



AGENDA: REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

<https://wascocounty-org.zoom.us/j/3957734524> OR Dial [1-253-215-8782](tel:1-253-215-8782) Meeting ID: 3957734524#

While these virtual options are provided, we cannot guarantee connection or quality of the call.

511 Washington Street, Suite 302, The Dalles, OR 97058

PUBLIC COMMENT: Individuals wishing to address the Commission on items not already listed on the Agenda may do so during the first half-hour and at other times throughout the meeting; please wait for the current speaker to conclude and raise your hand to be recognized by the Chair for direction. Speakers are required to give their name and address. Please limit comments from three to five minutes, unless extended by the Chair.

DEPARTMENTS: Are encouraged to have their issue added to the Agenda in advance. When that is not possible the Commission will attempt to make time to fit you in during the first half-hour or between listed Agenda items.

NOTE: With the exception of Public Hearings, the Agenda is subject to last minute changes; times are approximate – please arrive early. Meetings are ADA accessible. For special accommodations please contact the Commission Office in advance, (541) 506-2520. TDD 1-800-735-2900. If you require an interpreter, please contact the Commission Office at least 7 days in advance.

Las reuniones son ADA accesibles. Por tipo de alojamiento especiales, por favor póngase en contacto con la Oficina de la Comisión de antemano, (541) 506-2520. TDD 1-800-735-2900. Si necesita un intérprete por favor, póngase en contacto con la Oficina de la Comisión por lo menos siete días de antelación.

9:00 a.m.	CALL TO ORDER Items without a designated appointment may be rearranged to make the best use of time. Other matters may be discussed as deemed appropriate by the Board. Corrections or Additions to the Agenda Discussion Items: (Items of general Commission discussion, not otherwise listed on the Agenda) Consent Agenda: 4.20.2022 Regular Session Minutes (Items of a routine nature: minutes, documents, items previously discussed.) Public Comment at the discretion of the Chair
9:00 a.m.	MCCFL Request for Services – Al Barton/Tyler Stone
9:15 a.m.	MCEDD Update & 2022-2027 Economic Development Strategy – Jessica Metta
9:45 a.m.	Recess to Wasco County 4H & Extension Service District
	COMMISSION CALL
	NEW/OLD BUSINESS
	ADJOURN

If necessary, an Executive Session may be held in accordance with: ORS 192.660(2)(a) – Employment of Public Officers, Employees & Agents, ORS 192.660(2)(b) – Discipline of Public Officers & Employees, ORS 192.660(2)(d) – Labor Negotiator Consultations, ORS 192.660(2)(e) – Real Property Transactions, ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection, ORS 192.660(2)(g) – Trade Negotiations, ORS 192.660(2)(h) – Conferring with Legal Counsel regarding litigation, ORS 192.660(2)(i) – Performance Evaluations of Public Officers & Employees, ORS 192.660(2)(j) – Public Investments, ORS 192.660(2)(n) – Security Programs, ORS 192.660(2)(n) – Labor Negotiations



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION

MAY 4, 2022

Room 302, Wasco County Courthouse

This meeting was also held on Zoom

<https://wascocounty-org.zoom.us/j/3957734524>

or call in to [1-253-215-8782](tel:1-253-215-8782) Meeting ID: 3957734524#

PRESENT: Kathy Schwartz, Chair
Steve Kramer, Vice-Chair
Scott Hege, County Commissioner
STAFF: Kathy Clark, Executive Assistant
ABSENT: Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer

Chair Schwartz opened the session at 9:00 a.m. Additions to the Agenda:

- City/County Coordinated Homeless Services Advisory Committee.

Consent Agenda – 4.20.2022 Minutes

**{{Vice-Chair Kramer moved to approve the Consent Agenda.
Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}**

Chair Schwartz opened the floor to public comment; there was none.

Agenda Item – MCCFL Request for Services

Mr. Stone reviewed the memo included in the Board Packet. He said that for several months Wasco County has been contributing a significant amount of staff time to Mid-Columbia Center for Living (MCCFL) to help them through a difficult time. We have been very successful, but there is still a lot of work to be done. As we fill the leadership positions for MCCFL there is still a need for additional help. He commented that he has been vocal regarding the need for support from both boards. The work we do there impacts the work we do here and vice versa. Last month at the MCCFL Board meeting, their consultant Silas Halloran-Steiner and Interim Executive Director Al Barton brought forward a proposal to request continued support from Wasco County. They are asking for continued Information Systems support which we already have an agreement for. They also want HR services; however we currently do not have the capacity to do that and

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this week MCCFL has made a decision to promote internally. That will still require some mentoring; our HR Director Nichole Biechler and I will do that. Human Resources is the single biggest challenge - especially filling positions. From Wasco County's perspective, HR would come off the list except for mentoring. The work product at .5 FTE will go away. Fiscal services is the next biggest concern and we need that expertise at MCCFL. They would like us to continue through Fiscal Year 22-23 with a 6 month check in. MCCFL has been trying to hire a Finance Director for 6 months without success. If we pull our Finance Director Mike Middleton, it will be a disaster for MCCFL. It is a heavy lift for Mr. Middleton which impacts Wasco County. In the executive leadership piece, he said he has been working there at about .2 FTE and they would like for that to continue. He said he is starting to pull back but Youth Services Director Molly Rogers has agreed to step up into that role. That will have to be formalized by an IGA with MCCFL. The Youth Services office is fully staffed and she has been mentoring someone into the Director role at Youth Services which will allow her to have time to assist at MCCFL. They would like to have her as a .75 FTE. They are requesting .25 from Wasco County's Administrative Officer. The challenge is that we cannot allow MCCFL to fail in this community. The extent to which Wasco County continues to support them is a discussion for the Board.

Vice-Chair Kramer said that this has to be done. He stated that he agrees with the decision regarding HR – we cannot find anyone to help us and it is not in our best interest to overburden our Director. He said that he is pleased that there is a mentorship opportunity. He observed that the finance burden should ease a bit after budgets are in place. He noted that mental health is a county responsibility. He asked how many openings there are at MCCFL. Mr. Stone replied that there are approximately 20. Vice-Chair Kramer said we need to keep working to fill those positions to get it back on track or bring it back in house and do it all here. This is a short-term ask and it is worth a try.

Commissioner Hege said that he serves on both boards. MCCFL is unbelievably appreciative to Wasco County and has seen dramatic improvements over the last 6 months. Generally, MCCFL is providing services but we need to fill positions to be able to provide full service. There are other IT services Wasco County could provide throughout the community. He said that he is hopeful that the HR mentorship will work out. MCCFL has posted for an Executive Director and Deputy Director and he is hopeful that they can be filled in the next 30-60 days. MCCFL went through a really tough patch but is doing much better now.

Chair Schwartz asked about the background and history of the organization. Commissioner Hege replied that Mental Health is much like Public Health in that

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it is funded federally through the state. It is very political – programs are built and then sentiment changes and the funds go away. He stated that he has served on the Board of MCCFL for 12 years and seen a lot of ups and downs. Sometimes they seem flush with money and then it transitions to lack of funding which leads to overstaffing. MCCFL had executive leadership changes and unionization - a perfect storm of challenges. COVID hit MCCFL hard as most of their services are delivered in-person; in addition there were challenging relationships with the Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) and the model of fee for service. Right now, MCCFL needs staff to provide services.

Chair Schwartz asked about the CCO. Commissioner Hege responded that at the end of Fiscal Year 2020, MCCFL did not have a contract. They had capitulated funding but that moved to fee for service. MCCFL was not well set up to provide documentation using the medical codes. The former director had negotiated the contract and the organization struggled to operate under those terms.

Chair Schwartz commented that mental health is a lot more than one on one service. Commissioner Hege agreed saying that they were burning through cash with the new building. While the Counties still have local mental health authority, the CCO was responsible for funding. Mr. Stone, Mr. Barton and Mr. Holloran-Steiner worked hard to explain the challenges to the CCO and it substantially changed how they contracted with MCCFL. The CCO provided a \$2 million payment over time to help the organization with fiscal solvency. MCCFL is still working through developing systems and staffing.

Chair Schwartz observed that the CCO is an insurance company for Medicaid. Commissioner Hege confirmed saying that this region chose Pacific Source as its Coordinated Care Organization; it is an interesting system.

Chair Schwartz said that the Health Council, which oversees the insurance, is honing in on mental health. She says she tries to keep it top of mind at those meetings. MCCFL is our safety net. Commissioner Hege said that is the key – the population most in need has to have that safety net.

Chair Schwartz observed that Ms. Rogers is already overseeing the Juvenile Detention Center at NORCOR. NORCOR will be posting for a Business Manager in January of 2023 but Ms. Rogers will still be overseeing the Juvenile Detention Center. With .75 FTE at MCCFL, time at NORCOR and oversight at Youth Services, she will have a heavy load – hopefully, she is onboard for that. Mr. Stone responded that she is.

Chair Schwartz said that she agrees with Commissioners Hege and Kramer – this is needed. She cautioned that we need to monitor closely for staff burnout in our

employees who are being stretched thin. Mr. Stone said that is the reason we took HR off the table. He said that he is tired as is Mr. Middleton – everyone went in with eyes wide open, but it is definitely a challenge.

