

The Economic Alliance Board Meeting

April 24, 2013

Koala Street Grill, Omak

Attending Board Members:

Rich Watson, Chairman
Kyle Desautel, 2nd Vice Chairman
Lael Duncan, Past Chairman

Arnie Marchand
Alison Gillette
Gail Howe

Absent Board Members:

Nan Kallunki, 1st Vice Chairman
Amanda Jackson, Secretary
Coleen Couch, Treasurer John Andrist
Steve Kreider
Sheilah Kennedy
Kurt Danison
Andy Lampe

George Brady
Joe Pakootas, Colville Tribes (CTFC)
Mary Watson
Melanie Wyss
Nespelem/Coulee Dam Position #2 – Vacant
At Large #1
Nespelem/Coulee Dam Position #1 -- Vacant

Staff & Guests:

Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director
Carolyn Davis, Admin. Assistant
Nancy Nash-Mendez, WorkSource
Jennifer Korfiatis, NCW EDD

Ralph Malone, city of Omak
Vicki Minto, NW Justice Project
Rocksann Best, CCT Casino

Chairman, Rich Watson, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions. No quorum was established and this meeting is information only.

Guest Speaker

Vicki Minto, an attorney, spoke about the Northwest Justice Project. If you know of someone that is experiencing problems finding a job because of things such as no driver's license because of nonpayment of child support, DWI, or lack of insurance, the NW Justice Project may be able to help them. The NW Justice Project is a nonprofit corporation established to provide civil legal services to low income persons throughout the state. CLEAR (Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral) is a Northwest Justice Project program serving low-income people with legal issues in Washington State. It is a starting point for those seeking free legal assistance with civil legal problems, including legal needs regarding family safety, protection from predatory lending and other unfair or fraudulent practices, discrimination in housing, education, and employment, access to health care or subsistence benefits, or issues related to disabilities or other barriers that low income persons might experience in accessing services or the justice system itself. CLEAR is also currently recruiting volunteers who are interested in family law.

Nancy Nash-Mendez with WorkSource spoke about the various programs available at WorkSource. They provide job listings for all employers and are available to do job screening of applicants for free. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit program allows employers to claim credit on their federal taxes for each qualifying new hire. She has found that this is an underutilized program. Ms. Nash-Mendez also spoke about the WOW free computer courses offered by WorkSource. It allows those that sign up to receive free computer courses and technical assistance. They will be able to learn to use software by industry leaders such as Microsoft, Adobe, Apple, IBM, Intuit, SAP. It allows them to learn without buying software and is available to all Washington residents of working age, whether or not you have a job. Learn more at www.go2worksource.com and click on the Wow icon. You will be able to increase

your computer skills for free. WorkSource also provide lots of workshops to help job seekers and they are willing to travel to assist groups of job seekers.

Executive Director Report

Roni Holder-Diefenbach spoke about the upcoming social media workshop, scheduled for June 4 & 11. This is a two part session and will provide information on Social Media, Wikis, Blogs, social media management tools and ecommerce. The cost is \$30 per person for the two sessions.

She attended a meeting and listened to a presentation by city of Oroville to the county commissioners regarding the East Lake Sewer project and the use of the Public Facility Funds. The county has applied for a two year deferral of payment to the PWTF, but hasn't received approval yet.

She also worked with the city of Tonasket and their city planner to process an Emerging Opportunities application. The city was looking for approximately \$22,000 to cover a gap in financing for the sewer system and a sidewalk project. They were at risk of losing a \$400,000 grant from the Transportation Infrastructure Board if they didn't receive additional funding. The Economic Alliance Infrastructure Committee and the Executive Committee reviewed the application and recommended to the county commissioners that the city be approved for \$19,510 from the Public Facility Fund. The commissioners also approved this recommendation and the city move forward to make repairs to the streets in the city's business core. The Economic will continue to monitor the status of the Public Facility Fund and hope that it can be built up to accommodate other infrastructure projects.

She also gave an update to the Economic Development District regarding Atlas Wood Products leasing the CCT mill site. She also spoke about the Tribal industrial park site and working with the city of Omak, Colville Tribal Federal Corporation, and the railroad on infrastructure needs. She was able to collaborate with all parties and organize meetings. Anchor tenant at the CCT Industrial Park will be the Tribe with a bulk fuel plant. They want to make sure everyone is onboard to make sure this is a viable project. Kyle Desautel and Roni Holder-Diefenbach will also be giving a presentation to the Omak City Council on May 6.

