

The Economic Alliance
Board Meeting
May 22, 2013
Koala Street Grill, Omak

Attending Board Members:

Nan Kallunki, 1st Vice Chairman
Kyle Desautel, 2nd Vice Chairman
Coleen Couch, Treasurer
George Brady
Andy Lampe

Arnie Marchand
Kurt Danison
Gail Howe
Sheilah Kennedy

Absent Board Members:

Rich Watson, Chairman
Amanda Jackson, Secretary
Lael Duncan, Past Chairman
Mary Watson
Steve Kreider
Alison Gillette

Melanie Wyss
Joe Pakootas, Colville Tribes (CTFC)
John Andrist
Nespelem/Coulee Dam Position #2 – Vacant
Nespelem/Coulee Dam Position #1 -- Vacant
At Large #1 -- Vacant

Staff & Guests:

Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director
Carolyn Davis, Admin. Assistant
Nancy Nash-Mendez, WorkSource
Bonnie Waude-Miller, Wenatchee Valley College

Nancy Warner, IRIS
Rocksann Best, CCT Casino
Leah McCormack, Ok. Co. Treasurer

1st Vice Chairman, Nan Kullunki, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.
Coleen Couch made a motion to approve the minutes of March 27, 2013 and the notes from April 24, 2013. Sheilah Kennedy seconded. Motion passed.

Guest Speaker

Nancy Warner with the Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship spoke about the upcoming 5th Annual NCW Community Success Summit. It will be held in Okanogan this year on November 20, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Okanogan Middle School, 244 Fifth Ave. North Street. The Economic Alliance is a partner and a sponsor of this event. They plan to showcase success stories of our area and she asked for ideas for success stories with the following themes:

Element 1. Maintaining diverse, healthy ecosystems

1. What is being done to define the true economic value of open space in our region?
2. How are we increasing the health & connectivity of our lands and waters, i.e., how are programs that incorporate art, recreation, & locally-produced food contributing to this connectivity?

Element 2. Meeting basic human needs, fostering thriving lives

1. What are we doing to reduce waste, increase recycling, and foster healthy businesses that will create jobs and increase access to locally-produced goods?
2. How are we using cross-generational relationships to foster a sense of belonging and generosity, engage students as lifelong learners, and grow opportunities for jobs?

Element 3. Bridging cultural & political divides

1. How are we using art, technology, and “third places” or meeting spaces (e.g., coffee shops, farmer’s markets, community centers) to bridge cultural & political divides and strengthen our communities?
2. How are community members coming together to develop a unified vision and to take the steps needed to turn that vision into action?

Last year's summit, held in Entiat, worked with the local school district and she hopes to engage a team of Okanogan School District's faculty and students in all aspects of this year's summit. The Okanogan Middle School students will join others in presenting brief videos about the successes in their communities. They will also participate in the presentations and discussions about successes from Okanogan and the greater region. She is also working with an advisory committee to plan other elements of the summit that will include a lunch of locally-produced foods sponsored by Slow Food Okanogan, special outreach events and the announcement of the host community for the 2014 summit to be held in Douglas County. They plan to have about 150 people from Okanogan and across the region participating in the summit this year. There are three levels of sponsorships, \$1,000, \$500, \$300 and they also have a need for in-kind donations. For more information about sponsoring and how to get involved in the 2013 NCW Community Success Summit contact Nancy at 509-881-1812, nwarner@applecapital.net.

Executive Director Report

Roni Holder-Diefenbach spoke about recently attending the ADO meeting in Tacoma. The new Department of Commerce Director was introduced. The ADO budget was not discussed and she is continuing to work with our legislators to stress the important of continuing funding for local economic development efforts.

Kyle Desautel and Ron Holder-Diefenbach made a presentation to the Omak City Council regarding the Tribe and Wood Resources. She stated that a follow up meeting was also held and there has been lots of collaboration among agencies, such as TANAF, WorkSource, WVC @ Omak. Wood Resources plan to start hiring by July 1 and there are pre-employment classes taking place at WorkSource. The first initial jobs would be working on the equipment to bring it up to standard. They are asking for Indian preference, but will be looking for the best qualified employee. She has also been working to gather information about who has equipment that contractors or loggers could use. Want to match up people with equipment. She has found that a lot of those that previously worked at the mill have retired or sold equipment. The Economic Alliance is trying to be a resource to help facilitate meetings.