Commissioner Hege stated that the priority should still be Wasco County. Mr. Stone reported that the group supporting MCCFL meets as a team every week to talk about what is happening and how we can manage that. Chair Schwartz commented that it may mean putting some County projects on hold for now.

*****The Board was in consensus to move forward with continued staff support for Mid-Columbia Center for Living.*****

Agenda Item - MCEDD Update & 2022-27 Economic Development Strategy

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District Executive Director Jessica Metta reviewed the presentation included in the Board Packet saying that MCEDD works to promote the creation of family-wage jobs, the diversification of the economic base, and the growth and retention of business in the rural region it serves. This includes Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties in Oregon and Skamania and Klickitat counties in Washington.

MCEDD's work falls in three major focus areas. Business assistance is provided through lending programs, direct training provision, and industry cluster development. Regional coordination focuses on challenges or opportunities impacting communities across the five counties such as renewable energy development, broadband access and utilization, and transportation/mobility services. Technical assistance encompasses support for grant administration for complex federally funded projects, economic development service provision and project management support for key efforts to promote a diverse regional economy and strong local communities. MCEDD also works with regional stakeholders to craft the Mid-Columbia's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to provide a robust framework for community based economic development activities in the region. We do this under the direction of the US Economic Development Administration, but also in recognition that this planning is a successful way to engage community leaders, leverage the involvement of the private sector and establish a blueprint for strong regional collaboration.

The strategy was developed across 2021 with 7 public sessions and more than 100 participants throughout the series, including local and tribal governments, regional partners, ports, chambers, legislators, state and federal partners, businesses and individuals. Each event focused on one section of the strategy

and built upon the prior events. The strategy also included feedback from online surveys and focus groups held with our Latino and Native American communities. The draft was presented at our 2021 Annual Economic Symposium, issued for public comment and then adopted by the MCEDD Board in March 2022.

The region covered is our five counties with their approximately 88,000 residents and numerous communities. The region has a long history of working together in realizing how closely our economic fates are connected to each other. The Strategy document also summarizes our regional economic conditions across a number of measures and provides a lot of data in an appendix. In the summary, we note for example that the region has a high share of Native American and Latino residents and veterans, the housing market continues to grow tighter, and our poverty rate is slowly declining.

Throughout the public sessions we focused on two themes – resilience and equitable outcomes. Resilience addresses how well we have prepared for and can respond to economic shocks such as natural disasters, disease, and man-made disruptions. Equitable Outcomes considers how economic opportunity in the region can be accessed by everyone living here across all demographics.

This strategy was developed as the COVID-19 pandemic continued, shifting the picture of our economy. The strategy was also built upon a COVID-19 Economic Needs Assessment that MCEDD completed in early 2021 to determine local needs and priorities, understand the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, and identify opportunities for future collaboration around these issues.

The sessions next analyzed our regional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The full document lists details under each item. It's not uncommon, depending on what aspect of something we are looking at, for different facets to be both a strength and a weakness, or an opportunity and a threat. For example, our regional transportation system including transit has seen a lot of growth, but transportation infrastructure can be a weakness with our bridges and redundancy. Some notable items are our strong industry sectors, the challenges of disparities between Oregon and Washington which also can present an opportunity for collaboration and additional funding, and the threats from drought, fire and changing weather patterns. We also crafted goal statements for our four focus areas:

- Strong Businesses
- Robust Workforce
- Resilient Infrastructure

- Powerful Collaboration

Commissioner Hege asked what it means to adjust tourism. Ms. Metta replied that some parts of the region feel over-touristed while others seek more tourism. Commissioner Hege asked what connectivity entails. Ms. Metta responded that it covers broadband and the completion of the Historic Highway.

Commissioner Hege asked if the weakness of a lack of space is a Gorge-wide issue. Ms. Metta answered that they met with all 5 Ports and all are experiencing problems. Commissioner Hege asked about the impacts of continued population growth. Ms. Metta explained that limited infrastructure, overuse of resources and increased residential development in unincorporated areas are some of the issues. Often people who move from an urban area to a rural area expect the same level of services.

Chair Schwartz asked if there is data supporting population growth; did Wasco County grow in the last census? Ms. Metta stated that the growth has been comparatively small for Wasco County which grew 8.2% over the last 10 years. The 5-county region as a whole is up 11%. 36% of Wasco County's growth has been in unincorporated areas. Klickitat and Skamania Counties saw 75% of their growth in unincorporated areas. Chair Hege commented that our growth has always been around 1% per year.

Ms. Metta reviewed the 4 goal statements outlined in the presentation. For Strong Businesses, key industries identified in the Strategy include Natural Resources and Value-Added Agriculture, Manufacturing - especially beverage manufacturing, high tech - especially unmanned systems, healthcare, utilities and renewable energy, arts, culture, tourism and recreation. Strategies focus on building a strong network to support our existing businesses, developing additional space, targeting the key industries noted in the Strategy to support their growth, bringing in new businesses, and helping bring more wealth to the region through exports.

Ms. Metta stated that the work force action plan addresses the needs to achieve that statement, including educational opportunities from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade and higher education, basic skills training, quality workplaces for our employees and new to the plan this time is noting the need for accessible childcare to increase workforce participation and support economic growth.

Chair Schwartz commented that the Board just received a letter from Maupin City Manager Kevin Lewis – Maupin is concerned about the issue of childcare. She asked that Mr. Lewis be included in the conversation about this issue. Commissioner Hege added that Mr. Lewis is reporting that Head Start is closing

in their area – we have not been aware of that. It is surprising and disappointing; we need to talk with our representatives. Chair Schwartz said she believes they are closing for lack of a certified teacher; the regulations are too onerous for rural communities.

Ms. Metta went on to say that the Resilient Infrastructure Goal has the longest Action Plan in the Strategy, as there are a number of important facets of our infrastructure system that justified their own sections. Water and Wastewater that meet the needs of our existing and future residents and businesses, especially as drought conditions continue. Housing that is available and affordable for the workforce in the region. Also identified was the need for broadband that reaches those last-mile customers and includes redundancy, to connect our residents and businesses to opportunities for education, healthcare, jobs and customers; energy systems that are renewable, resilient, efficient and support all of our communities, even during disruptive events. Also identified as important is a multimodal Transportation System that provides a safe, efficient, equitable and accessible regional transportation system to enhance the livability, resilience and economic vitality of the Mid-Columbia region.

Ms. Metta said that the Powerful Regional Collaboration goal is unique in that it references actions that are tools to support work toward the three other goal areas. Here we will build our information and advocacy systems and build on the strong collaborative networks in the region to better achieve the vision in the Strategy.

Ms. Metta said they have developed an interactive website in both English and Spanish. She thanked all the community partners and her staff that worked to bring this strategy to life including the MCEDD Board, MCEDD Staff, Steering Committee, NW Natural, US Economic development Administration, The Next Door and Blue Marble Creative.

Commissioner Hege said that there so many things included in this strategy - it is great. He stated that one of his primary concerns is the availability of land. That is why he was asking about if it is a problem across the region. He said he is not sure we have been communicating about that effectively across the 5 counties. For our county and this community, the UGB feels like it is fading away - it is not mentioned in the presentation at all. It will be a large problem in the foreseeable future. If we don't have the space to provide what we need as humans, we will wither. What are we going to do about this issue? When we collaborate strongly as a region we can get things done.

Ms. Metta responded saying that it is in some of the details of the plan. When the

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Gorge Commission was updating their management plan, there was some outreach and the possibility of a regional role for MCEDD in addressing this issue. It is on our radar. The Ports have a role for the employable lands. It is more of an issue on the Oregon side than the WA side.

Commissioner Hege said that when he was the Executive Director at the Port they were doing 5-10 acres per year of development - 40 acres will not get you very far. People do not look to The Dalles anymore to expand or move businesses. Ms. Metta reported that there has been an uptick of interest from businesses; there are few parcels available across the state.

Commissioner Hege stated that you want a strong economy. The U.S. has to be doing well and OR has to be doing well and Portland has to be doing well for us to do well. The main thing is that the issue of how we use land; expansion of the UGB is important.

Mr. Stone stated that one strategy that is out there is the Board's convening power. We need to bring the cities and counties of the scenic area together to talk about this. We do it at a staff level through our Planning Departments but without the support of the city and county governments it is not as effective as it could be. If that is a strategy, we can work with MCEDD to bring those together.

Commissioner Hege observed that from Washington State's standpoint there is plenty of land but that land does not help us. I do not know if there is the heart for collaboration right now - they may not feel the urgency that we experience.

Vice-Chair Kramer reported that at the Community Outreach Team post-DC trip debrief, they invited the Klickitat and Skamania County commissioners to join them and start that conversation, setting the stage for bigger conversations. He said he thinks we can move in that direction. Ms. Mette said she thinks a MCEDD Board meeting can be a good place to take the temperature of the counties in the region. Commissioner Hege said that One Gorge should also be involved and does not seem to be.

