

The Economic Alliance
Board Meeting
June 24, 2009

Attending Board Members:

Jim Martin, Chairman
Andy Lampe

Rich Watson
Gail Howe

Absent Board Members:

John Andrist, Past Chairman
Hank Raymond, 1st Vice Chair
Lael Duncan, 2nd Vice Chair
Nan Kallunki, Secretary
Coleen Couch, Treasurer
Nespelem/Coulee Dam Area #1 & #2 Vacant

Jerome Thiel
Mary Watson
George Brady
Michael Blake
Tom Gehring

Pam Leslie
Kary Nichols
Kate Jones
Susan Cooksey

Staff & Guests:

Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director
Carolyn Davis, Admin. Assistant
Arnie Marchand, LM Energy
Raleigh Chinn, OCTC

Ralph Malone, City of Omak
Bill Ekstrom, Marketing Manager, CTEC
Michelle Campobasso, Public Relations & Marketing, CTEC

Chairman, Jim Martin called the meeting to order and introductions were made. A quorum was not established, so this will be an informational meeting only.

Approval of Minutes: Deferred until next meeting.

Board Business:

Vacant Positions: There are still two vacant positions for the Grand Coulee/Nespelem area. Arnie Marchand has been speaking with several people in the area and is working on getting at least one of these positions filled.

Jim Martin spoke about skipping July's Board meeting, but felt it was necessary to continue in August. He felt that during the summer months everyone is extremely busy and it was hard to get a quorum for meetings. He also suggested that we not have a Board meeting in December and advance November's meeting up a week because of a conflict with Thanksgiving. This meeting in November would be our annual meeting. He requested feedback from those present. He felt that we needed to have our August meeting to appoint a nominating committee, who would then report back to the Board in September on vacant positions, as well as officers. Members and officers are then elected at the November meeting. It was the consensus of those present to not have a July Board meeting and move November's meeting up a week and have no meeting in December. Those Board members that were not able to attend today's meeting, should give Jim Martin a call or send him an email if they have any problems with this schedule. Jim Martin also stated that he will be speaking with various Board members about serving on the Nominating Committee.

Guest Speaker: Bill Ekstrom, Colville Tribal Enterprise Corporation (CTEC) Marketing Manager and Michelle Campobasso, Public Relations & Marketing with CTEC presented a power point presentation about CTEC. CTEC was founded in 1984 as the business arm of the Colville Confederated Tribes. CCT has more than 9,000 members is growing at about 3% a year and about half live on the reservation.

CTEC operates with a five member Board of Directors appointed by the Tribal Council. CTEC has 16 diverse enterprises in forest products, gaming, construction, and small businesses. They employ 800

people and have a payroll of \$36 million and support 1,000 vendors. CTEC recently began construction on its new transitional sprung structure in Manson. This facility is approximately 36,000 sq. ft. structure. The casino will employ close to 200 people and will generate approximately \$20 million in revenues within its first year of operations. CTEC's own construction company, Colville Tribal Service Corporation was hired to do the site development work. The project cost is approximately \$7.4 million. Eighty percent of gaming profits are distributed to the Colville Tribal government which provides services to its members.

The Tribe is entering into a joint venture with Graham Ventures. Colville-Graham Ventures, LLC, when finalized will be the largest Title 10 Company in the World. This ramping up in the construction area will help continue to diversify CTEC enterprises. The entire Power Point slide show is available at the Economic Alliance web site at www.economic-alliance.com under success stories.

Executive Director Reports:

Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director, reported that June started off as a very busy month. There were three very important meetings

- Washington Economic Development Commission
- 8A & Government Contracting Meeting
- North Central Washington EDD & RC&D meeting in Chelan
- Washington Economic Development Association in Chelan

All of these meetings were well attended and the information provided was extremely valuable for our business community and the county as a whole. Senator Morton, Representative Short and Jessica Buchert (Aide to Representative Kretz) attended the Washington Economic Development Commission meeting. This was a great opportunity for our local representatives to hear about current Okanogan County projects and what is going on within the business community.

Also in June, we received word from CTED that our ADO contract will be renewed effective July 1, 2009 for \$115,468.00 for the biennium, which is down a total of \$13,750 from our current contract. Roni stated that she and Carolyn are in the process of updating the Economic Alliance goals and deliverables in order to return to CTED so that contracts can be out and in our hands by July 31st.

Roni reported that on July 7 & 8, CTED will be hosting a Commerce Connections Meeting with new Director Rogers Weed. We have been assisting them in identifying businesses and economic development partners who should be invited.

The Economic Alliance has also been assisting CTEC with their Industry Skills Panel project and will be co-hosting a Recreation and Tourism Forum on June 30, 2009 at 5:30 at the Best Western Peppertree. This is a great partnership as we currently work with businesses within this industry and have access to the resources that will assist CTEC in completing this contract.

Standing Committee Reports:

Treasurers Report: A monthly cash flow was distributed to Board members. We now have an agreement with the Okanogan County PUD for \$6,000 and have provided them with a report for the first half of the year and received half of the payment.

Communication Committee: No Report.

Infrastructure Committee: No Report.

Business Education Committee: No Report.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Rich Watson reported that he met with Rogers Weed and was encouraged that he is making the statewide outreach effort that will be critical to designing the agency's economic development plan. Rich also reported that he is excited to have Roni Holder-Diefenbach as the newest Board member for the NCW Business Loan Fund. The Loan Fund is also hiring another employee, Spenser Lence. Mr. Lence will be the Lending Officer for the Loan Fund and will start work on July 1.

Raleigh Chinn mentioned that Clint Campbell, with the state Tourism Commission, is interested in gathering information about Okanogan County. It was suggested that Mr. Chinn invite Mr. Campbell to a Board meeting and also to the upcoming tourism forum on June 30.

Meeting adjourned 12:35 p.m.

Next Meeting August 26, 2009 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Koala Street Grill. Please mark your calendars!

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Davis, Administrative Assistant