Roni Holder-Diefenbach also 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.

The May newsletter has been sent out and is also posted on Facebook. If you are not receiving it, please contact the office.

Roni Holder-Diefenbach also spoke about the joint venture between the Methow Arts Alliance and the NCW Business Loan Fund. The Loan Fund owns the Main Street Bar & Grill building in Omak and is now using it for the "Art Scape" project; a local artist in residence, Bruce Townsend-Cook is working out of the building for six months or until the building sells. Artist Townsend-Cook will be working on glassblowing and metal working projects throughout the summer and will be open for public viewing. They recently held an open house and wine tasting in the building and had lots of interest in this project. A few other vacant buildings in Omak are also looking at doing something similar. It is a benefit to all.

Board Business

Vacant Position: There are still three positions that are vacant on the Economic Alliance Board. Nesplem/Coulee Dam Area #1 & #2 positions and an At-Large Position. No action taken.

Standing Committee Reports

Treasurers Report: Coleen Couch reported that the current cash flow projections look good and we are staying within our budget.

Communication Committee: No report.

Infrastructure Committee: No report.

Business Education Committee: Bonnie Waude-Miller spoke about the upcoming Start Up Weekend being held in Wenatchee on June 6 – 8. More information is available at www.ncwstartupweekend.org. She also mentioned that they are working on developing a refrigeration and mechanical program at the college. A lot of those that are currently working on the CA storage facilities in the area are getting close to retirement age and all of that knowledge needs to be passed on to new workers.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

Kurt Danison spoke about the city of Omak working on updating the Sign Ordinance to cover the electronic message centers that have recently been showing up around town. They are currently surveying business owners in Omak and have had positive feedback from the local downtown community. They will be holding a meeting at Omak City Hall to discuss signage. Also most of those that currently have electronic signs are willing to advertise local events.

Gail Howe spoke about the 100 year Birthday Party that was recently held for the city of Pateros. Because of the weather, they moved it to the school for the community potluck. The 66th Annual Apple Pie Jamboree, held July 19 – 21, will be better than ever with even more events, fun, friends and family!

Roni Holder-Diefenbach spoke about the upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony on June 20 for the Chief Joseph Fish Hatchery. She will find out the time and let everyone know.

Roni Holder-Diefenbach also spoke about the possibility of not holding Board meetings in the Summer months as it seems we have a hard time getting a quorum for meetings. She will review the Bylaws prior to June's meeting and will get in touch with the Executive Committee to see if we should make some changes and possibly not hold Board meeting in July and August.

Meeting adjourned 12:15.

Next Meeting June 26, 2013, 11 – 1, at the Koala Street Grill. Please mark your calendars!

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Davis, Administrative Assistant

**Meetings Attended April:**

- Pine Meadows Open House
- City of Omak Presentation
- NCW Workforce Development Council Meeting
- ADO Meeting in Tacoma
- NCW Business Loan Fund Credit Committee
- Wood Resources
- TERO-Contractor/Loggers
- Worksource-Planning meeting

Upcoming Meeting/Activities (June):

- Social Media Classes
- Wood Resources
- Okanogan County Commissioners Quarterly Update
- Employee & Contractor workshops for Wood Resources Jobs
- NCW Economic Development District

May has been another busy month. The Department of Commerce held its annual ADO Networking meeting in Tacoma on May 8th. We were introduced to the new CTED Director and heard his plan for the ADO network. There was no discussion regarding our upcoming contract negotiations or the budgets. We continue to communicate with our local representatives both in the senate and house regarding the importance of local economic development and the impact that it has on our communities especially in rural counties.

We are currently in the planning stages of facilitating training with Worksource, WVC at Omak, CCT Employment & Training, TANF, TERO, and the Tribal College for pre employment classes to be held in the next month for those interested in going to work at the mill. The dates have not been set yet, but this is going to be a very quick turnaround as they expect to start hiring by July 1.

If you haven't signed up for the social networking classes that will be held on June 4th and 11th, there are still openings available. Our May newsletter is now available, if you have not received it contact either Carolyn or myself to get a copy and be added to our distribution list.