

Southwest Washington Economic Development District

Cowlitz Events Center
1900 7th Avenue SW, Longview, WA
January 31, 2017

Minutes

Present:

Chair (outgoing) Mike Karnofski, Cowlitz County	Mike Wallin, City of Longview
Chair (Incoming) Rick Roberson, City of Kelso	Jeff Wilson, Port of Longview
Vice Chair (Outgoing)	Dena Horton, Senator Cantwell's Office
Vice Chair (Incoming) Mike Backman, Wahkiakum County	Alyssa Joyner, SW WA Workforce
Ellen Rose, City of Castle Rock	Michelle Whitten, City of Toledo
Bonnie Canaday, City of Centralia	Paige Lake, Wahkiakum Chamber
Scot Walstra, Cowlitz EDC	Susan Humbyrd, City of Woodland
Adam Smee, City of Kalama	Dale Boon, Port of Woodland
Erik Yakovich, Port of Kalama	Gary Fredricks, WSU Extension
Bill Marcum, Kelso Longview Chamber	Sheila Gray, Lewis WSU Extension
Joe Phillips, City of Longview	

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) Staff:

Bill Fashing, Rachelle Nugent, Lauren Marshall

1. **Informal networking.**

2. **Welcome & introductions.**

Chairperson Mike Karnofski called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

3. **Approval of minutes October 6, 2016.**

A motion was made by Susan Humbyrd and was seconded, to approve the minutes of October 6, 2016, as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

4. **Election of Officers.**

Mike Karnofski, Rick Roberson, and Jeff Wilson were nominated for chair.

Motion: A motion was made by Adam Smee and seconded, that Rick Roberson serve as Chair. Voting all in favor. Motion passed.

Mike Backman was nominated for Vice Chair.

Motion: A Motion was made by Jeff Wilson and seconded, to have Mike Backman serve as Vice Chair. Voting all in Favor. Motion passed.

5. **Freight Mobility Needs Discussion.**

A representative from each city, county or port informed the group about freight mobility needs specific to their area. Some areas, such as the port of Longview and the port of Kalama have many needs while other areas, including Castle Rock and Toledo, have no current needs.

6. **SWEDD Membership Investment Funding.**

CWCOG Executive Director, Bill Fashing, presented the SWEDD Membership Investment Funding to the group for approval.

Motion: Susan Humbyrd made a motion to approve the SWEDD Membership Investment Funding as presented. The motion was seconded. Discussion. Motion withdrawn.

There was discussion about the funding and it was suggested and agreed upon that the policy be taken back to each entity and voted on at the next meeting.

7. County Economic Development Plans.

Scot Walstra gave an update on the Cowlitz County Economic Plan. He mentioned that the city of Woodland is seeing a lot of growth and there will be an increase in job creation in Kalama and Longview.

Paige Lake updated the group on what is happening in Wahkiakum County. She explained that the chamber is planning to build on its two main events to attract people to the area. She expressed some of the issues the town is having in regards to CenturyLink and out of towners purchasing weekend homes.

Bonnie Canaday communicated to the group that in Lewis County a lot is going on in the ports.

8. Project List Discussion.

Bill Fashing stated to the group that the CEDS call for projects would be happening soon. There was discussion about how to simplify the process of getting a project onto more than one CWCOG list. In response to that discussion, there was a suggestion of having the project list be organized by organization, dollar amount, and project progress.

9. Director's Report.

Bill Fashing asked the group if they preferred the SWEDD meeting over the lunch hour as previously done or in the afternoon. It was the consensus of the group that the SWEDD meetings will be held at 3:00 or 3:30 p.m. on a Tuesday. It was noted that a notice with the next three meeting dates will be sent soon. There was discussion over where to hold future meetings and it was agreed upon that Lewis County and Wahkiakum County should be able to host future meetings.

Bill Fashing stated that he will be travelling to member jurisdictions in order to make informational presentations on the SWEDD and requested that members email him to make arrangements for presentations.

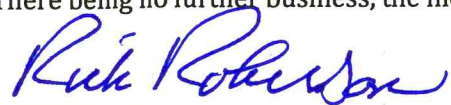
In regards to the CEDS, the meetings will be kept separate from the SWEDD. Bill Fashing invited Cowlitz County ED, Lewis County ED, and Wahkiakum County Chamber to attend.

10. Roundtable.

Members shared events/activities going on in their jurisdictions.

11. Adjourn.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.



Rick Roberson, Chairperson