

The Economic Alliance
Board Meeting
January 28, 2009

Attending Board Members:

Jim Martin, Chairman
John Andrist, Past Chairman
Bob Risinger, Treasurer
Lael Duncan, 2nd Vice Chair
Pam Leslie, Secretary

Andy Lampe
Tom Gehring
George Brady
Kary Nichols
Rich Watson

Gail Howe
Nan Kallunki
Coleen Couch
Michael Blake
Mary Watson

Absent Board Members:

Hank Raymond, 1st Vice Chair
Nespelem/Coulee Dam Area #1 & #2 Vacant

Jerome Thiel
Susan Cooksey

Kate Jones

Staff & Guests:

Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director
Carolyn Davis, Admin. Assistant
Jamie Myxter, Omak Chamber
Arnie Marchand, Oroville
Roger Harnack, Omak Chronicle
Meg Donahue, Twisp PDA

Craig Carroll, WorkSource
Ralph Malone, Omak City Admin.
Sheila Corsen, Omak Chronicle
Kevin Diefenbach, Kruse Electric, Omak
Roger Bauer, Okanogan Behavioral Health Care
John Belcher, Principal Omak High School

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

Approval of Minutes: Michael Blake made a motion to approve minutes from October 22, 2008 with the change of date for next meeting to Nov. 19th instead of 18th and the minutes from the November 19, 2008 meeting as emailed, Bob Risinger seconded. Motion passed

Guest Speaker: Roger Bauer with the Okanogan Behavioral Health Care spoke about their plans for building a Supportive Therapeutic Housing facility next to the current facility. They have received funding for this project from several different sources. This is a \$3 million project adjacent to the current facility. It will be a competitive bidding process and will be an 11,500 sq. ft. building and will take approximately 6 – 8 months to complete. The new facility will address a critical housing need of individuals in Okanogan County. It will provide short term emergency housing and permanent housing to homeless individuals. They anticipate building 16 emergency shelter beds and eight permanent supportive housing apartments. It is expected that this project will serve an estimated 72 individuals per year. 75 % of the residents will be involved in either drug court or mental court. It is hoped that by aiding residents with mental illness, chemical dependency, or those in recovery with housing and supportive services, they will address the cycle of homelessness and prepare people for a successful re-entry into the community. Staffing requirement for this facility is anticipated at 3.5 permanent positions. As part of their 10 year plan they are looking at transitional housing for the development disabled. The Okanogan Behavioral Health Care facility is facing budget cuts this year and is considering layoffs primarily with administrative staff, so of which may be hired for the new facility.

Executive Director Reports:

Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director, reported that she has applied for a couple of grants. The Micro Enterprise Grant was turned down. This was to help fund training and educational opportunities

for businesses. The other was a joint application with the Okanogan Conservation District to USDA. This was for the Okanogan Grown Project and update the current Small Business Incubator study. Haven't heard back from USDA yet on this grant.

On February 6 she will be in Oroville for the VIA 97 meeting and following the meeting will be meeting with a representative of the Cascade & Columbia River Railroad to look at industrial property along the railroad. They are interested in helping to advertise industrial property and warehouses along the railroad.

Roni reported that she reviewed the contract with Lew Blakeney to provide small business counseling through the Small Business Development Center contract with WSU. Some changes were made and redefined what the Economic Alliance will pay for and both Roni and Lew have signed the contract.

The Incubator Committee will be reconvened soon to get an update on this project and discuss funding opportunities.

Roni reported that she met with the college and CTEC to discuss training for laid off mill workers. She will continue to work with them and WorkSource to help get a program in place.

Roni spoke about the legal name of the Economic Alliance (Alliance 2005) being a problem when applying for grants. She questioned if there was any reason that we have not changed rather than doing a DBA. It was suggested that we research this and the problems with changing with IRS and the 501(c)3 status and come back with a plan of strategy at the next meeting.

