Lewis and Cowlitz Counties.

#### **Roundtable**

Members shared about the events/activities going on in their jurisdictions.

Grant opportunity for training – \$500,000 available through Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council. Looking for partners. Sector MEG – emergency grant for \$70,000 for training people for the workforce.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

  
Mike Karnofski, Chair