

The Economic Alliance
Board Meeting
January 22, 2014
Koala Street Grill, Omak

Attending Board Members:

Kyle Desautel, Chairman, CCT Planner
Nan Kallunki, 1st Vice Chairman, Ok. Co. Admin Srv Director
Coleen Couch, Treasurer, Mgr. Sterling Saving
Amanda Jackson-Mott, Secretary
Lael Duncan, OCCAC
Rich Watson, NCW Business Loan Fund
Debbie Atuk, Colville Tribal Federal Corp.
Jenny Holcomb, No. Cascades Broadcasting (alternate for J. Andrist)

Arnie Marchand, Oroville VIC
George Brady, Cascade Biological Supply, Pateros
Chris Branch, OCTC Rep.
Kurt Danison, City Planner
Alison Gillette, Twisp Works
Dr. Erik Swanson, Omak School Superintendent
Mary Watson, WVC

Absent Board Members:

Melanie Wyss, Gebbers Farm
Sheilah Kennedy, County Commissioner
Ted Piccolo, Image Communications

City Representative #2 -- Vacant
Nespelem/Coulee Dam Position #2 – Vacant
Methow Valley #2 -- Vacant

Staff & Guests:

Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director
Carolyn Davis, Admin. Assistant
Nancy Nash, WorkSource
David Gottula, Okanogan Electric Co-op

Dee Camp, Omak Chronicle
Stacy Luckensmeyer, WVC
Janet Wilson, Okanogan City Council
Marco Pecak, America Corp Volunteer w/CCT

Chairman, Kyle Desautel, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Lael Duncan made a motion to approve the minutes from December 4, 2013. Coleen Couch seconded. Motion passed.

Guest Speaker

Chris Johnson, President for the Wenatchee Valley College at Omak Foundation was unable to attend today's meeting, so Arnie Marchand a Board member for the Foundation spoke provided us with an update. The WVC at Omak Foundation distributes scholarships to local students and also gas cards for students. They would like to have more participation on this Board and they need to do more to make the public aware of the Foundation. They are currently holding meetings to gather information from the public about what they can do to become more visible. Roni Holder-Diefenbach stated that she has attended two meetings with the Board and felt that they needed to share their successes, as well as focus on contacting the Alumni to get their support. In the past they have helped to extend the campus in Omak and are currently looking at purchasing an additional building for the local campus.

Executive Director Report

Roni Holder-Diefenbach distributed a report for December (see attachment #1) Roni Holder-Diefenbach reported that she has made copies of the flyer for the upcoming Job Fair (available on back table), scheduled for February 27, at the Omak Community Center.

She also welcomed new Board members and reported that she has been working on filling the vacant positions. She reported that we have been closing out 2013 contracts with the county, SBDC, and the PUD and hope to have new contracts in place for 2014. Roni Holder-Diefenbach explained the mix up in trying to schedule a workshop for the Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises – “Get Certified”. The new Department of Commerce contract focuses on business retention and expansion

and the Economic Alliance will be doing a ½ page ad in the Omak Chronicle to promote this and also the database for vacant industrial and commercial property. Amanda Jackson-Mott asked about the idea of putting signs in the windows of vacant building to have people that are interested to contact the Economic Alliance. She suggested that we send that sign out to Board members. Roni Holder-Diefenbach also reported that she is working with Okanogan County Community Action Council's Vista volunteer to develop a four page information sheet about Okanogan County. This could be use to help recruit new businesses to the area. She also suggested that once complete it could be used as a model to develop a sheet for each of the cities. She is also in the process of developing a survey to be sent out to businesses to gather information about their needs for 2014. What would the businesses like to see for training opportunities? Roni Holder-Diefenbach also reported that she met with Don Meseck, Labor Economist with Employment Security and they talked about the Tribes jobs being included under government. Mr. Meseck also shared that the hospitals are also included in government employment. She also shared that the Tribes architectural plans for the new casino are about 70% completed and it will move quickly once the ground is ready. This will also have an 80 room hotel and will create about 350 jobs.

Board Business

The 2014 budget was presented (see attachment #2). Roni Holder-Diefenbach reported that we should receive a contribution from the Tribe this year and the PUD contract is for \$6,000 per year, but the second quarter billing didn't get sent out until the first part of January, so funds for 2013 were received in 2014. It was questioned if the funds from the county were secure for the next few years. Discussion on the use of the Public Facility Fund (.09) and restrictions and that we need to make it clear to the county that there is value of the Economic Alliance and they need to consult with the cities on the use of these funds. There also should not be any change to the legislation without consultation with the cities. Most of the retail sales tax is generated within the city limits. The county is always looking for funding, but these funds are for economic development. Lael Duncan made a motion to accept the 2014 budget as presented. Kurt Danison seconded. Motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Treasurers Report: Coleen Couch reported that we closed out 2013 with a healthy carryover and projects a good carryover at the end of 2014. She stated that employees have done a great job of keeping within the budget.