Standing Committee Reports:

Treasurers Report: A monthly cash flow was distributed to Board members. Bob Risinger reported that the budget looks better than it has in the past. We are not trying to balance the budget with fund raisers. The existing line of credit will be paid off this month. With the contribution from the county, the 2009 budget looks positive. He felt that the work of this Board is more important than ever in light of the downturn in the economy.

Communication Committee: John Andrist reported that the committee has not met. Jim reported that the old public service announcements are still being played and asked for suggestions for topics for new PSAs. It was felt that we need to keep the community informed that the Economic Alliance is here to help and talk about the services that are provided through the Economic Alliance. It was suggested that we might have a testimony from some of the businesses that have been assisted. It was also suggested that we need to be positive in our announcements. The Economic Alliance's connection with the Tourism Council, SBDC, EDD, CCT should all be mentioned in the PSAs.

Infrastructure Committee: Roni Holder-Diefenbach reported that committee chairman will send out a notice to have a meeting within the next month. He would like to get an update on the current projects that were funded and review the process and how it went.

Business Education Committee: Mary Watson stated that the committee met prior to today's Board meeting and discussed possible training. Roni Holder-Diefenbach reported that Dept. of Labor & Industries wants to come back to the county to do additional training. She has also spoken with Steward Walton with Washington Cash, a non-profit organization, who wants to do some outreach and is willing to come to Okanogan County. They have a program -- "Be a Survivor in Today's Tough Economy" -- that they are willing to provide. She felt this was an excellent opportunity. It was

suggested that we try to get a class on collection of taxes based on the point of sales with the Department of Revenue.

Board Business:

Nominating Committee:

- Election of Board Members – John Andrist made a motion to elect the following for another three year term. Lael Duncan seconded. Motion passed.
 - Kate Jones, Arts Comm. Rep.
 - Robert Risinger, At Large #2
 - Michael Blake, City Rep. #1
 - Pam Leslie, North County #2
 - Jerome Thiel, Methow Valley #2
 - George Brady, South County #1

- Election of Officers – The following has been presented as the 2009 slate of officers. Jim Martin asked for any additional nominations from the floor. There were none. Mary Watson made a motion and Rich Watson seconded to elect the following officers. Motion passed.
Jim Martin, Chairman
Hank Raymond, 1st Vice Chairman
Lael Duncan, 2nd Vice Chairman
Nan Kallunki, Secretary
Bob Risinger, Treasurer
John Andrist, Past Chairman

- Adopt 2009 Budget – The 2009 budget was presented and Bob Risinger made a motion to adopt the budget with the change of removing the income and expenses for the Micro Enterprise Grant. John Andrist seconded. Motion passed. (see attached budget)

- Ratify Project Prioritization List & Public Facility Funding – The recommendation from the Infrastructure Committee was reviewed.
Prioritization of projects is as follows:
 - #1 Stampede Arena Redevelopment, City of Omak
 - #2 Forest Service Complex Purchase, Twisp PDA
 - #3 Glover Street Project, Town of Twisp
 - #4 Downtown Street Lighting Project, Town of Winthrop

The committee also further recommended funding from the Public Facility Fund for the following: Stampede Arena Redevelopment, City of Omak -- \$20,000 for 14 yrs & recommend to commissioners that they commit \$20,000 from the County's share of the Public Facility Fund for same time frame. South Glover Street Project, Town of Twisp -- \$65,000. Downtown Street Lighting Project, Town of Winthrop -- \$35,000 for the barn service area. The committee also recommends that they consider allowing the Economic Alliance the opportunity to reallocate unused and unallocated funds from the Public Facility Fund for the Downtown Street Lighting Project in Winthrop. Lael Duncan made a motion to approve the Infrastructure Committee prioritized list and recommendations. Coleen Couch seconded. Motion passed.

- Code of Ethics – Roni Holder-Diefenbach stated that with new changes with the IRS governing non profit organizations we need to have all Board members sign and return the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest statements that have been distributed.

