

WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

THURSDAY May 19, 2011

Imperial River Company
304 Bakeoven Road, Maupin, OR

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Chair Joan Silver, Dan Durow, Frank Kay, Gay Melvin, Donella Polehn, Fred Justesen, Dan Spatz, and Mike Zingg

ABSENT: Andrea Klaas, Carina Schmidt

GUESTS: Amanda Hoey, John Roberts, Stephanie Hallock, Dennis Ross, Annette Liebe, Wayne Kenney, Nolan Young, Dana Schmidling, Jim Wilcox and Bob McFadden

EDC Staff: Jessica Metta and Anna Tompkins

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joan Silver called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF March 17, 2011 MINUTES: Frank Kay moved to accept minutes as presented. Donella Polehn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

MAUPIN UPDATE

Mayor Dennis Ross of Maupin gave an update to the board of the recent projects and events happening in the area. The City is currently working on the library project, budget process, and navigating through the effects of the 2010 Census. The census from Portland adjusted a 20% drop in Maupin population and redistricting could affect state representation for the community. He also gave a brief update on other projects and offered anyone to contact him at anytime for more information.

Joan Silver commented on the redistricting which is taking place now at the state level. She passed a handout to the board with a web address to access the proposed map changes and encouraged comments to hold Wasco and Sherman County together.

THE DALLES OUTREACH TEAM

Joan Silver introduced the Outreach Team. This group visits Washington D.C. twice per year as representatives of the whole community of The Dalles to encourage federal funds be allocated here. There is also work to have an internal team that represents the county specifically for private businesses to navigate through the process of locating anywhere in the county (a kind of business red carpet team).

Nolan Young, City Manager for the City of The Dalles, began the introduction of The Dalles Outreach Team. Nolan gave a brief history of the Outreach Team of how it first began as a PUD effort to lobby in D.C. The representation has expanded and now includes The Dalles Area

Chamber of Commerce, City of the Dalles, Wasco County, and others. The variety of representation and working collaboration is beneficial to the whole community. Every year the team sets an agenda and list of projects to update representatives in Washington D.C. and as a result received a total \$19 million for community projects since the team's creation. Following introductions and comments there was a time for the board and to ask the Outreach Team any questions. Jessica Metta thanked the team for coming.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Dan Spatz announced that the turbine at the college is up and operational, and only now just waiting for funds from the Department of Labor.

Gay Melvin gave a brief update on Dufur. The park restroom is operational, the Balch Hotel has been busy and the store is still a work in progress.

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS TEAM

Stephanie Hallock introduced herself as interim staff for the Governor for the Regional Solutions Team for the purpose of collaboration and service to rural areas. This project heavily relies on communication and Annette Liebe is the new Regional Representative serving Central Oregon. She will be based in Bend, and will have a satellite office in Klamath Falls and, if plans work out, at the Columbia Gorge Community College as well.

Annette Liebe introduced herself and is looking forward to working with this group and people of the region. There was only one question from the board asking if she would have staff at her office and satellite offices in Lake and Wasco County. She replied that it would only be herself, as she is the field representative for the Governor's office.

CONTINUE REGIONAL UPDATES

Dan Durow announced that the Oregon Transportation Commission approved The Dalles Riverfront Trail, one of the fourteen projects funded for Transportation Enhancement grant. He will meet with the Warm Springs Tribes in regards to the maritime dock project and discuss the "Memorandum of Understanding" from the tribe. Once the meeting is complete he will move onto the next steps and foresees funding to be an issue for the project but is encouraged by the progress made moving forward. He is currently working to understand the extent to which the wetlands issue will effect future development. Lastly, the Granada block has been designated a significant historic area after artifacts of Chinese settlement from the 1880's were found, raising the cost of the project significantly.

Donella Polehn informed the board that the cherry orchards are behind but set for harvest and are hoping to be ready for Fourth of July market. Rain and frost has been hard and even devastating for some crops this year.

Frank Kay gave an update on the Vision Planning process happening in Maupin. Economic development has been key and to promote their industrial lands there is an interest in

becoming part of the Port of The Dalles district. There is also interest within the community to extend the shoulder season, create a point of contact for businesses interested in coming to Maupin, importance of broadband for expansion of both private and individual business. He also reminded the board that Riverfest, the signature annual event in Maupin, has been moved from the fall to the spring and will now be partnering with the chamber of commerce. The next Riverfest will be Spring 2012 to accommodate the date change.

Fred Justesen gave an update on the wheat farms that rust has been an issue and farmers are spraying now and hope that it will not be a problem when it is time to harvest.

STAFF REPORT

Jessica Metta gave staff her report and updated the board on the final EDC priority list approved by the Wasco County Board of Commissioners. She will be attending the AWEA Windpower 2011 Conference in Anaheim, CA on behalf of MCEDD and Wasco County. Through MCEDD she has also been working with the Arts & Culture Alliance to promote May as Arts and Culture Month in Gorge and passed out promotional maps.

Jessica also updated the board about working with Wasco County Board of Commissioners on MCEDD's scope of work for the EDC. The Board of Commissioners reviewed a draft and recommended adding an item for the EDC to facilitate discussions to encourage private investment in the County. Amanda Hoey expanded on the scope of work, and asked the board to look at line item #4, "Long Term Scope of Work", which she is pleased with the development and changes to focus on facilitating discussion for strategic planning. Joan Silver asked for feedback on the changes to #3 and #8, "Strategic Plan" and "Private Sector Investment", respectively. Discussion among board followed and brainstorming to what they could do, as a volunteer commission, to fulfill the requests without funding. Jessica agreed to email the scope of work to the EDC for additional feedback.

It was suggested that the EDC could focus on taking an inventory of zoning to determine the location of all industrial land, as well as understanding the issues preventing development. In essence, to re-examine the industrial and commercial zoning map and understand potential needs within each parcel. The board agreed that this would be beneficial, since current information on land ownership and value is limited. More discussion followed on land development and resources to pull information.

The board took into consideration how this may satisfy "Private Sector Investment" as requested by the Board of Commissioners and after discussion agreed that knowledge of available land is a good tool when inviting investment into the County. The board decided to gather land information into a comprehensive report to make readily available. The EDC agreed to present the decision to create a comprehensive land report to the Wasco County Board of Commissioners for feedback.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:34 pm

-Minutes submitted by Anna Tompkins