Rich Watson stated that he attended a meeting in Entiat and it was felt that the railroad has really not been perceived as business friendly. Roni Holder-Diefenbach felt that we did not have that problem in Okanogan County and felt we had a good working relationship with the railroad.

Roni Holder-Diefenbach also reported that she has been working with Atlas Wood Products regarding local workers who used to work for the previous mill. A lot of these workers have gotten rid of equipment when the mill closed and will have to "gear" up again. She is trying to identify those that have equipment that could be leased to Tribal members. Tribal TERO is taking applications for positions at the mill and there are pre-employment classes available to help applicants with resume updating, etc.

The ADO contract is again on the chopping block with the legislature. She has been in touch with our representatives to encourage them to restore funding and the House has done that, but the Senate has yet to do it. Hopefully we won't see the cuts that are proposed. She has been participating in weekly conference calls with the state ADOs and hopes to keep funding in rural area. A meeting is scheduled in Tacoma on May 8 that she will be attending. The WEDA, although not strictly rural, does advocate for our area.

Board Business

Vacant Position: No action

Standing Committee Reports

Treasurers Report: Carolyn Davis reported that an updated budget cash flow was available on the back table.

Communication Committee: No report.

Infrastructure Committee: No report.

Business Education Committee: No report.

Old Business

Alison Gillette reported that Twisp Works is gearing up for summer and has a number of new tenants.

Gail Howe reported that the \$500,000 grant received by the city of Pateros, has opened up the door on several projects on their “wish list”.

New Business

Ralph Malone spoke about Phase 2 of the sewer project in Omak and the SR 215 resurfacing and sidewalk project from the East School to the VIC.

Jennifer Korfiatis spoke about the upcoming NCW Startup Weekend, scheduled for June 7 – 9 at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee. This is a weekend-long, hands-on experience where entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs can find out if startup ideas are viable.

Roni Holder-Diefenbach reported that Regional Economist, Mark Barreth has accepted a position in Olympia. Don Meseck will be taking over this region again. We will miss Mark at our meetings and for providing great information about the region’s economy.

Arnie Marchand spoke about the re-opening of the Pastime in Oroville. They have remodeled and will provide meals and outside seating.

Rich Watson spoke about the upcoming open house for Artscape on April 30 in conjunction with the Methow Arts Alliance and the NCW Business Loan Fund. They are looking at using the vacant building on Main Street of Omak that is owned by the Loan Fund for an artist in residence program. This turns vacant space into an art studio, where the public can view the art-making process and see creations of local artists. This will transform empty storefronts and vacant space into dynamic points of interest though artistic energy and enterprise, which will hopefully make local communities stronger and more active.

Meeting adjourned 12:40.

Next Meeting May 22, 2013, 11 – 1, at the Koala Street Grill. Please mark your calendars!

Guest speaker will be Nancy Warner with the Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship. She will provide information about the upcoming Success Summit which will be held in Okanogan County.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Davis, Administrative Assistant



Meetings Attended April:

- City of Oroville Report to OCC
- CCT/CTFC Industrial Park Planning
- City of Tonasket-.09 EO Application & presentation to OCC
- NCW EDD
- CCT Management & Budget Presentation-CTFC Industrial Park
- NCW Business Loan Fund Credit Committee
- Omak Superintendant Interview Committee
- IRIS Success Summit
- WEDA Conference Calls on ADO Funding

Upcoming Meeting/Activities (April/May):

- Wood Resources
- TERO
- Employee & Contractor workshops for Wood Resources Jobs
- NCW Economic Development District
- Social Media Classes

Contract Renewal:

- Okanogan County March 2013 completed
- SBDC March 2013 completed
- PUD Contract March 2013 completed
- OCTC March 2013 completed
- ADO (Renew June 2013)

Business Education classes:

Social Media Classes

2012 Year End Data: Direct client Services offered by the Economic Alliance/SBDC

CLIENTS	HOURS	JOBS CREATED	JOBS SAVED	CAPITOL Invested
130	416.5	27	5	\$4,605,365