

The Economic Alliance Board Meeting

June 26, 2013
Koala Street Grill, Omak

Attending Board Members:

Rich Watson, Chairman
Kyle Desautel, 2nd Vice Chairman
Amanda Jackson, Secretary
Coleen Couch, Treasurer
Gail Howe

Melanie Wyss
Andy Lampe
Kurt Danison
Sheilah Kennedy

Absent Board Members:

Nan Kallunki, 1st Vice Chairman
Arnie Marchand
Lael Duncan, Past Chairman
Mary Watson
Steve Kreider
Alison Gillette

George Brady
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

Lena Howe

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

Kurt Danison made a motion to approve the minutes of May 22, 2013. Coleen Couch seconded.
Motion passed.

Guest Speaker

Kyle Desautel, Director of Planning for the Colville Tribes, spoke about demographics of the Tribe. The reservation covers both Ferry and Okanogan County and population has stayed pretty much the same for the past 10 years. They have about 9,500 enrollment and about half live on the reservation. Numerous chronic situations affect the daily lives of Colville tribal members such as high unemployment on the Colville Indian Reservation and lack of employment opportunities for much of the available labor force. Individuals and families suffer from the effects of extensive drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and crime. Forty-three percent don't have jobs and are actively seeking jobs. There is a 54% jobless rate on the reservation. In 2011 – 12 they have been doing some good things, such as the Tribal Trails in Omak, Smoke Shop in Mill Bay and Smoke Shop in Nespelem. They are working with company to lease the Omak Mill and it is hoped to have that up and running with about 300 new jobs. The Omak Industrial Park west of Colville Indian Precision Pine & Veneer, there is approximately 70 acres, and they are working to tie this property into Highways 97 and 155. An anchor tenant could be for a gas depot. They also have “soft” permission to proceed with the new Omak Casino.

Kurt Danison also spoke about the group in downtown that is working to make downtown Omak thrive. The Stampede is also looking to develop a museum for the history of the Stampede. The old McNeil or Zitting building is being looked at for a meeting center and the museum.

Roni Holder-Diefenbach spoke about her discussion on Tribal unemployment numbers reporting, so the labor market reports would reflect all of Okanogan County. Okanogan County has lost HUB Zone Certification which affects businesses in Okanogan County. She has been working with the Tribal

Council for over 10 years and the current council is the most willing to work with other entities and are forward thinking.

Executive Director Report

Roni Holder-Diefenbach distributed her report (see attachment #1) and spoke about a recent social media workshop. The class didn't have Internet access for the first day because of problems with the host, but all feedback was very positive. There is also a free workshop for job seekers coming up. It is focusing around Wood Resources and some of the things that they are looking for in prospective employees. Those that attend will receive a certificate that they can include with job application or resume. She also made a quarterly update to the county commission. We still don't have our ADO budget and won't until the state legislature passes the budget. Rich Watson attended the recent CCT Fish Hatchery Grand Opening Ceremonies. Gail Howe also attended. Rich Watson reported it was a very touching and moving ceremony and there were several hundred in attendance. Roni also reported that the Artscapes in downtown Omak is alive and well. Bruce Townsend-Cook is the current artist in residence at the old Main Street Bar & Grill. The Courtyard and Mustard Seed are also interested in doing the same thing. Amanda reported that during the 4th of July festival kids will be able to make art on the spot and art is used to inspire kids.

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.

Proposed By-law Changes: During the summer months it is hard to get a quorum for meetings. The proposed change to the Bylaws reflects our combined November/December annual meeting. Proposed changes are listed below:

ARTICLE IV – Board of Directors

Section 5. Meetings of the Board of Directors

- A. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held not less than once a month at a specified time and place during the year. Notices, an agenda, and supporting materials for the meetings shall be provided to the Board members a minimum of five days before the appointed meeting date.
- B. The Chairman may, when deemed necessary, call for a special meeting of the Board of Directors.
- C. Annual meetings will be held each November at a designated time and place. Officers for the upcoming year shall be elected at the annual meeting.

Change: A: Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held once a month at a specified time and place unless otherwise **changed by voted on majority vote of the Executive Committee of the Board.** ~~board of directors.~~ Notices, an agenda, and supporting materials for the meetings shall be provided to the Board members in a timely manner prior the appointed meeting date.

Change: C. Annual meetings will be held **at the combined November/December meeting** at a designated time and place. Officers for the upcoming year shall be elected at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE V – Officers of the Corporation

Section 1. Officers The Corporation shall be comprised of five officer positions including a Chairman, Vice Chairman, 2nd Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Method of Election: The Board of Directors shall elect all officers for a term of one year at the annual meeting in November. Officer terms may be served consecutively.

Change: Section 2. Method of Election: The Board of Directors shall elect all officers for a term of one year at the annual meeting. ~~in November~~. Officer terms may be served consecutively.

Kurt Danison made a motion to approve the proposed changes. Coleen Couch seconded. Motion passed.

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: No report.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

Rich Watson spoke about the possibility of the merger between Quest Loan Fund and the NCW Business Loan Fund. Roni Holder-Diefenbach spoke about Gebber's working on starting an on-the-job training program for operation of orchards. She also spoke about International Entrepreneur week and identifying business in Okanogan County to highlight.

Meeting adjourned 12:30.

Next Meeting September 25, 2013, 11 – 1, at the Koala Street Grill. Please mark your calendars!

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Davis, Administrative Assistant

ATTACHMENT #1



April-June 2013

Economic Alliance Quarterly Report:

April:

- .09 Application and Funding (City of Tonasket Emerging Opportunity)
- CCT Presentation on the Industrial Park (Omak) collaboration
- 2013 IRIS Success Summit Planning Meeting (Okanogan HS)
- NCW Business Loan Fund Credit Committee Mtg.

May:

- Pine Meadows Open House (Affordable Senior Housing)
- Presented to the Omak City Council w/Tribe
- Assisted the City of Omak in coordinating presentation to the Tribal Council to discuss water rights on East Side Omak.
- ADO Meeting in Tacoma
- TERO-Logging Contractors/Employment Opportunity Meeting
- TERO, CCT Employment & Training, Worksource Okanogan, Tribal TANF, WVC at Omak, Tribal College & Economic Alliance met with Wood Resources to identify employment and training needs.
- Confirmed and promoted Social Meeting Training for June 4 & 11
- Met with Senator Smith to discuss Economic Development Opportunities for Okanogan County and how we can work together to assist businesses in meeting their needs.
- Met with Cascade & Columbia River railroad to discuss the current business and potential business expansion and infrastructure of the rail.

June:

- Social Media Class-14 Small Businesses represented at classes from throughout Okanogan County.
- Met with CCT Planning & City of Omak to discuss casino expansion
- NCW Economic Development District meeting
- Via 97-Tourism promotion for RV Travelers (signature experiences for NCW travelers)
- Confirmed and coordinated dates and location for Wood Resources training-June 27 & July 1 for the initial classes and screening.
- NCW Project Selection Committee- Okanogan County had 1 project submitted and it ranked number 3 for the region: Winthrop Ice Arena.

Direct Small Business Assistance:

April 1-June 18, 2013

32 clients seen, 4 of these had from 5 – 10 hours of direct assistance from our Small Business Advisor (with help on their business plan or financing applications).

Majority of businesses or proposed businesses were in the retail trade or accommodation and food services industry. One business received a \$200,000 line of credit and the owner had an investment of \$100,000 with two new jobs created.