Communication Committee: No report.

Infrastructure Committee: Chris Branch reported that this committee will try to have a meeting soon.

Business Education Committee: Roni Holder-Diefenbach spoke about upcoming training and it hoped to have a small business startup workshop sometime in late February. She stated that the survey will help determine what type of training is needed.

Old Business

None

New Business

Lael Duncan stated that the Community Action received a grant and will be doing home repairs for senior citizens in the city of Okanogan at the end of June. Call 509 422-4041 if you know of someone that is eligible.

Roni Holder-Diefenbach reported that the Economic Alliance will again sponsor the Okanogan-Omak Business Week and she will also be an advisor for this week-long program.

Rich Watson reported that the Business Loan Fund has applied for a grant to offer entrepreneurial training for students. They are also working with a church in East Wenatchee on a \$30,000 grant from Wells Fargo Foundation on a pilot project designed to help single Latino females start a small business. It is hoped to take this project out to other areas.

Amanda Jackson-Mott spoke about the upcoming performance of the Nomadic Massive an international Hip Hop group. They will also do showings at several schools and a performance in the Methow and in Omak. She reported that as an advocate for the arts, she travels to Olympia and talks with legislators about the importance of arts in the schools. She encouraged people to write letters or emails to legislators to let them know about how important it is to have arts in the school.

Meeting adjourned 1:05.

Next Meeting February 26, 2014, 11 – 1, at the Koala Street Grill. Please mark your calendars! Kinross Gold will be the guest speaker.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Davis, Administrative Assistant



Meetings Attended January:

- Pine Meadows Board Meeting
- NCW Business Loan Fund Credit Committee
- Wenatchee Valley College Omak Foundation
- Vista Volunteer County Fact Sheet/Business Survey
- CTFC-Joe Pakootas

Upcoming Meeting/Activities (Jan/Feb):

- Buckhorn Community Advisory Meeting
- CTFC/Commerce Conference call
- NCW EDD
- Small Business Seminar
- NCW Loan Fund Board Meeting
- Okanogan County Job Fair
- County Commissioner quarterly update

During the month of January we finalized all of our year end paperwork, turned in our DOC quarterly report and PUD billing. We also submitted our donation request to Kinross for the 2014 year.

As per our ADO contract, the EA has been focused on marketing our Business Expansion and Retention services. We are currently providing updates to the website, our Facebook page and we will also have a half page ad in the Chronicle as well as spots on the radio to get the word out.

During the first quarter of 2014 we will be working on a brief business survey that can assist us in finding out directly from the business community what their needs are for 2014. The EA has also developed a Commercial/Retail property database so if you have properties in your community that you feel should be included let us know. The Business Education classes are still in the works, we will send out an email as we confirm the dates.

ATTACHMENT #2

ECONOMIC ALLIANCE ANNUAL BUDGET

	2013	2014
REVENUES	Actuals	Projections
CONTRIBUTION, OKANOGAN COUNTY	100,000	100,000
CONTRIBUTION, CTFC	-	2,000
CONTRIBUTION, Ok. County PUD	3,000	9,000
CONTRIBUTION, KINROSS GOLD	10,000	5,000
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC)	30,000	30,000
CTED - WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (ADO)	46,861	46,375
MISC. INCOME (Workshops, Fund Raising, Reimbursements)	325	325
OKANOGAN COUNTY TOURISM COUNCIL	15,090	10,000
TOTAL REVENUES	205,276	202,700
EXPENDITURES		
Wages (gross)	101,681	101,688
SBDC Advisor	22,000	22,000
SBDC Travel	1,023	1,500
Payroll Taxes Payable	7,996	8,070
Advertising / Marketing	3,064	2,660
Bank Fees	-	-
Contractual	699	528
Equipment -- Rental/Lease	2,127	2,460
Equipment -- Software/Hardware	-	1,200
Insurance (Medical/Dental)	23,781	30,404
Insurance (D&O & Liability)	2,187	2,300
Internet Access/WebSite Design & Maintenance	400	450
Legal/Professional	750	750
Licenses	50	50
Membership & Dues	935	935
Misc. (NWAFF - Horizons)	250	1,000
Misc. (hosting & workshops)	2,532	2,600
Office Supplies	1,479	1,440
Postage	709	715
Rent	7,745	7,750
Subscription/Publications	278	425
Telephone	2,180	2,400
Training/Conf. Fees	550	800
Travel - Lodging	140	600
Travel - Meals	400	600
Travel - Mileage	1,940	2,520
Utilities	903	912
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	185,799	196,757
Cash Position w/o Carryover	19,477	5,943
CARRYOVER	68,318	87,795
CASH POSITION w/Carryover	87,795	93,738