

WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

THURSDAY March 17, 2011

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District office

515 E 2nd St, The Dalles, Oregon

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Chair Joan Silver, Dan Durow, Frank Kay, Gay Melvin and Donella Polehn

ABSENT: Andrea Klaas, Dan Spatz, Carina Schmidt

GUESTS: Amanda Hoey, Darryl Roberts, Michael Zingg, Fred Justesen, Dennis Beechler, Steve Lawrence and Gary Nychyk

EDC Staff: Jessica Metta and Anna Tompkins

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joan Silver called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF January 20, 2011 MINUTES: Frank Kay moved to accept minutes as presented. Dan Durow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

EDC VACANCIES

The Wasco County EDC has two open positions and received six applications for these positions. Four of the six candidates were present for the meeting. The candidates were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and answer questions from the EDC board.

Darryl Roberts introduced himself and gave a brief history of his background. He has lived in Mosier for five years working for the Columbia Gorge Community College and volunteers on the Mosier Main Street program. His interest on being on the Wasco County EDC board would be to give Mosier adequate representation and have county-wide involvement.

Michael Zingg introduced himself as CEO of Design Structures living in Mosier and applied for a position on Wasco EDC board as an opportunity to become more involved in public service. He wants the private and public sectors to keep a better working connection. He will bring development and business expertise, consumer and landowner insight to the board and knows sustainability comes from family wage jobs.

Fred Justesen introduced himself to the board, a South Wasco County resident and agricultural businessman. His objective is to create new jobs to replace the loss of timber and logging industry in the region. His interest is in aggressive marketing of the land available. He lives in Grass Valley and has family throughout South Wasco County, and is very connected in the region.

Dennis Beechler gave a brief history about himself, he is retired from the US Forest Service and now lives in Tygh Valley and is on the Tygh Valley School District board. He sees the effect on schools from the loss of funding and limited number of family wage jobs in the county. Though he is not a business owner he is a concerned and very involved resident and would like to represent the South Wasco County region on the Wasco County EDC board.

Staff Jessica Metta explained that there are two other applicants who were absent from the meeting, Bill Lennox and Phil Swaim. Bill presented to the board on the January 20th meeting, and he would since relay a message to the board that he has strong connections across the whole county and is still interested in a position on the board. Phil Swaim lives outside of Mosier and Jessica pointed to his application for more information.

Joan Silver explained the role of Wasco County EDC board to the applicants which is to choose two candidates for the open positions to recommend to the Wasco County Board of Commissioners. She also announced that the board will wait having a vote to see if more members call in (Andrea Klaas, Dan Spatz and Carina Schmidt).

NEEDS AND ISSUES PRIORITIZATION

Joan Silver explained the purpose and process to guests and board. They prioritize the presentations and vote. The top on the list gives advantage to funders, and the board is aware that every project on the lists needs funding.

Jessica Metta received the scoring from each board member after the presentations on February 17 meeting in Dufur. She then took the total scores and created two separate spreadsheets for Technical Assistance and Infrastructure projects from highest to lowest scoring. The top ten get detailed descriptions in the Action Plan and the top five get line item descriptions in the MCEDD Regional Plan. Any projects below top ten can be moved up if the board does not agree with the scoring. She passed the spreadsheets out to every board member, and opened for comment and review.

The board discussed the top ten projects for Technical Assistance. It was noted that the natural break off for the list did not end at number five but number six, with only a one point difference. Discussion followed of how to include the sixth listed project into the top five. Since the project was from the tribes and a first time submittal it was decided that it was a project MCEDD would want to include in their regional projects.

Frank Kay made a motion to have a top six or tie for fifth to include the Warm Spring's project in the Top Five List for this rare and special occasion. Donella Polehn seconded.

Steve Lawrence, from the audience, asked for clarification on why the Fort Dalles Museum was listed under Technical Assistance category. Jessica Metta and Joan Silver gave explanation that it was because only preliminary engineering is complete and Steve thanked for clarification.

Joan Silver asked the board if there was further discussion on the motion. Without further discussion the board voted unanimously to pass motion.

Dan Durow moved to accept top ten in Infrastructure list as presented. Frank Kay seconded. Without further discussion the board voted unanimously to pass motion.