Chair Schwartz said planning around the expansion of the UGB is a conversation she never hears about. What is it that we want? What is it that we can control? She said she does not know where that conversation should happen and who should be at the table, but that would be helpful for her. That should be part of the conversation. If you expand and have shovel-ready land, can you control what businesses come here; what do we want to attract - family wage, non-polluting business would be her interest. She said she hears about businesses that want to come here but can't? Who are they? Vice-Chair Kramer said that is sometimes confidential. Commissioner Hege said that businesses usually start at the state

where State staff help guide the exploration of potential sites. He said that he would send Chair Schwartz a document that will help provide context and history.

Chair Schwartz said the economic report outlines the need for land for larger enterprises as well as redevelopment for smaller existing tract. Commissioner Hege said that we want both. We want to diversify the economy so we are not dependent on one business - we lost our economy when the aluminum plant failed. We want a resilient economy.

Chair Schwartz asked if other counties have an EDC. Ms. Metta said that Wasco County is somewhat unique. There are some support pieces for other counties but not quite like Wasco County's. Chair Schwartz commented that it is difficult to work across states with the different funding and regulations.

Recess to 4H & Extension Service District Meeting

At 10:23 a.m. Chair Schwartz recessed from the Regular Session to open a meeting of the Wasco County 4H & Extension Service District.

The Session reconvened at 10:28 a.m.

Agenda Item – City County Coordinated Homeless Services Advisory Committee

Chair Schwartz referenced a recent letter (attached) from the Executive Director of Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC) Kenny LaPoint requesting local government representation on the City/County Coordinated Homeless Services Advisory Committee. She said that she is happy to do that and bring back information to the Board. She said the work has already begun at MCCAC.

Vice-Chair Kramer said that through his conversations with Mr. LaPoint, he is under the impression that the plan is basically done and these funds will be to implement the plan. Chair Schwartz stated that the group needs to get together to review what has been done and identify any gaps.

Commissioner Hege asked if these funds can be used for implementation. Chair Schwartz replied that they cannot be used for capital expenses. Vice-Chair Kramer said that they can hire a grant coordinator so they can continue to pursue funds to support the unfunded 5 years of the 7-year project. Mr. LaPoint is confident that can be done – our region is so far ahead of anyone else, that it makes sense to pursue the sustainability aspect of the plan.

Chair Schwartz stated that a Homeless Coordinator will be invaluable and needs to be added to the plan. St. Vincent will no longer be providing warming shelters

and we need to figure out how to fill that need. Vice-Chair Kramer added that other entities have looked at our model and are beginning to include others in their regions. Chair Schwartz noted that we are the only regional model. She said she really appreciates the support for this plan.

Commissioner Hege observed that the Resolution Center team has identified funds to build the center but have a significant shortfall in operational funding. He asked how the Navigation Center will address that for their project. Chair Schwartz pointed out that MCCAC will be moving from their current location into the Navigation Center with all their current funding to do their work. Vice-Chair Kramer added that the goal is also to increase funding. Chair Schwartz said Mr. LaPoint is confident he can secure the funding needed to build the Navigation Center.

Vice-Chair Kramer asked if the wrap around services will be paying rent. Chair Schwartz replied that it will depend on the entity. Some will be using the Center as their main office while others will rotate through as satellite offices. There will also be other space rental opportunities.

Commission Call

Commissioner Hege asked if the MOU the Board approved at the last session will be going before the Gorge Commission Board for approval. Mr. Stone said it is on their next agenda.

Discussion ensued on who might pursue the Head Start issue. Chair Schwartz commented that it may be valuable to have Nancey Patten present at a future Board Session to more fully understand the child care challenges in our county. Commissioner Hege observed that the College can build the childcare facility but do not have the funding to operate it. Chair Schwartz reported that MCMC's Great and Small childcare facility is heavily subsidized. The issue is people cannot afford to pay childcare providers a good wage which means people are not attracted to that vocation. The Board directed Ms. Clark to invite Ms. Patten to a future session.

Commissioner Hege and Vice-Chair Kramer said they are each considering attending the NACo conference in Colorado.

Chair Schwartz adjourned the session at 10:52 a.m.

Summary of Actions

MOTIONS

- **To approve the Consent Agenda: 4.20.2022 Regular Session Minutes.**

CONSENSUS

- **To move forward with continued staff support for Mid-Columbia Center for Living.**

Wasco County
Board of Commissioners



Kathleen B. Schwartz, Commission Chair



Steven D. Kramer, Vice-Chair



Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner



CONSENT AGENDA

[MINUTES: 4.20.2022 REGULAR SESSION](#)



**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

APRIL 20, 2022

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PRESENT: Kathy Schwartz, Chair
Steve Kramer, Vice-Chair
Scott Hege, County Commissioner

STAFF: Kathy Clark, Executive Assistant

ABSENT: Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer

Chair Schwartz opened the session at 9:00 a.m.

Discussion Item – Pine Ridge Plat

Ben Beseda of Tenneson Engineering explained this plat (included in the Board Packet) is the final step for the subdivision in Wamic; the lots are ready for market. County Surveyor Bradley Cross commented that this is another great addition to our county. Nine lots have been created just outside of Wamic.

The Board signed the plat.

Discussion Item – Child Care Providers Proclamation

Child Care Partners Director Nancey Patten said that child care providers were essential workers long before the pandemic. They keep our children safe, nurture their curiosity for a lifetime of learning and growth all while helping their parents to work knowing their children are safe. Provider Appreciation Day started in 1996 in New Jersey; it is now recognized nationwide. She said that they are excited and grateful that the Board is considering this proclamation.

Vice-Chair Kramer stated that Ms. Patten's team does a great job that is well appreciated.

Chair Schwartz asked Ms. Patten to report on the current status of child care in our community. Ms. Patten replied that they lost some providers due to the

pandemic – some for health reasons and others due to the challenges of meeting the new standards. She said that the code requiring a sprinkler system has been modified; providers are required to have fire suppression equipment but not a sprinkler system. Columbia Gorge Community College has received grant funds for a child care center on campus. One key challenge is sustainability.

Vice-Chair Kramer read the proclamation (included in the Board Packet) into the record.

{{Vice-Chair Kramer moved to proclaim May 6, 2022 as Provider Appreciation Day in Wasco County and urge all citizens to recognize Child Care Providers for their important work. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}

Discussion Item – Gorge Commission MOU

County Counsel Kristen Campbell stated that the County and the Port of The Dalles have been engaged with the Columbia River Gorge Commission in a process to identify shared interests and goals. This MOU will create a pathway for a future working relationship between the parties.

Vice-Chair Kramer said this is definitely an opportunity for the three partners to move forward. A lot has changed since the legislation was enacted and this provides a mechanism for working together. There is still a lot of work to be done at the legislative level and we need to get everyone together to move that forward. He added that conversations with legislators began when the Community Outreach Team traveled to Washington D.C. and are continuing with our representation including Representatives Bentz and Blumenauer.

Commissioner Hege pointed out that the MOU includes 1 or 2 annual meetings. He cautioned that we need to make sure those meetings occur and are focused, productive discussions; the MOU can guide those discussions. While this is not what we wanted through the appeal, folks have worked hard on this agreement and it is better than nothing.

Chair Schwartz thanked Ms. Campbell, Port Counsel Elaine Albrich and the Gorge Commission for all the hard work. She said this is a good first step. The main issue is the urban growth boundary and she hopes we can continue to work toward that while maintaining the beauty of the Gorge.

{{{Commissioner Hege moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding among the Columbia River Gorge Commission, Wasco County and the Port of The Dalles. Vice-Chair Kramer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Vice-Chair Kramer said this is a new beginning – it will take a lot of people and a lot of work, but we are up to the challenge.

County Assessor Jill Amery introduced Deeds Clerk Brenna LaVigne who has been with us for 7 months. This was her first opportunity to see the plat process in person as she may be ushering plats through in the future. Ms. Amery said they are happy to have her on the team.

Commissioner Hege asked Ms. Amery about the work we send to Harney County. Ms. Amery replied that we contract with them to do the map changes for the State website. We are working toward bringing that in-house. There are very few counties that do it in-house; most use the State but we have not been happy with their work.

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{{{Vice-Chair Kramer moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Agenda Item – Elections Modernization Grant
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County Clerk Lisa Gambee reviewed the memo included in the Board Packet saying that the State of Oregon is providing grant funding to help with the modernization of election equipment; smaller counties struggle to keep up to date. This is \$82,000 for ballot tabulation scanners and sorters. We have already purchased the scanner which is used to scan the unique bar code assigned to each ballot; we currently hand wand each ballot. This will automate that process. Once a ballot has been scanned, voters can go on the State website to see if their ballot has been received.

Commissioner Hege asked if that process is done outside of the secured area. Ms. Gambee replied that it is the first step in the process and is done in the Clerk's office. It is a large piece of equipment and they will need to rearrange their office to accommodate that. The counting equipment is on a secure, closed circuit system; the scanning equipment just needs a Wi-Fi connection.

Ms. Gambee went on to say that another thing the sorter can do is automatic signature verification which will auto scan the signature and compare it to what we have on file. The grant cannot be used for that program as it is an ongoing software cost and this is a one-time grant. We are currently not planning to use that feature due to the cost and public perception.

