

The Economic Alliance
Board Meeting
March 25, 2009

Attending Board Members:

Jim Martin, Chairman	Andy Lampe	Pam Leslie
Hank Raymond, 1st Vice Chair	Bob Risinger	Gail Howe
Coleen Couch, Treasurer	George Brady	Mary Watson
Rich Watson	Keri Nichols	

Absent Board Members:

John Andrist, Past Chairman	Kate Jones	Jerome Thiel
Lael Duncan, 2 nd Vice Chair	Susan Cooksey	Tom Gehring
Nan Kallunki, Secretary	Nespelem/Coulee Dam Area #1 & #2 Vacant	
Michael Blake		

Staff & Guests:

Carolyn Davis, Admin. Assistant	Sheila Corsen, Omak Chronicle
Arnie Marchand, Oroville, LM Energy LLC	Kanee St. Paul, CCT Human Resource Mgr, Gaming Division
Jennifer Korfiatis, NCW Econ. Development Dist.	Kyle Desautel, Colville Tribal Planning Director
Moussa Baba, Labor Economist, Empl. Sec. Dept.	Vicky Minto, NW Justice Project

Chairman, Jim Martin called the meeting to order and introductions were made. The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes: Coleen Couch made a motion to approve minutes from February 25, 2009 meeting as emailed, Pam Leslie seconded. Motion passed

Executive Director Reports:

Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director, was out of town and submitted a written report. (see attachment). Jim Martin followed up with additional information about the recent Incubator Committee meeting. He stated that the Committee discussed that a feasibility study needed to be conducted before moving forward with this project. There is still \$105,000 set aside for the business incubator project, but must be used by the end of 2010. It was questioned if the funds could be used to do a feasibility study. The current study is out of date and the businesses that were previously interested might not be now. It is hoped that a final decision will be made before the end of the year.

Standing Committee Reports:

Treasurers Report: A monthly cash flow was distributed to Board members. Coleen Couch reported that the budget is still inline with projections. We have received a \$10,000 contribution from Kin Ross Gold. This is \$5,000 above the projected revenue. We have also recently sent an invoice to CTEC for a \$5,000 contribution. CTED monies are still up in the air and we don't know yet how much of a cut we will have to take for our ADO funding.

Communication Committee: Jim Martin reported that he is still working on PSAs and hopes to get something out for approval soon. He is looking at success stories and other ideas that were suggested.

Infrastructure Committee: No Report.

Business Education Committee: Mary Watson reported that they are still working on developing classes and training. Millwright Certification classes are still being arranged. A Web Marketing Class with Earth & Sky Studios is being arranged. This is a five-part course on the fundamentals of electronic marketing. Mary also reported that the college has submitted a grant to a private foundation for Entrepreneurial Education, part of which will be virtual.

Guest Speaker:

Moussa Baba, Regional Labor Economist with the Employment Security Department for our area. Baba spoke about how to access the monthly reports. You can go to the web site at www.workforceexplorer.com and click on several options such as Current Employment Situation or Labor Summaries. He explained how the unemployment rates are derived. It was questioned how Tribal Enterprises employment is tracked. It didn't look like the numbers were consistent with what is happening. Historically all Tribal jobs have been under "government", and not under the specific category, such as manufacturing. Baba will try to track this information and get back to us. He stated that some key trends are: (1) government was the best performer followed by wholesale trade, and retail trade; (2) manufacturing shrinking at a fast rate; (3) jobless rate rose by 4.3% over the past 12 months.

Note: Four Board members had to leave early causing a lack of quorum, so no official action can be taken.

Board Business:

Resignation: Bob Risinger has resigned his At-Large #2 position, effective today. John Belcher, High School Principal with the Omak School District, is interested in this position and plans to attend the next meeting.

Vacant Positions: There are still two vacant positions for the Grand Coulee/Nespelem area. Kyle Desautel and Kanee St. Paul are both interested in these positions.

Employee Handbook: A draft handbook was emailed to Board members, prior to the meeting. Jim Martin asked that anyone with comments to send them to the office as soon as possible.

Code of Ethics: A couple of Board members still has not signed these forms and were encouraged to do so. Carolyn Davis has the forms if you need another one.

Old Business:

2009 Workplan Development: A refined copy of the 2009 plan was emailed out and also distributed during the meeting. Jim Martin encouraged everyone to get their comments back to the Economic Alliance office as soon as possible. (see attached draft plan)

New Business:

Jennifer Korfiatis, coordinator for the Economic Development District, spoke about a special presentation at the next EDD meeting, April 8; they will have a representative from the Washington Manufacturing Services speak about a program called Washington Grows.

Vicki Minto, NW Justice Project, stated that there was a 34% increase in tax returns prepared. There is a need for additional volunteers for the Nespelem area and she encouraged anyone with an interest to contact her at 509 422-2345 or vickym@nwjustice.org.

Meeting Adjourned 12:35 p.m.

Next Meeting April 22, 2009 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Koala Street Grill.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Davis, Administrative Assistant

August 26, 2009

Executive Director Report
March 2009

- Infrastructure Committee
Received updates from selected projects on where they are currently. Nan will have contracts/agreements in place in the next couple of weeks. She will also provide us with an updated spreadsheet that will keep us informed on .09 funding.
- Incubator Committee
Committee decided to pursue updated feasibility study to determine viability of project. Also asked the City of Omak and EA to look into the possible ramifications of not moving forward.