- Record Management – Jim Martin spoke about the possibility of having a financial audit of organization. Currently the Economic Alliance has not been required to have a full financial audit since none of our contracts have required it. If we received funds over a certain level we may be required to have an audit.

Old Business:

Lack of Attendance – Jim Martin spoke about the lack of attendance at meetings. Our current Bylaws state:

Article IV, Section 7. Directors Absences -- Should any Director be absent unreasonably from three consecutive Board meetings without sending a communication to one of the officers of the Corporation stating the reason for the absence or if the Board does not accept the reasons, that person's seat may be declared vacant.

Jim Martin requested Board members to please call an officer or the office if you are not able to attend a meeting.

New Business:

2009 Workplan Development: Jim Martin stated that work on the 2009 workplan is underway and would like comments from Board members. It was suggested that we send out the current workplan with what was accomplished. Jim Martin stated that he hoped to have something back to the Board by the March meeting.

Discussion:

John Belcher, Principal of the Omak High School, spoke about tracking enrollment trends and the ways that the school district is looking at collaborating with others. He stated that they are looking for ways to increase enrollment and what a rural school can offer students to help roll them into the economy.

Ralph Malone stated that he attended a meeting with the President of the Wenatchee Valley College. He discussed why they had to take cuts in the budget and why they may eliminate the nursing program at the Omak campus. Ralph encouraged the Economic Alliance to write a letter of support for the nursing program. Also elimination of the dean position at the local level has been a major problem. The college needs to look at the future not just at the current situation or funding crisis.

Meeting Adjourned 12:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 25, 2009 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Koala Street Grill.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Davis, Administrative Assistant

ECONOMIC ALLIANCE BUDGET

REVENUES	2008	2009
	Actual	Projection
CONTRIBUTION, OKANOGAN COUNTY	40,000	100,000
CONTRIBUTION, BUSINESS & INDIVIDUAL	350	500
CONTRIBUTION, CITY	13,454	-
CONTRIBUTION, CTEC	5,000	5,000
CONTRIBUTION, Ok. County PUD	6,000	6,000
CONTRIBUTION, KINROSS GOLD	10,000	5,000
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC)	24,093	24,260
CTED - WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (ADO)	64,989	64,609
LINE OF CREDIT- North Cascades Nat'l Bank	-	-
MISC. INCOME (Workshops, Fund Raising)	6,732	6,000
MLISC. INCOME (NWAH Horizons)	5,000	-
MISC. INCOME (Comprehensive Plan)	3,000	-
WEB SITE ADVERTISING	750	1,000
OKANOGAN COUNTY TOURISM COUNCIL	16,520	15,000
TOTAL REVENUES	195,888	227,369
CARRYOVER	1,720	6,846
TOTAL	197,608	234,215
EXPENDITURES		
Wages (gross)	94,663	99,012
SBDC Counselor & Travel	22,254	21,600
Payroll Taxes Payable	8,831	10,000
Advertising / Marketing	19	400
Bank Fee/Bank Line of Credit Pymt	4,650	400
Contractual	500	528
Equipment	2,442	2,220
Insurance(Health)	26,132	28,020
Insurance (D&O & Liability)	2,307	2,310
Internet Access/WebSite Design & Maintenance	552	480
Legal/Professional	480	500
Licenses	10	10
Membership & Dues	650	800
Misc. (NWAH - Horizons Workshops)	1,672	8,000
Misc. (hosting & workshops & golf)	4,697	5,000
Office Supplies	2,091	1,980
Postage	1,078	1,200
Rent	7,537	7,500
Subscription/Publications	283	355
Telephone	2,398	2,520
Training/Conf. Fees	1,405	1,500
Travel - Lodging	994	1,340
Travel - Meals	503	1,300
Travel - Mileage	3,905	3,600
Utilities	708	900
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	190,761	201,475
CASH POSITION	6,847	32,740