Joan Silver made an adjustment to her scoring in Technical Assistance therefore giving a tie for fifth position.

RETURN to EDC VACANCY

Joan Silver announced that it was time to return to vote on a recommendation from the candidates to fill the vacancies on the Wasco County EDC.

Frank Kay asked if they were limited to two recommended candidates or is there the option of recommending three or four and allowing the Wasco County Board of County Commissioners to decide who to pick or to expand the Wasco County EDC board.

Amanda Hoey offered that Wasco County will see the candidates and is looking for specific recommendation from the EDC.

Further discussion followed as to how to present the candidates before the Wasco County Board of County Commissioners. Board agreed that it was a difficult decision to make as all candidates are qualified and would be honored to have any of them serve on the board. The board did decide that it would be best to pick two from the four whom reside outside of The Dalles to provide regional geographic representation. The board also agreed that it would be best to pick one candidate from South Wasco and another from Mosier.

The candidates voluntarily left the meeting session to allow for the board to discuss freely. Board members discussed and weighed the benefits each candidate brought to the board and what would be lost if they were not on the board.

Gay Melvin made a motion to recommended Michael Zingg for Position #7 in Mosier, OR. Frank Kay seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Frank Kay made a motion to recommend Fred Justesen for Position #9 in South Wasco. Donella Polehn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Frank Kay made a motion for alternate candidate for Position #7 be Darryl Roberts, and Position #9 be Dennis Beechler. Dan Durow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The board expressed that they would like to follow up with each candidate thanking them greatly for their interest and involvement within each of their own communities and inviting them to stay involved with the EDC.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING PROJECTS

Gary Nychyk from Wasco County Planning Department gave a presentation to the Wasco County EDC to review the handout *Wasco County Long Range Planning Work Program*. Gary highlighted the projects that are related to economic development and discussed only those projects with the board due to the limited time. Projects were divided into three categories; Scheduled FY11-12 Projects, FY11-12 Alternate Projects, and Other Projects.

Following the presentation, the board could make their recommendations on the priorities. After discussion the board agreed that they would like to see The Dalles UGB Expansion moved from Alternate Projects list up to FY11-12 Projects, to put Commercial Events Ordinance to the highest on the Alternate Projects list. Move Pine Grove, Walters Corner and Pine Hollow from Other Projects list to position 3, 4, & 5 on the Alternative Projects list, and the board acknowledged that these are labor intensive projects and could provide assistance themselves. The other projects may be placed in the Other Projects list in the order the planning department sees fit.

Dan Durow made a motion to place The Dalles UGB Expansion project to FY11-12 Projects list, place Commercial Events Ordinance to the highest on the Alternate Projects list, and move Pine Grove, Walters Corner and Pine Hollow from Other Projects list to position 3, 4, & 5 on the Alternative Projects list. Frank Kay seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

EDC OFFICER ELECTIONS

Frank Kay made a motion to elect Joan Silver as Chairperson and Andrea Klaas as Vice-Chair. Donella Polehn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Frank Kay gave an update of the Vision Statement and Action Plan for Maupin. The goal is to do a review of the 20 year plan every five years to see if revision is needed. Recently a community meeting was held to identify needs, concerns and direction from the Maupin community. Frank gave a summary of the meeting itself and Andrea Klaas facilitated the meeting to keep focus of real prioritization. He gave a handout to the board on the resulting "Big Ideas" from the meeting, and shared with the board in detail the 3 main ideas on economic development for Maupin.

Amanda Hoey gave an update to the board about county lines representation being redrawn as a result of the census and hopes that the Mid-Columbia region is put into Eastern or Central OR districts which would be far better for the region than in the Portland district.

Joan Silver noted the Governor's proposed budget which has a 19% cut to Medicaid funding for nursing homes. This would be devastating to the assisted living care facilities in the region - not only a loss of funds, but the effects to those dependent on Medicaid. Frank Kay agreed that he is very concerned about the affect this will have on overall families, individuals and jobs.

Jessica Metta announced to the board that she will be out for the month of April, and Amanda Hoey, MCEDD Executive Director, will be making the Wasco County EDC presentation to the Board of County Commissioners on April 6th.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:02 pm

-Minutes submitted by Anna Tompkins