Meetings Attended In March

- North Central Washington EDD & RC&D meeting in Chelan.
- Via 97 Washington State mtg.
- CTED Foreign Trade Export Seminar
- Foreign/Free Trade Zone meeting, Oroville WA (International)
We will reconvene at the normally scheduled VIA 97 International meeting to be held on April 3rd 1-3 at the Oroville City Hall.
- Northwest Native Development Fund (Tribal CDFI)

During the month of March I have been finishing up on the Employee Handbook, newsletter and updating the 2009 Workplan that I hope you all will adopt at this meeting. I have also been following up with the upcoming educational opportunities for our area and have contact local chambers about the possibility of partnering with the EA so we can host trainings in the different communities within the county. At this time we have many opportunities for collaborating and working with our partner organizations to assist Okanogan County and the business community in expansion and growth opportunities.

I would like to encourage anyone with questions regarding the Economic Alliance to contact me at 826-5107.

2009

The Economic Alliance

PLAN OF WORK

Board Chairman

DATE

Executive Director

DATE

The Economic Alliance verifies that this FY 2009 Plan addresses the Boards Priorities.

VISION

The Economic Alliance envisions the citizens and communities of Okanogan County working together to bring prosperity to all.

THE MISSION

Form partnerships with Private, Government, and Tribal entities that will create an environment to nurture and support business and industry through:

- *Gradual and controlled growth with proper planning, which protects the environment and rural atmosphere.*
- *Families and communities built on strong values and positive self-image of the individual.*
- *High quality public services provided at a reasonable cost.*
- *Respect for the diversity of cultural and recreational opportunities that abound in our regions.*

	GOAL A:	Develop streamlined process to allocate .09 funds to Okanogan County			Target Date	Key People	Accom.
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES					
Economic Development	A1						
		1	Review and evaluate the application process and update as needed to reflect current RCW changes and updated county resolutions.	Ongoing	Ex committee, Infrastructure committee and EA staff.		
		2	Schedule ongoing meetings with County Administration to review fund balance, and current allocations.	Ongoing	EA Staff, County Administration		
		3	Conduct RFP process and recommend to County Commissioners projects annually.	Ongoing	Ex committee, Infrastructure committee and EA staff.		
	GOAL B	Business and Solicitation			Target Date	Key People	Accom.
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES					
Business Development	B1						
		1	Create new jobs and retain existing jobs	Ongoing	EA Staff, SBDC		
		2	Develop a quarterly newsletter that will be posted on our website and emailed to the Cities and chambers.	Quarterly	EA Staff		
		3	Facilitate (2-3) workshops, forums or informational meetings with organizations and individuals knowledgeable in tax incentives, business plan updates, etc. in order to educate and inform members on the need for ongoing planning to meet the business needs in our community. Assist in facilitation of County or regional summits on Economic Development, Renewable energy, or industry specific trainings.	12/09	Business Education Committee and EA Staff.		
		4	Communicate with Okanogan County municipalities and local chambers to update the business community on	Ongoing	EA Staff, Executive		

			what the Economic Alliance is doing and how our organization is a benefit to our county.		Committee	
		5	Promote minority business development and training opportunities.	Ongoing	EA Staff, Business Education Committee, SBDC	
	GOAL C	PARTICIPATE AT ALL LEVELS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO ENHANCE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF OKANOGAN COUNTY		Target Date	Key People	Accom.
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES				
Community Development	C1	Collaborate with existing and new organizations who currently promote community development in Okanogan County.				
		1	Continue to sit on the North Central Washington Workforce Development Council and the CCT Employment and Training Department which will assist the EA in knowing the resources for workforce development in our county and the Colville Reservation.	12/09	EA Staff	
		2	Collaborate with community partners as needed in regards to transportation, affordable housing and workforce training through building partnerships and offering the EA support.	12/09	EA Staff	

	GOAL D	GUARANTEE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH CONCERTED EFFORTS IN RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		Target Date	Key People	Accom.
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES				
Community Development	D1	Work with entities that have the ability to effect change in community development of the region.				
		1	Attend at least (6) meetings with the North Central Washington Economic Development District (NCWEDD) to discover high priority natural resource projects from the region that could fit better as RC&D projects and to maintain good partnerships.	12/09	EA Staff	

		2	Meet with the VIA 97 International Alliance to promote VIA97 for tourism leading to increased opportunities for agri-tourism crops, thus preventing loss of agricultural lands to development pressures.	12/09	EA Staff	
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	GOAL E	DETERMINE IF A BUSINESS INCUBATOR WILL BE A VIABLE RESOURCE FOR OKANOGAN COUNTY ENTREPRENEURS		Target Date	Key People	Accom.
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES				
Community Development	D1	Conduct an updated feasibility study to determine the viability of a business incubator.				
		1	Apply for funding to assist us in conducting the feasibility study.	12/09	EA Staff	
		2	Identify an independent contractor who will conduct the study.	12/09	EA Staff	
		3	Work with the City of Omak and the incubator committee on HUD funding ramifications for the land EA has purchased for the project.	12/09	EA Staff, Incubator Committee	
		4	Determine whether or not to pursue the project, and make a final recommendation to the full board.	12/09	EA Staff, Incubator Committee, Executive Committee	

FY 2008 Meeting Dates
 Koala Street Grill, 11am -1
 4nd Wednesday of each Month
Annual Meeting –December Meeting