Commissioner Hege asked if other counties commonly use the signature verification program. Ms. Gambee replied affirmatively. Commissioner Hege asked about the associated costs. Ms. Gambee answered that there is an initial cost for the software license and ongoing costs for the maintenance. Benton County pays approximately \$3,000 per year and they have significantly more voters. Clear Ballot was approximately \$50,000 for the equipment and about \$11,000 per year ongoing costs; that makes it much more expensive than the signature verification. Commissioner Hege commented that at some point, it may make sense to use the signature verification.

Chair Schwartz noted that during the last election, election observers participated virtually. She asked what the plans are for this election. Ms. Gambee responded that they will continue that practice as it increases public access and reduces distractions for the Election Board. She stated that Information Services Director Andrew Burke helped set up the system and now other counties are looking at it as a model.

Radio Newsman Rodger Nichols asked how the new postmark rules will impact the process. Ms. Gambee said that there will be more work to do after Election Day. If you mail your ballot on or before Election Day and it arrives within 7 days, we can count and process it like any other. We will have a scanner to read the postal indicator. In addition, the attestation by the voter will confirm mailing on or before Election Day. Clerks still recommend that if waiting until Election Day, voters should ask for a hand stamp at their post office. She said that she appreciates that people who have done their best will have this extra time. She also hopes that people will not use this to procrastinate further.

{{{Commissioner Hege moved to approve the State of Oregon Election Modernization Grant Agreement #PO16500-00006599. Vice-Chair Kramer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Agenda Item – Codes Compliance Program Updates

Codes Compliance Officer Kristina Blake reviewed the presentation included in

the Board Packet. She explained that land use violations are the top priority. They currently have only 2 nuisance cases – 1 is at the citation stage and they continue to work with the other. Hoarder cases must be handled carefully and they are adding information to the website to help the public understand that hoarding is a mental illness and there are more effective paths to resolving the issues. She reported that 1 hoarder case had 158 contacts, a \$10,000 lien and 7 abatement agreements with no success. That is a waste of resources and outside the scope of what most codes compliance officers can do. These are better handled by Adult Protective Services, Animal Protection, etc.

Commissioner Hege asked how you know when it is a hoarder. Ms. Blake replied that you know when you see it – there is barely room to move around inside the house so the collection of items spills outside to the yard. She related stories from her previous position where the local fire department had determined that they could not safely enter the house to rescue inhabitants were there to be a fire. One hoarder set their house on fire and then took burnt items to storage so that the cleanup crew would not discard them; what we may view as garbage they see as treasures.

Commissioner Hege asked if the hoarding activities are a violation of our code. Ms. Blake replied affirmatively, adding that Codes Compliance Officers do not have the tools, skills and training to address hoarding successfully.

Ms. Blake went on to say that the citation process has been effective. There was one case from 2018 where the owner had 2 sheds nearly in the roadway and would not comply with requests. Once cited for the infraction, he contacted our office and is now connected to a planner to help guide the solution. She said she is currently working 12 or 13 cases which will be the average at any given time.

Commissioner Hege asked what the levels are for prioritization of complaints. Ms. Blake said the information can be found on our website as follows:

PRIORITY 1 VIOLATIONS: (70% OF STAFF TIME)

Land use activities that impact environmental/natural resources, pose significant health and safety issues, or involve structures under construction that do not meet standards. This includes:

- Floodplain/drainage/wetland/riparian area disturbances (illegal crossings, development, grading, etc.)
- Dwellings or other structures without a permit

- Violations of conditions of approval for development permits
- Overgrown vegetation or violations of Fire Safety standards/defensible space

PRIORITY 2 VIOLATIONS: (20% OF STAFF TIME)

Land use or nuisance activities that pose health/safety issues or involve development that does not meet standards. This includes:

- Grading without permits
- Commercial/industrial/recreation activities without permits (includes home occupations, agricultural buildings converted to nonagricultural uses)
- Outdoor parking or storage of five or more operable vehicles

PRIORITY 3 VIOLATIONS: (10% OF STAFF TIME)

Nuisance violations that pose potential health and safety hazards. This includes:

- Junk accumulation
- Trash accumulation

The Board thanked Ms. Blake for her assistance and good work. Chair Schwartz asked if our current ordinance is aligned with our practices. Planning Director Kelly Howsley-Glover replied that the Ordinance does need to be updated but it is pretty well aligned with current practices. She said it has been great to whittle the list down to as manageable number.

Agenda Item – Revised Planning Commission Bylaws

Planning Director Kelly Howsley Glover reviewed the revisions approved by the Wasco County Planning Commission. She noted that the work began under former Planning Director Angie Brewer. The goal was to better reflect current practice and bring it in line with accurate references. One of the most important changes made is the rotation of the Chair and Vice-Chair positions which has been a great opportunity for Planning Commissioners and does not unduly burden any one Commissioner. The new bylaws will also help address attendance issues in a way that will allow them to retain Commissioners.

Commissioner Hege observed that the new bylaws alter the composition of the Advisory Committee by removing the requirement to have a Planning Commissioner from a city. He said he does not want our Planning Commission to forget about the cities' perspective. Ms. Howsley-Glover said it has been increasingly difficult to maintain representation from the cities; in addition, the

community and Planning Commission felt it created bias.

Chair Schwartz asked who our current Planning Commissioners are. Ms. Howsley-Glover listed them as follows:

Vicki Ashley, Maupin
Russell Hargrave, Mosier
Marcus Swift, The Dalles
Lynne MacIntyre, The Dalles
Mike Davis, Tygh Valley
Kate Willis, Tygh Valley
Chris Schanno, The Dalles

She said the alternate positions are vacant and they are actively recruiting for those positions.

{{{Vice-Chair Kramer moved to approve the revised Wasco County Planning Commission Bylaws as presented by staff and recommended by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Agenda Item – BPA Noxious Weed Agreement

Public Works Director Arthur Smith explained that we have sprayed weeds for the Bonneville Power Administration for several years and would like to continue through the spring of 2024. This is basically a continuation of services and will be our final agreement with them as our Weed Master will be retiring.

Vice-Chair Kramer asked about the flat annual rate considering the cost of materials and labor has been rising. Mr. Smith replied that the BPA understands that the area treated may be reduced to stay within budget. Vice-Chair Kramer commented that it is unfortunate as that will mean more weeds with seeds spreading to areas that we will have to treat at our cost.

{{{Commissioner Hege moved to approve the Bonneville Power Administration Interagency Agreement #89497 for Noxious Weed Management. Vice-Chair Kramer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Agenda Item – Consulting Services Agreement – Bridge Design

Mr. Smith said this agreement will scope and apply for funding for 15 load limited bridges' repair/replacement. This company is familiar with our bridges and they are a qualified, specialized engineering firm. We can directly appoint them and get this work done in time to take advantage of available funding sources.

Vice-Chair Kramer commended Mr. Smith for his forward-looking plan. Chair Schwartz agreed saying it is great to know that these bridges will get the attention they need. She asked about the size of the bridges.

Mr. Smith explained that all have to be greater than 20 feet in length; our largest is about 85 feet. He said he is very excited to have this outstanding consultant that will allow us to be competitive for funding. He said that one of the bridges is used to get to the landfill; other bridges have similar weight needs. Vice-Chair Kramer added that many of them are on farm to market routes and will help our agricultural community. Commissioner Hege said broader uses is exactly why they need to be repaired.

{{Vice-Chair Kramer moved to approve the Consulting Services Contract with Oregon Transportation Professionals to provide a scope of work and prepare funding applications for 15 load limited bridges located in Wasco County. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}

Mr. Smith said that in February he came to the Board requesting the purchase of a Gradall Excavator. He said they picked it up yesterday and he invited the Board to stop by.

Mr. Smith explained that due to the fluctuation in oil prices, they have reduced the number of miles they will be able to chip seal this year from 40 to 32. He said they will be able to assist the City of The Dalles with their chip sealing efforts. He said that the county roads on the list for work are in the areas of 15 Mile, Pleasant Ridge, Dufur and Wamic.

Agenda Item – HPP Grant Closeout

Emergency Manager Sheridan McClellan reviewed the memo included in the Board Packet. He stated that \$409.84 was returned to the State. Chair Schwartz asked why we returned any. Mr. McClellan replied that it is difficult to predict

final costs when placing orders; he did not want to exceed the grant amount. He said that Region 6 has response trailers; some of the funding was used to replace outdated personal protective equipment in those trailers.

Commissioner Hege asked if supplies went to first responders in our county. Mr. McClellan responded affirmatively.

Discussion ensued regarding the longevity of N95 masks. Everyone agreed that the manufacturer's instructions on packaging should be followed regarding the durability and effectiveness of the equipment.

Chair Schwartz asked if we have supplies at the County. Mr. McClellan answered that he is storing supplies at the Incident Command Center.

Agenda Item – Ambulance Service Area Agreements

Mr. McClellan stated that the ASA Plan was updated in 2019; since then it has been identified that the ASA Ordinance needs to be updated. ASA Agreements are generally written for 3 years but it does not make sense to go through the application and contracting process now when revisions to the Ordinance may alter that process and the requirements. Therefore, we are asking to extend the current contracts through the end of the year when we hope to have a new ordinance in place. He said that they are learning a lot through the revision process and believe that the Ordinance will be more robust and much better for our community. He said they will revisit the Plan once the Ordinance is adopted; the Ordinance is the controlling document.

