

## Southwest Washington Economic Development District

Longview City Hall, Second Floor Training Room  
1525 Broadway, Longview, WA  
May 2, 2017

### Minutes

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#### **Present:**

Chair Rick Roberson, City of Kelso	Erik Yakovich, Port of Kalama
Joe Phillips, City of Longview	Jeff Wilson, Port of Longview
Mike Wallin, City of Longview	Dale Boon, Port of Woodland
Adam Smee, City of Kalama	Jackie Lea, Wahkiakum Port District 1
Bill Marcum, Kelso Longview Chamber	Alyssa Joyner, SW WA Workforce
Paige Lake, Wahkiakum Chamber	Chris Bailey, Lower Columbia College
Scot Walstra, Cowlitz EDC	Gary Fredricks, Cowlitz WSU Extension
Troy Stariha, Port of Kalama	Sheila Gray, Lewis WSU Extension
	Carrie Backman, Wahkiakum WSU Extension

#### **Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) Staff:**

Ranya Aboras, Bill Fashing, Lauren Marshall

#### **1. Welcome & introductions.**

Chair Rick Roberson called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Introductions were made.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes.**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Eric Yakovich to approve the January 31, 2017 minutes as presented. Motion was seconded. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### **3. SWEDD Funding.**

The Committee was presented with the Membership Investment Policy. There was lengthy discussion regarding how the funds are managed. The Committee suggested that there be a special session to further discuss the policy. No motions were made at this time and it will be further discussed at the next meeting on June 6, 2017.

#### **4. CEDS Update.**

##### **A. CEDS SWOT Results**

Ranya Aboras, CWCOG Staff, presented the Committee with the consolidated results of the activity that took place at the CEDS meeting on April 3, 2017. She noted that many of the overarching ideas were similar to SWOT analyses completed in previous years.

##### **B. CEDS Project List**

Ranya Aboras stated that there are currently over 30 projects on the list, more than 10 of which are new. Currently, two projects have been omitted and one has been completed.

She noted that she is still accepting new projects until May 15 to be included in the list.

**5. Upcoming Events.**

- A. Building Resilience in Southwest Washington: Perspectives from the Local to Regional Level, May 23, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Ranya Aboras explained that this event will host a speaker from the state and fulfill an EDA requirement. The event will allow members of the community to voice their concerns in terms of resilience.

- B. Quality of Place/Walkability, May 25 and June 23, All day

Ms. Aboras announced to the Committee that this event will be in Woodland and Longview on May 25 and in Castle Rock and Kelso on June 23. She also noted that the June event is still tentative.

- C. Governor's Summit on Career Connected Learning, May 31, 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Ranya Aboras stated that the event will be in Cathlamet.

- D. Community Development Forum, June 27, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Aboras explained that this event will focus on community development and will host speakers from cities who have taken part in community development programs such as Tree City USA and America in Bloom.

**6. Governance Update and Discussion.**

Director Bill Fashing announced that the CWCOG is still waiting for a letter from the Economic Development District (EDA) regarding the boundary modification submitted which would include Wahkiakum county into the economic development district (EDD). He also mentioned that the CWCOG may need to apply for a new district due to problems regarding original approval of the economic development district.

There was lengthy discussion about creating a larger, more diversified EDD versus a smaller, more focused EDD. Many Board members suggested that the SWEDD should be comprised of only Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. It was then proposed to take this suggestion to the COG Board.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Jeff Wilson to recommend to the CWCOG that the SWEDD only include Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. Motion was seconded. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

**7. Director's Report.**

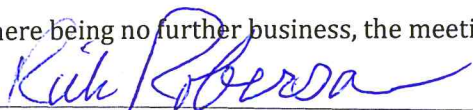
Director Fashing announced to the Committee that Congress has passed a one year budget which does include funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

**8. Roundtable.**

Members shared events/activities happening in their jurisdictions.

**9. Adjourn.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.



Rick Roberson, Chair