

The Economic Alliance
Board Meeting
April 22, 2009

Attending Board Members:

Jim Martin, Chairman
Hank Raymond, 1st Vice Chair
Coleen Couch, Treasurer
Rich Watson

Mary Watson
Gail Howe

Absent Board Members:

John Andrist, Past Chairman
Lael Duncan, 2nd Vice Chair
Nan Kallunki, Secretary
Michael Blake
Nespelem/Coulee Dam Area #1 & #2 Vacant

Kate Jones
Susan Cooksey
Andy Lampe
George Brady

Jerome Thiel
Tom Gehring
Pam Leslie
Kary Nichols

Staff & Guests:

Carolyn Davis, Admin. Assistant
Kanie St. Paul, CCT HR Mgr, Gaming Division
Vicky Minto, NW Justice Project
Connie Madden, NV Hospital

Sheila Corsen, Omak Chronicle
Kyle Desautel, Colville Tribal Planning Director
John Belcher, Principal Omak High School
Chris Branch, Infrastructure Ct. Chair/Oroville Planner

Chairman, Jim Martin called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: No quorum was established.

Because of the lack of a quorum, Chairman Jim Martin suggested moving the guest speaker to the first portion of the agenda to give time for additional Board members to show.

Guest Speaker:

Kanie St. Paul, CCT Human Resource Mgr, Gaming Division, spoke about a grant that the Tribe has received to develop an Industry Skills Panel (ISP). With funding from the Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, they are addressing Recreation & Tourism jobs. He has found that the Casinos are always looking for good employees. They find themselves recycling employees that are under skilled. The Tribe used to be dependent on lumber products, but have branched out to tourism/recreation industry and need good supervisors/managers. An ISP is a partnership of employers within a single industry that come together with public sector entities in order to identify and address common and persistent workforce challenges. An ISP is a forum for collaboration that is driven by employers' needs to remain competitive. The Tribe wants to collaborate with other organizations to provide customer service training. Mr. St. Paul stated that the grant has funds that could cover the costs for the WVC to provide this training at no-cost or minimal cost. Discussed other programs that could fit into the scope of an ISP, such as a speaker's panel or something similar to the PUD's lineman training program. It was suggested that kids need to be involved. Need to understand what customers are looking for, not what is convenient for owner.

Board Business:

Vacant Positions: John Belcher, Omak High School Principal is still interested in the vacant At-Large #2 position. There are still two vacant positions for the Grand Coulee/Nespelem area. Kyle Desautel and Kanie St. Paul are both interested in these positions.

Employee Handbook: Due to the lack of a quorum, this will hopefully be adopted at the next meeting.

Check Signing Authority: Because of the change of officers, a new signature card to be filled out at the bank needs, but will have to wait until a quorum is established to approve this action.

Executive Director Evaluation: Jim Martin spoke about the recent evaluation of the Executive Director by the Executive Committee. A written evaluation will be placed in Roni Holder-Diefenbach's personnel file.

Old Business:

2009 Workplan Development: A refined copy of the 2009 plan was distributed via email and at the last Board meeting. Comments are to be sent to the Executive Director and hopefully this can be adopted at the next Board meeting.

Executive Director Reports:

Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director, spoke about current activities. She recently sent out a newsletter. She asked for information from various organizations and was able to include article from the NCW Business Loan Fund, as well as information about a Microsoft program, the Northwest Native Development Fund, and pictures from a couple of the projects funded through the Public Facility Fund. Roni spoke about the Workforce Development Council receiving economic stimulus funds and collaborating on common development/economic development projects, such as the Nursing Program at WVC at Omak. The Economic Alliance has partnered with the local Worksource office on the recent Job Fair. The Economic Alliance also is a partner with them on training programs and individuals interested in the computer training programs can get a discount if they contact the office.

A VIA 97 International Alliance will hold a meeting in Pateros on Friday (May 1) and will continue discussion on the possibility of a Foreign Trade Zone. There is also some training for Nonprofit Board members (2009 Summit) in Chelan on May 11. This training will speak about board roles & responsibilities, fundraising, recruiting and motivating volunteers. Roni stated that if three Board members attend, the Economic Alliance would be eligible for a \$5,000 grant to be awarded at the networking reception.

The Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA) will be holding its Spring Conference in Chelan on June 4 & 5 and the Washington State Economic Development Commission will meet at the Koala Street Grill in Omak on June 1, 1 – 4 pm. There is also a meeting at the Wenatchee City Hall on May 8, sponsored by the E-3 group, to talk about how the 2010 Olympic will affect us.

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. Web site advertising income is down and if anyone would like to have their logo/link on the Economic Alliance web site, please contact the office.

Communication Committee: No Report.

Infrastructure Committee: Chris Branch, Committee Chairman, stated that he and Roni plan to meet after today's meeting to talk about where we are and what there is to do next.

Business Education Committee: No Report

New Business: Connie Madden stated that the North Valley Hospital was turned down for a CDBG grant and the other grant was contingent on the CDBG grant. They are still looking for funds to finish the building project.

Meeting adjourned 1:05 p.m.

Next Meeting May 27, 2009 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Koala Street Grill. Please mark your calendars!

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Davis, Administrative Assistant