{{Vice-Chair Kramer moved to approve the 4th Amendments to the Ambulance Service Area Contracts for Areas 1 through 8. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}

Agenda Item – Community Outreach Programs Update

Administrative Services Office Manager Stephanie Krell demonstrated the Bang the Table and Zen City platforms recently acquired by the County. She explained that Zen City is a passive platform that gathers information on what people are talking about in our community and generates reports including the percentages of comments that are negative, positive or neutral. She said we are currently following a few groups including the unedited The Dalles Happenings. To follow groups, we need consent from the group administrator. We want to cast a wide net to capture as much as possible. She pointed out that all the reported

information is anonymous; it does not include the name or contact information for the comments gathered.

Vice-Chair Kramer asked if the reports include the time of day comments are made. Ms. Krell replied that it reports the day; she will look into the possibility of getting the time as well.

Ms. Krell went on to say that it is a great way to learn what people are talking about and gives us the opportunity to correct misconceptions or misinformation. The application allows us to create surveys that can be posted even on sites we do not monitor. She asked for input on a high level survey she plans to launch to test the functionality and value of the feature.

Chair Schwartz suggested that the question regarding cultural opportunities may not be clear to responders. Mr. Stone said that as we get more sophisticated, we will get better at forming questions.

Chair Schwartz asked how we will see it. Ms. Krell said it will be on our website as well as on the sites of partner agencies who agree to post it. In addition, we will ask the local news outlets to help get the word out.

Commissioner Hege said he would like to see an economy question included. Mr. Stone said they will add questions about economic development and job creation to the survey.

Commissioner Hege asked if training is available. Ms. Krell replied that she is happy to help with that and there is also training available through Zen City. She went on to demonstrate how the results of surveys can be used to support grant applications.

Ms. Krell said that Zen City has recently offered us something similar to what we have with Bang the Table. She will be looking into how it compares with what we have. She said that Bang the Table is a community engagement tool to give the public the opportunity to have a say in the future of our county. Our website is SpeakupWasco.com. Users can follow projects, we can post surveys here with no limit to content. In addition, projects can have editors so that the subject matter experts can manage the information on their projects. Information gathered from Zen City will help to inform the FAQ's we post on SpeakupWasco.com.

Vice-Chair Kramer asked why we are not investing in our own website. Mr. Stone said that our website is passive, this will engage people and gather input. These are designed to engage and follow conversations. Links will be posted on our website.

Commissioner Hege said that we are exploring now and we will want to see if we are getting engagement or not over the next year. He said that the nice thing about Zen City is we will see what people are already talking about. Mr. Stone added that we can add comment to a site we are monitoring to stimulate conversation. He pointed out that it will take time to build followers.

Chair Schwartz asked if we are developing questions for the Kramer project. Ms. Krell replied affirmatively, saying that we will add questions and content as information becomes available.

Chair Schwartz asked how we will push this out to our community. Ms. Krell answered that we will use the resources we have to get the word out; once we work through the kinks, we will start pushing it and post the link to our website.

Information Services Director Andrew Burke said that oftentimes using systems like these is a launching pad to incorporate applications into our website.

Mr. Stone said we need the Board's help to understand what they want to hear about and the press's help to get the word out.

Chair Schwartz said that she thinks it is great; it is not for everyone but there are a lot of people who enjoy digital information.

Agenda Item – Powder Pure Resolution

Administrative Services Director Matthew Klebes reviewed the memo included in the Board Packet. He said that this abatement is in its 4th year and the applicant will pay a fee that is equal to 50% of what their taxes would be; in the 5th year they will pay 75%.

William Parkke, from Powder Pure, reviewed the presentation included in the Board Packet. He explained that they have not been able to use their site expansion – it is difficult to fill positions and employee turnover has increased. They have had to outsource some positions that they have not been able to fill onsite. The average salary has increased and they have hired 34 employees.

Chair Schwartz asked if they offer benefits. Mr. Parkke replied that they offer full benefits at the industry standard as they are an international company. They strive to be industry leaders.

{{Vice-Chair Kramer moved to approve Resolution 22-002 Adjusting the minimum employment level requirement pursuant to sections 2 and 3 of HB 2343 (2121) for PowderPure. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}

Agenda Item – Strategic Investment Program Community Service Fee

Mr. Stone said that the team has reached the point in the process where we need to address the Community Service Fee. He said that they worked with all the taxing districts with additional work done between the City, County and Mid-Columbia Fire District where they agreed to distribute to all districts in the area by whatever their taxing authority is. The Fire District approved the IGA on Monday; the Library approved it last night; and the North Wasco County Parks and Recreation District will consider it tonight. That will push dollars to everyone's general fund for the duration of both projects.

Commissioner Hege asked for an estimate of time and dollar amount. Ms. Amery said that it will be approximately \$24.7 million times 2 over a period of 15-20 years.

Mr. Stone said that it was a difficult negotiation and he appreciates everyone's willingness to come to the table. The big winner here is the school and he hopes they can use the dollars to leverage their bond measure. He said he is grateful to all for getting this to the finish line by the deadline. Ms. Amery pointed out that this is a not a tax but a fee so it will not supplant other revenue sources for the school district.

Vice-Chair Kramer said that the amount of effort all the way through this process was outstanding; partners at the City and Special Districts put us on the path to good things.

Commissioner Hege asked if there was an attempt at something other than what was finally agreed upon. Mr. Stone said that at the end of the day there were 7 or 8 different proposals such as 2/3 to the school and 1/3 to the Kramer field project, another was just the Districts required by statute which eliminated the ESD, School District and College.

Commissioner Hege commented that the first suggestion was for greater good projects. Mr. Stone agreed saying that they could not get consensus for that proposal. He said we will likely go to each entity with requests for support for those projects.

Commissioner Hege asked if this will come in a lump sum. Mr. Stone responded that it will not, but could still be used to leverage a bond. Commissioner Hege said this will pay out over a 20-25 year period? Mr. Stone said that it has that potential depending on what they build and its value.

Vice-Chair Kramer observed that we now have the 2005 project on the tax roll although we will not know the numbers until later this year. As that revenue flows to the districts, it will make the future conversations around the Community Service Fee a little easier. Ms. Amery added that now that Google has committed to reinvest, it will give us a better view of what the next 5-10 years will look like in our community.

{{Vice-Chair Kramer moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Wasco County, City of The Dalles, Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue, Wasco County Library Service District, North Wasco County Parks and Recreation, Wasco County 4H & Extension Service District, Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Port of The Dalles for the apportionment of the Google, LLC, Design, LLC and Moraine Industries, LLC Strategic Investment Program Community Service Fee. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}

Mr. Stone observed that this is Matthew Klebes' last BOC meeting. A lot of this work has been shouldered by Mr. Klebes and Ms. Amery. He said he wants to thank them for their work. He said that this is bittersweet – Mr. Klebes has added to this organization immensely and our ability to move things forward. He said that he will miss that but can't wait to work with him as he takes on his new role at the City.

Mr. Klebes said he is very appreciative of his time at the County. The team and staff have been very supportive and it has been a privilege to be involved in watershed moments. He agreed that it is bittersweet and he is also looking forward to working with the County.

Chair Schwartz opened the floor to public comment. There was none.

Commission Call

Vice-Chair Kramer said that Representative Bonham will be floating a letter to reduce some of the fuel taxes. He said he wants to understand what impact that will have on our Public Works Department before agreeing to sign on to that letter. Mr. Smith said any reduction in fuel taxes will reduce his budget.

Commissioner Hege said that the idea is to help the farmers with fuel costs. Vice-Chair Kramer said that the higher level items on the tax list are project oriented. The hope is that this would only impact the State.

Vice-Chair Kramer said that at a Tuesday morning meeting a Commissioner from Klamath Falls challenged the Health Modernization program for the lack of input from counties. Vice-Chair Kramer stated that he will be exploring that further.

Vice-Chair Kramer reported that he talked with Obsidian renewables about a project. Range Land Fire Protection is meeting Saturday around unprotected areas of Wasco County.

Commissioner Hege commented that we have 25 positions open at the County and he has never seen that many open positions here. They are good positions and we cannot fill them for many of the same reasons MCCFL cannot fill positions. It is a struggle.

Mr. Stone said that in the public sector we are bound by pay equity which is an anchor to recruitment. We have one employee who has received 4 different offers from the same company and finally the offer was too high to turn down. We no longer have Tier 1 PERS which used to set public employment apart. We are trying to be agile and pivot here and at MCCFL. You will see a lot less experienced people that we will have to train and hope to keep. It is very challenging, especially for skilled positions.

Chair Schwartz noted that even the private sector is struggling as we heard this morning. You hear all kinds of reasons why this is happening.

Commissioner Hege said that Congressmen Bentz met with each Commissioner individually – it is unique that they would reach out to have those conversations.

Chair Schwartz reported that at their last meeting the NORCOR Board adopted a new administrative structure that will have a 3 headed management team – a Jail

Manager, a Detention Manager and a Business Manager. They will not be hiring for that right away. They also restructured the Board to be composed of just the County Commissioners. The Bylaws have been updated. She said they really wanted to respect the management team's opinion that the past structure did not work. They will try this out and hope that it will be successful.

