

The Economic Alliance
Board Meeting
December 4, 2013
Koala Street Grill, Omak

Attending Board Members:

Rich Watson, Chairman
Nan Kallunki, 1st Vice Chairman
Coleen Couch, Treasurer
Lael Duncan, Past Chairman
George Brady

Arnie Marchand
Gail Howe
Melanie Wyss
Kurt Danison

Absent Board Members:

Kyle Desautel, 2nd Vice Chairman
Amanda Jackson-Mott, Secretary
John Andrist
Alison Gillette Mary Watson
Sheilah Kennedy
Methow Valley #2 -- Vacant

Joe Pakootas, Colville Tribes (CTFC)
At Large #1 -- Vacant
Nespelem/Coulee Dam Position #2 -- Vacant
Nespelem/Coulee Dam Position #1 -- Vacant
Okanogan County Tourism Council Rep. -- Vacant

Staff & Guests:

Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director
Carolyn Davis, Admin. Assistant
Nancy Nash, WorkSource
Ted Piccolo, NW Native Dev. Fund
Ross Jennings, Minnesota
Kay Sibley, Okanogan Borderland Historical Soc.
Chris Branch, OCTC

Sam McKee, NCW Business Loan Fund
Jon Wyss, Gebbers Farms
Dr. Erik Swanson, Omak School Superintendent
Debbie Atuk, Colville Tribal Federal Corp.
Aaron ??
Faith Wakefield Mills, VISTA Volunteer @ OCCAC

Chairman, Rich Watson, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Coleen Couch made a motion to approve the minutes from September 25, 2013 and October 23, 2013. Arnie Marchand seconded. Motion passed.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Patrick Jones, Executive Director at the EWU Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis, spoke about leading sectors in Okanogan County. He looked at key demographic and economic trends for the county. Population has had slow growth for the past 10 years, from 39,564 in 2000 to 41,500 in 2012. Recent in-migration has recently been from births and deaths, not from people moving into the county. Median age in Okanogan County is 43.56 compared to Washington State's at 37.13 and per capita personal income is \$37,674 compared to Washington State's at \$43,735. Wages contributes 53.6% of personal income followed by transfer payments (26.2%) and investment income (19.8%). Income generated in the five largest sectors includes Government (30.9%), Farm Earnings (18.8%), Retail Trade (9.8%), and Health Care and Forestry. Strategy for recruitment/retention of businesses includes strengths such as labor force, power, location, taxes. Top Industry Clusters in Okanogan County includes Crop Production, Ag & Forestry support activities, and Forestry & Logging. There is not a lot of manufacturing in Okanogan County. Dr. Jones's full PowerPoint presentation can be seen at www.ewu/policyinstitute on the first page on the bottom under "Contract Research".

Guest Speaker

George Brady reported that he attended a manufacturer's conference in Pasco on behalf of the Economic Alliance. He was able to meet with a lot of manufacturing companies and made some good contacts.

He spoke with several plastic manufacturers and felt that this conference was a very good experience. He did encourage the Economic Alliance to attend next year, and felt that Roni Holder-Diefenbach, would probably have more relative information for these companies.

Executive Director Report

Roni Holder-Diefenbach distributed a report for November (see attachment #1) Roni Holder-Diefenbach reported that she has met with a VISTA volunteer that is going to help develop a user friendly handout with demographics to use to send to companies that are interested in locating a business in Okanogan County. This will be a fact sheet or snap shot of the county and is a partnership with Okanogan County Community Action Council.

She also reported that a 2014 budget draft will be present at the next Board meeting in January. We have recently heard from the county about continued support through funding from the Public Facilities Fund.

Rich Watson spoke about the ArtScape project celebration that will be held tonight at 4:30 at the Main Street Bar & Grill. He stated that the building has recently sold, but there are two new potential sites in downtown Omak for ArtScape projects. (please note: Rich found out later this afternoon, that the deal for the sale of the building had fallen through and the celebration was postponed)

Board Business

The follow was present as a slate of Board members for a three year term.

- Lael Duncan, North County Representative #1
- Nan Kullunki, Commissioner's Representative. #2
- Debbie Atuk, Colville Tribal Federal Corporation Representative
- John Andrist, Central Representative #2
- Dr. Erik Swanson, At Large #1
- Chris Branch, Okanogan County Tourism Council Representative
- Ted Piccolo, Nespelem/Coulee Dam Representative #1

Lael Duncan made a motion to elect the slate of Board members as presented. Kurt Danison seconded. Motion passed.

There are three additional Board positions that are vacant, but those seated in these positions will serve until 2016.

- Vacant, Nespelem/Coulee Dam Representative #2
- Vacant, City Representative. #2
- Vacant, Methow Valley Representative #2

The following slate of officers was presented for 2014

- Kyle Desautel, Chairman
- Nan Kallunki, 1st Vice Chair
- Kurt Danison, 2nd Vice Chair
- Amanda Jackson-Mott, Secretary
- Coleen Couch, Treasurer

Lael Duncan made a motion to elect the slate of officers as presented. Melanie Wyss seconded. Motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Treasurers Report: Coleen Couch reported that the current cash position at the end of the year look very good and expenses are staying on track.

Communication Committee: No report.

Infrastructure Committee: Chris Branch reported that this committee needs to have a meeting and a discussion with the county commission, an educational meeting about the use of the Public Facilities Funds. The cities also need to be engaged in the discussion about the use of these funds.

Business Education Committee: No report.

Old Business

None

New Business

Kurt Danison reported that the city of Omak's Planning Commission is looking at some major sign ordinance changes to address the electronic signs. He also reported that the state has received 15 applications from Okanogan County to either grow or sell marijuana. This could be a very big business in Okanogan County.

Roni Holder-Diefenbach thanks Rich Watson for his service as Board Chairman for the past two year and also thanked Gail Howe for her service as the cities representative on the Board for the past 10+ years.

Chris Branch spoke about the Heavy Haul Corridor from the Canadian border to the railhead in Oroville. He felt that we should still keep the rail viable and there is currently some interest in extending this Heavy Haul Corridor to Pateros, which would increase truck traffic along Highway 97. He felt that the Economic Alliance needs to be involved in this decision and asked that the Board please keep this issue in mind.

Meeting adjourned 1:05.

Next Meeting January 22, 2014, 11 – 1, at the Koala Street Grill. Please mark your calendars! Guest speaker is ????

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Davis, Administrative Assistant



Meetings Attended November:

- 2014 Job Fair Planning Meeting
- Global Entrepreneur Week Activities
- NCW Success Summit
- NCW Business Loan Fund Mtg.
- OWP meeting with Senator Murrays Staff
- Business Recruitment mtg.
- NCW Workforce Development Meeting
- Vista Volunteer Project w/Community Action

Upcoming Meeting/Activities (December):

- Fundraising Mtg. FHC
- Methow Arts/NCW BLF Celebration Artscapes Project
- NCW EDD
- Planning for Evening Event-Speaker
- EA/OK County Contract finalized
- Planning for Small Business Survey & Intro to business Seminar
- Update Website
- Finalizing 2014 Budget

During the month of November we have kept extremely busy! We have been working on filling the EA Board positions and making contacts within the business community to recruit private small businesses to participate on the board. We also have many projects that we are currently working on that are listed above, if you are interested in participating or assisting in anyway let me know.

Happy Holidays!!