Commissioner Hege said that he heard a new term – "COVID Cliff" – which refers to all the funds flowing now and creating growing organizations; there is a concern about what will happen when that flow stops. Vice-Chair Kramer said that he is concerned about what it will look like in 3-5 years. Chair Schwartz said that NCPHD added a lot of staff during COVID but did so with contracts. Most of that staff is now gone and they are back to their core workforce.

Chair Schwartz adjourned the session at 12:12 p.m.

Summary of Actions

MOTIONS

- **To proclaim May 6, 2022 as Provider Appreciation Day in Wasco County and urge all citizens to recognize Child Care Providers for their important work.**
- **To proclaim May 6, 2022 as Provider Appreciation Day in Wasco County and urge all citizens to recognize Child Care Providers for their important work.**
- **To approve the State of Oregon Election Modernization Grant Agreement #PO16500-00006599.**
- **To approve the Consent Agenda – 4.6.2022 Regular Session Minutes.**
- **To approve the revised Wasco County Planning Commission Bylaws as presented by staff and recommended by the Planning Commission.**
- **To approve the Bonneville Power Administration Interagency Agreement #89497 for Noxious Weed Management.**
- **To approve the Consulting Services Contract with Oregon Transportation Professionals to provide a scope of work and prepare funding applications for 15 load limited bridges located in Wasco County.**
- **To approve the 4th Amendments to the Ambulance Service Area Contracts for Areas 1 through 8.**
- **To approve Resolution 22-002 Adjusting minimum employment level**

requirement pursuant to sections 2 and 3 of HB 2343 (2121) for PowderPure.

- **To approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Wasco County, City of The Dalles, Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue, Wasco County Library Service District, North Wasco County Parks and Recreation, Wasco County 4H & Extension Service District, Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Port of The Dalles for the apportionment of the Google, LLC, Design, LLC and Moraine Industries, LLC Strategic Investment Program Community Service Fee.**

Wasco County
Board of Commissioners

Kathleen B. Schwartz, Commission Chair

Steven D. Kramer, Vice-Chair

Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner



AGENDA ITEM

MCCFL Request for Services

[MCCFL MEMO](#)



MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONTRACTED SERVICES IN FISCAL YEAR 22-23

TO: WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: TRI-COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

DATE: APRIL 12, 2022

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

We are writing to express our gratitude for the generous support we have received over the past several months. The Wasco County leadership support you have provided to MCCFL has enabled our team to begin a critical rebuilding process. Thank you.

In order to further strengthen the MCCFL management structure and business functions, we are requesting ongoing support in the following areas:

- ❖ Internet Technology (IT) Services Agreement (already executed) expected over a multiyear duration
- ❖ Human Resources (HR) Services Agreement (proposed) to extend the current arrangement for part time HR Director support to MCCFL team for the next 6 months and then re-evaluate business need
- ❖ Fiscal Services Agreement (proposed) to extend the current arrangement for part time Finance Director for fiscal year 22-23 with a 6-month re-evaluation of business need
- ❖ Executive Leadership Services Agreement (proposed) for part-time loaned executive support for fiscal year 22-23 with a 6-month re-evaluation of business need

Specifically, we would like Wasco County to prepare a proposed cost structure for the three proposed areas outlined above since the IT Services Agreement is already approved. We anticipate the need for finance and HR support to remain at .5 full time equivalent (FTE) levels each, and we hope to receive 1.0 FTE level of executive leadership support. Executive leadership services would likely be split between two leaders: Molly Rogers (approximately .75 FTE) and Tyler Stone (approximately .25 FTE). If awarded the Behavioral Health Resources Network

(BHRN) grant, we will ask Molly Rogers to serve as the BRHN project director. Other executive leadership activities may include: work flow and process improvements, strategic partnerships, trauma informed care and workplace culture, operational improvements, and contract negotiation and management.

If this request is amenable to the Wasco County Board, then we anticipate that our Interim Executive Director, Al Barton, can work out the specific details with Tyler Stone, Wasco County Administrator, and legal counsel(s) so that both Boards can review and approve the cost and agreement structure.

MCCFL's mission is to provide the tools and the path to empower people to make positive changes in their lives. Wasco County is a foundational partner in this mission and we look forward to continued collaboration.



AGENDA ITEM

MCEDD Update & 2022-2027 Economic Development Strategy

[PRESENTATION](#)



COLUMBIA GORGE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2022-2027

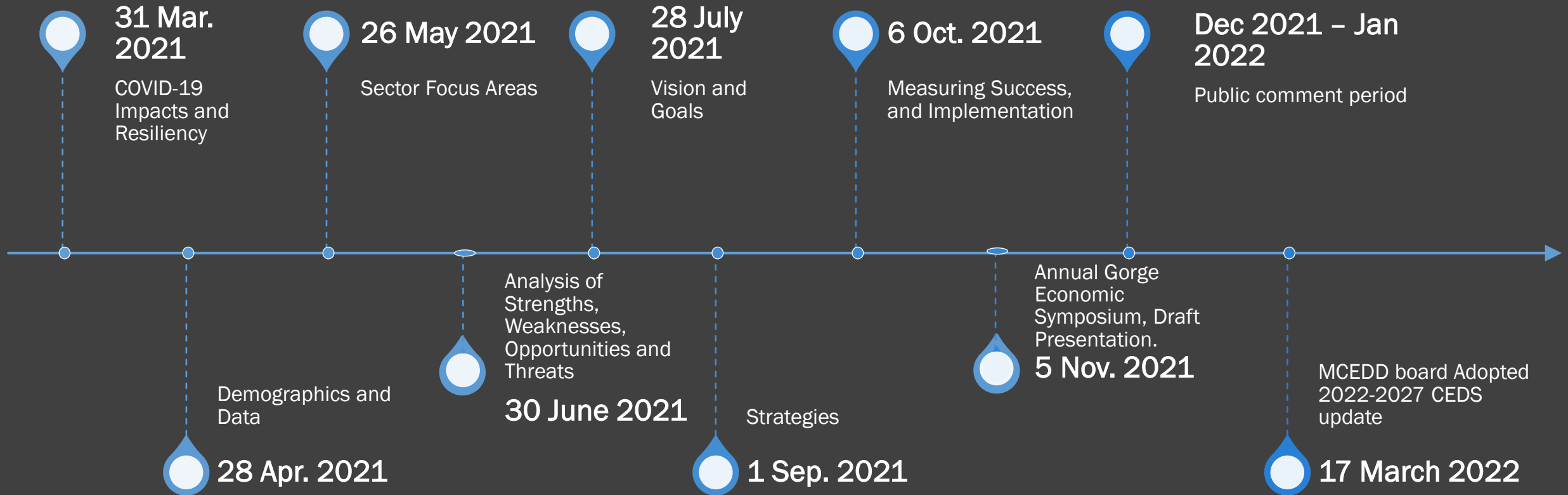
HOOD RIVER, KLINKITAT, SHERMAN, SKAMANIA, AND
WASCO COUNTIES

CEDS OVERVIEW

Every five years the region develops the **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy** (CEDS) as a guide to understanding the regional economy and crafting goals, strategies and actions to create jobs, raise income levels, diversify the economy, and improve the quality of life.

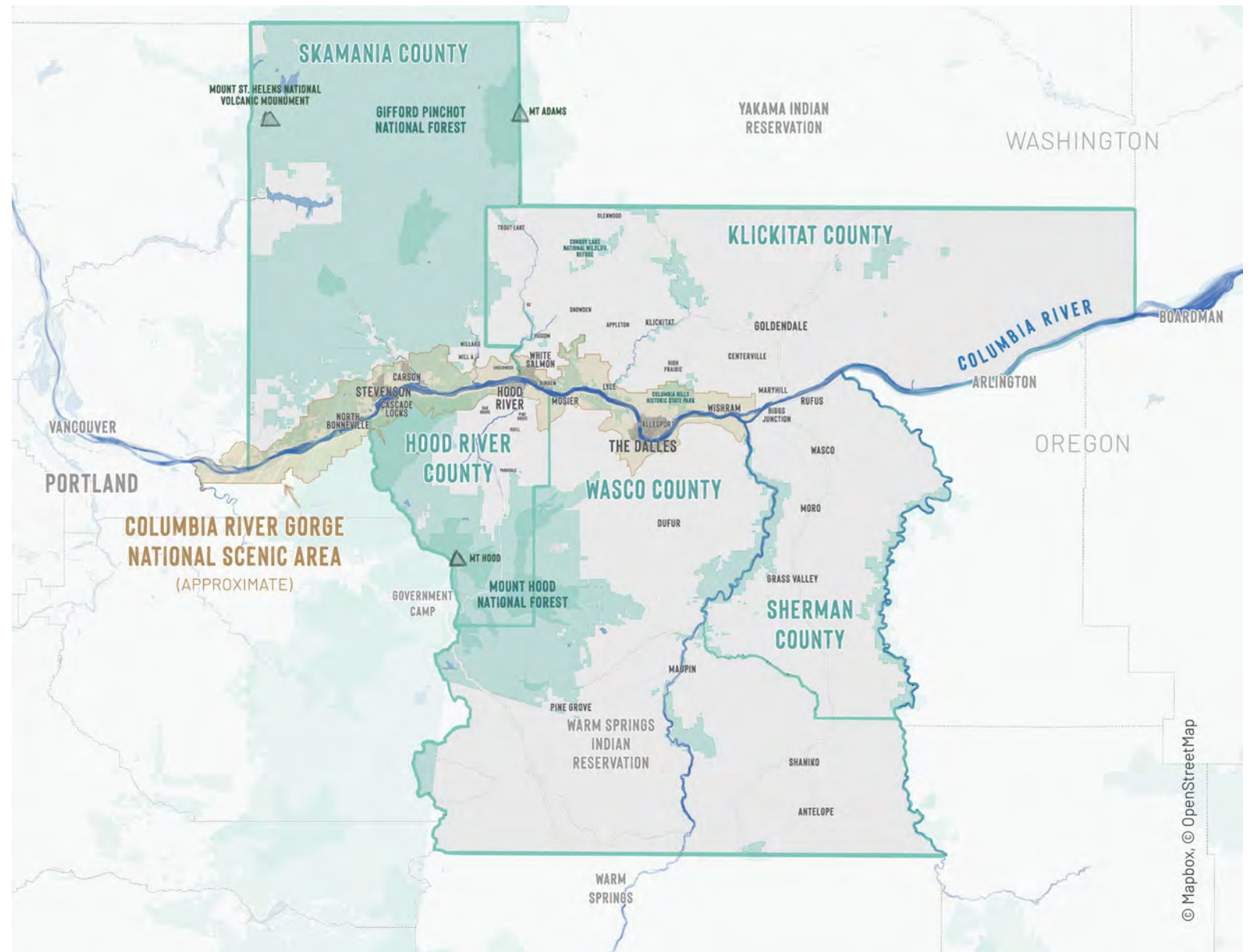
- **Summary of CEDS Process & Regional Economic Conditions**
- **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis**
- **Action Plans**
- **Evaluation Framework**
- **Priority Projects**

REGIONAL STRATEGY PROCESS



REGIONAL OVERVIEW

- Five counties in two states sharing a common workforce, geography, and economic development challenges and opportunities.
- Approx. 7,289 square miles
- The region acts as the “Center of the Hub” with direct access to metro areas and the ability to do business on an international scale
- Total Population 87,288 (2020)
- Labor Force Population 43,871 (2020)



THEMES EXPLORED

Resilience

- The ability to recover quickly from a shock, the ability to withstand a shock, and the ability to avoid the shock altogether. Establishing economic resilience in a local or regional economy requires the ability to anticipate risk, evaluate how that risk can impact key economic assets, and build a responsive capacity.
~ The EDA
- Working with partners to develop an economy where businesses and communities are prepared for and have the resources to anticipate, plan for and respond to economic shocks, such as natural disasters, disease outbreaks, or man-made disruptions.

Equitable Outcomes

- Recognition that not everyone in the region has access to the benefits of a strong regional economy.
- Identify gaps in economic opportunity, barriers to accessing this benefit that may vary by population or community, and ways to support improving outcomes.
- Considering that COVID-19 job losses were greater for women and people of color, considering equitable outcomes as we recover is even more imperative.

COVID-19 IMPACTS



Small Business Support:

- Targeted support for small businesses as they recover and grow, with a focus on those most impacted.



Accessible Childcare

- Work with community partners to address local gaps in childcare and create affordable options that support middle-to-low-income earners.



Expanded Broadband Capacity:

- Expand broadband capacity throughout the region to meet the needs of rural residents who lack access to high-speed internet.



Workforce Development

- Engage partners in industry, workforce development groups, and higher education to develop training programs that build skills for higher wage jobs.



Attainable Housing:

- Work with partners to develop strategies that address housing availability and affordability for the local workforce.



Regional Resilience Planning

- Leverage the robust response to the pandemic to build resiliency planning networks to prepare businesses, organizations, and residents for future economic shocks and disruptions.



Improved Transportation Networks:

- Build on the robust Gorge Transit Strategy to improve transportation options and increase access for rural residents.

SWOT ANALYSIS & ASSET MAPPING

In no particular order

Strengths / Assets

Scenic Beauty, Recreation, Brand and Tourism Industry
Central Location
Regional Collaboration
Infrastructure
Natural Resources
Human Capital & Entrepreneurial Spirit
Diverse and Growing Industry Sectors
Culture
Availability of Transportation Systems/ Modes

Opportunities

Adjusting Tourism, Expanding Arts and Culture
Connectivity
Synergy Across State Lines
Public Transportation
Leverage Natural Assets
Workforce Development
Growth of Value-Added Ag and Ag Tech Businesses
Quality of Life
Business/ Talent Attraction

Weaknesses

Regulatory Environment
Disparities Between States
Insufficient and Expensive Housing Stock for Rent and Purchase
Transportation
Infrastructure
Education and Skilled Workforce
Lack of Business Expansion Space
Preparedness
High Poverty Rate/ Economic Disparity

Threats

Impacts of Continued Population Growth
Regulations
Housing Shortage Impacts
Infrastructure Limitations
Industry Diversification
Hazards/ Climate Change/ Resilience
Education and Workforce
Water Access and Regulations
Decision Making

REGIONAL VISION

A bi-state Mid-Columbia region with a resilient, thriving, sustainable, rural economy that supports equitable access to diverse business opportunities that act in harmony with the area's unique qualities, values, cultural and natural resources.

FOUR GOAL AREAS

Strong Businesses
Robust Workforce
Resilient Infrastructure
Powerful Collaboration

GOAL STATEMENT



Strong Businesses

Enhance business innovation, retention and expansion, and entrepreneurship through equitable access to support services and capital, diversifying our industry mix, and enhanced coordination to address barriers to growth and sustainability.

STRONG BUSINESSES ACTION STRATEGIES



- **Strategy 1:** Coordinate marketing efforts to increase awareness of existing business resources, including spaces, lending, technical assistance, and others.
- **Strategy 2:** Develop and enhance access to business space.
- **Strategy 3:** Further develop and advocate for a local Business Support Network with accessible opportunities for businesses to develop skills and access resources, particularly around innovation and retention, in English and Spanish.
- **Strategy 4:** Identify and address barriers and opportunities at the industry-sector level to support industry cluster development with specific focus on target industries listed in the plan.
- **Strategy 5:** Attract new businesses.
- **Strategy 6:** Increase locally available access to capital for entrepreneurs.
- **Strategy 7:** Increase the ease of navigating the financial system.
- **Strategy 8:** Increase opportunities for businesses to export products.

GOAL STATEMENT



Robust Workforce

Cultivate a talented, multicultural workforce through diverse, family-wage career training aligned with industry needs while providing essential infrastructure supports for workforce participation in each community.

ROBUST WORKFORCE ACTION STRATEGIES



- **Strategy 1:** Enhance workforce tools to support area employers.
- **Strategy 2:** Enhance training opportunities to connect residents with local job opportunities.
- **Strategy 3:** Provide career training and services that specifically address bilingual and indigenous workforce needs.
- **Strategy 4:** Address childcare needs of employers and workers.
- **Strategy 5:** Support strong pre-K to 12 programs throughout the region.
- **Strategy 6:** Improve incumbent worker skills; support retooling and upgrading skills.

GOAL STATEMENT

Resilient Infrastructure



Ensure communities and businesses of the Gorge have reliable, resilient access to infrastructure, including attainable housing, high-capacity broadband, sustainable sources of energy, and emergency services, among others, to support future population demands and economic opportunities.



RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE ACTION STRATEGIES



Water/ Wastewater

- **Strategy 1:** Plan for and facilitate investment in water and wastewater projects that enhance the Gorge community, economy, resiliency, and address growing demand.
- **Strategy 2:** Support innovative products and practices in the region to foster continued access to water resources as snow melt and precipitation reduces.
- **Strategy 3:** Increase access to state and federal resources to support infrastructure development.



Housing

- **Strategy 1:** Increase awareness and understanding of housing market conditions in the Gorge.
- **Strategy 2:** Develop innovative strategies to support increasing attainable housing production in the Gorge.
- **Strategy 3:** Enhance communication and coordination across the region to support housing development.

RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE ACTION STRATEGIES



Broadband

- **Strategy 1:** Support addressing middle and last mile telecommunications infrastructure gaps.
- **Strategy 2:** Support investments into a fully redundant network.
- **Strategy 3:** Advocate for and pursue funding through federal and state funding programs.
- **Strategy 4:** Increase adoption and use of existing broadband infrastructure.

Energy

- **Strategy 1:** Leverage state requirements for 100% renewable energy generation to support investment in our region and increase resiliency of our local energy system.
- **Strategy 2:** Support investments that keep critical facilities and communities powered during disruptive events.
- **Strategy 3:** Encourage investment in energy conservation for homes and businesses to reduce costs, reduce grid constraints, and increase regional competitiveness.
- **Strategy 4:** Support the needs of the Native American community to connect the in-lieu sites to electricity and/or supplies of propane for heat.

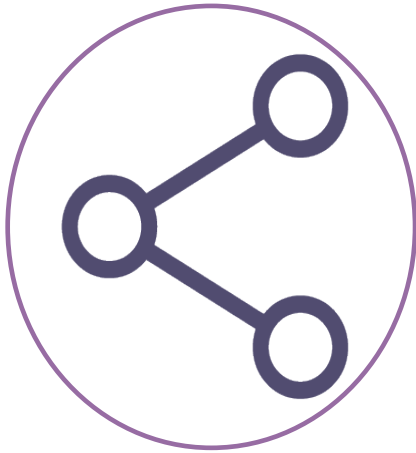
RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE ACTION STRATEGIES



↔ Transportation

- **Strategy 1:** Coordinate transportation priorities and investments and align planning efforts among regional partners to support the Mid-Columbia's economies and communities.
- **Strategy 2:** Support enhancements to regional air, water and rail infrastructure for cargo and passenger transport (locals and visitors).
- **Strategy 3:** Improve safety for all users of regional and local transportation networks.
- **Strategy 4:** Increase capacity of regional transportation network with efficient and accessible bi-state transit options.
- **Strategy 5:** Increase equitable access to transit options among underserved populations, including to Native American in-lieu sites.
- **Strategy 6:** Provide safe and complete facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- **Strategy 7:** Invest in resiliency for the region to mitigate, adapt and plan for extreme weather, natural and human-caused disasters.

GOAL STATEMENT



Powerful Regional Collaboration

Effectively collaborate and advocate as a bi-state region to leverage the economic assets of the Columbia River Gorge to reach our goals for strong businesses, a robust workforce, and resilient infrastructure.

POWERFUL REGIONAL COLLABORATION ACTION STRATEGIES



- **Strategy 1:** Strengthen information gathering and sharing to advocate for community projects and policy issues.
- **Strategy 2:** Build on existing collaborative groups.
- **Strategy 3:** Increase capacity for a regional advocacy role.

EVALUATION METRICS

Evaluation metrics provide information to gauge the success of the strategy.

Metrics used reflect regional economic health through each of the four goal areas. The metrics will be measured over time and across different geographies and demographics (age, race, gender, etc.) where possible to understand changes.

Please see full CEDS document for a complete list of evaluation metrics

2022 TOP PRIORITIES

OREGON TOP TEN

1. Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge Replacement and Bridge of the Gods Strengthening and Safety Improvements
2. Housing (Hood River, Sherman, and Wasco Counties, City of Hood River)
3. City of The Dalles' Dog River Pipeline
4. Broadband in Sherman and Wasco Counties
5. Wasco County's Cascades East Interconnection and Colocation Facility
6. Port of Hood River's Lot 1
7. City of Hood River's Elevated Sewer Line
8. City of Rufus' Backup Power/Emergency Generator Purchase
9. Columbia Gorge Childcare Center (CGCC)
10. Expansion of Rural Health Clinics (Sherman and White River Health Districts)

2022 TOP PRIORITIES

WASHINGTON TOP TEN

1. Goldendale Pumped Storage Hydro
2. Port of Skamania's Cascades Business Park - Commercial/Light Industrial Buildings
3. Port of Klickitat's Business Park Development
4. Carson's Drinking Water Treatment Plant
5. City of White Salmon's Buck Creek Water Distribution Line Replacement
6. City of Goldendale's Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
7. Columbia Gorge Regional Airport's Aviation Maintenance Training Facility
8. Skamania PUD's Underwood Water Tank
9. City of North Bonneville's Lift Station Replacement
10. Port of Skamania's Stevenson Landing Upgrade and Improvements

MANY THANKS!
All Participants
Steering Committee
MCEDD Board
MCEDD Staff

Process Sponsors:

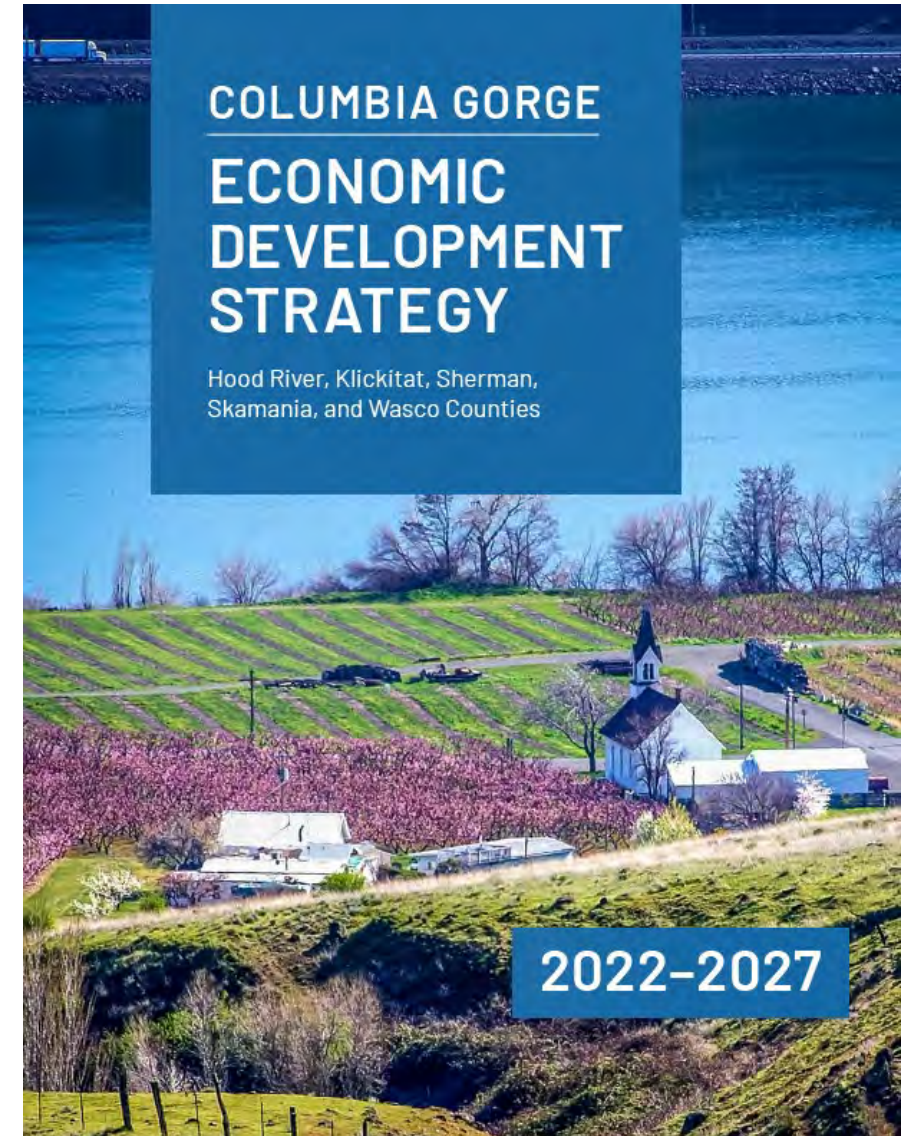
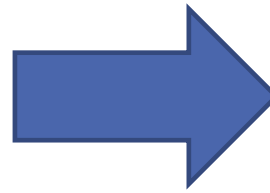


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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Find the full Strategy, or summaries in English and Spanish at GorgeEconomy.org, or linked from the Strategy section under MCEDD.org





AGENDA ITEM

District Meeting

[4H & EXTENSION SERVICE DISTRICT BOARD PACKET](#)



**Mid-Columbia
Community
Action Council**

Mid-Columbia Community Action Council
Serving Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman Counties
312 E. 4th St, The Dalles, OR 97058
606 State St, Suite 1B, Hood River, OR 97031
Tel: (541) 298-5131
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April 27, 2022

RE: House Bill 4123 AOC/LOC City-County Coordinated Homeless Response Pilot
Advisory Committee Recommendation

Wasco County Commissioners,

This letter is a request that the Wasco County Commissioners affirm Mid-Columbia Community Action Council's recommendation to have Commissioner Kathy Schwartz serve on the House Bill 4123 (HB 4123), City/County Coordinated Homeless Services, Advisory Committee.

HB 4123, which passed during the 2022 Legislative Session, dedicates funding for the coordination of homeless services across city and county governments. The Mid-Columbia region was identified as one of eight participating regions as part of the legislation. HB 4123 named the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC) as the lead agency for our region and participating jurisdictions include Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties along with the City of Hood River and the City of The Dalles. Over the next two years, MCCAC will receive \$1,000,000 to coordinate homeless services across the region including the development of a 5-year strategic plan and the establishment of a coordinated homeless services office. Additionally, the legislation requires that an Advisory Board be developed that consists of representation from each participating government.

In alignment with the legislative requirement to develop an Advisory Board, MCCAC would like to recommend that Commissioner Schwartz serve as the Advisory Board member on behalf of Wasco County. Commissioner Schwartz currently serves as a Board Member of MCCAC, and brings on-going knowledge of the work the region is doing to address and mitigate the impacts of houselessness. With this recommendation we would ask that the Wasco County Board of Commissioners affirm this recommendation.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for the active role that Wasco County played in supporting House Bill 4123 and for your advocacy and leadership as we work to ensure that our most vulnerable community members have a safe and stable place to call home.

Best Regards,

Kenny LaPoint
Mid-Columbia Community Action Council
Executive Director
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Email: klapoint@mccac.com