

WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Thursday November 17, 2011

Maupin Community Center

205 Bakeoven Road, Maupin, OR

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Chair Joan Silver, Dan Durow, Frank Kay, Donella Polehn, Carina Schmidt, Dan Spatz, Gay Melvin, Fred Justesen, Michael Zingg and Andrea Klaas

GUESTS: Dennis Ross, Jon Helquist, Jeannette Montour, Randy Bechtol, Joe Ringo, and Annette Liebe, Mike Foreaker

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.

INTRODUCTIONS

Due to the large number of guests the board went around introducing themselves followed by the guests in the room.

APPROVAL OF September 22, 2011 MINUTES: Frank Kay moved to accept minutes as presented. Dan Durow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS TEAM

Annette Liebe introduced herself and gave background on her position as Regional Solutions Team Coordinator for the region. She updated the board on the latest developments in her office, gave an overview of the first Advisory Committee meeting that was held on Oct 14, 2011 and reported they will next meet January 20, 2012. She has reviewed the CEDS with MCEDD in order to understand the needs and projects of the region and welcomes all to send information they have on specific needs not addressed in the CEDS. She then reviewed the current projects she is working on with on the Team. After her brief presentation there was time for questions from the board. They asked about project requirements and source of funding for the Regional Solutions Team. Annette answered that project requirements are fairly broad and that their funding comes mainly from Oregon Lottery revenue. Annette also agreed to send the Advisory Committee roster to MCEDD staff for distribution to whoever would like the list. Joan Silver thanked Annette for her presentation and reminded the board of the importance to keeping the Needs and Issues list current helps those like Annette understand the needs in the region.

EDC STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

Jessica Metta reviewed the final draft of the Strategic Action Plan and presented it to the board for final comments and review. There was a brief discussion and review from the board. Frank Kay made a motion to adopt and send the Strategic Action Plan to the Wasco County Commission. Dan Spatz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NEEDS AND ISSUES PROCESS REVIEW

Jessica Metta presented the Needs and Issues forms to the board for suggestions and changes. The board discussed changes to their approach regarding the Long Term projects; Andrea suggested that if agencies knew what others were doing long-term, they could all coordinate their efforts better. Discussion followed on how to move forward, such as bringing all the long term entities together into a meeting. Discussion regarding the short term form determined not to add a goal of job creation because it may be difficult to quantify jobs on projects which have not started. Dan Spatz suggested adding a box for Tribes in the Project Proponent Type portion of the Short Term form. Donella Poheln made a motion to move forward on the Needs and Issue process. Frank Kay seconded, motion passed unanimously. Jessica said she would email out the list of needs and issues contacts to the EDC for changes and additions.

2012 CALENDAR REVIEW

Joan Silver reviewed the schedule of meetings for the WCEDC in 2012. The board will continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month but will meet every month except for August and December. She also reviewed the mix of meetings and tours expressed to be important to the board in their previous meeting. Discussion followed among group of optional tours of orchards and other locations. Donella was going to check about a visit to Polehn Farms in May. Joan reminded the board that details can be worked out at a later date and in the mean time to send ideas of tours in the communities to Jessica Metta.

EDC VACANCY

Gay Melvin's term ends at the end of the year and his position will be vacant. Everyone sincerely thanked Gay for all of his service on the EDC. After much outreach they received one application for the position from Mary Kramer, Director of Career and Technical Education at the Columbia Gorge Community College. She is a very well qualified applicant, well connected in the Dufur area and the Wasco County Board of Commissioners agreed that the one application is sufficient for the vacancy. Frank Kay made a motion to submit Mary Kramer's application to the Wasco County Board of Commissioners to fill the vacancy. Michael Zingg seconded, motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY LOTTERY FUNDS

Jessica Metta reviewed the state requirements on how the County uses funds from the Oregon Lottery designated for economic development, which currently goes to the general fund and then to the county planning department. The County Commission will be holding a meeting to receive feedback on how they use the funds. Discussion followed about the role of the WCEDC and comments for the upcoming meeting. Jeannette explained in more detail the current use of the lottery funds, which historically has been used for economic development through the planning department. More discussion followed and various suggestions were made. Joan asked the Jessica to gather more information to share with the EDC who would send her back comments and suggestions. Carina Schmidt asked for the link which Joan Silver had referenced earlier that defined Economic Development and gave a percent of allocation by lottery funds. Joan agreed to send it out to the board.

MAUPIN STRATEGIC PLAN

Frank Kay gave an introduction to *Moving Maupin Forward* Strategic Action Plan and thanked Jessica and MCEDD for help and Andrea Klaas for facilitating the meetings. Frank reviewed the plan and gave the background of how economic development was identified as the key need in Maupin. Members of the Economic Development Task Force were in attendance and took turns reviewing reasons for each goal and strategies. The plan will be formally presented to the City Council and they estimate that it will take 1000 hours in the next couple year to implement the Strategic Action Plan. This will require too much time for volunteers to complete so they will be looking into the option of contracting staff to complete the plan. Joan thanked the task force for the presentation and suggested an annual update from the task force so they may present a specific project and list accomplishments completed.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Andrea Klass stated her number one priority at the Port of The Dalles is to develop and acquire land. She is also working on reacquiring property and having RARE Participant Michael Held work on wetland issues.

Gay Melvin gave a report of the Christmas events in Dufur, thanked the board for their work and said it has been a pleasure to be part of the group.

Dan Spatz is working on a match for workforce training facility on campus. They might seek a bond measure and have also submitted a grant request to Meyer Memorial Trust.

Michael Zingg has a building on the Port which closed about a year ago but is now working with the company on a new sublease which he hopes should be fully in place by spring 2012. This is great news for jobs in the region.

Dan Durow stated that although bids came in a little higher than expected, he has a contract awarded to build the dock and they will begin construction soon.

Fred Justesen reported that the price for cattle was very high this year and wheat sold for a good price too, so this has been a benefit to the region of South Wasco County. The Wind Farm plans are moving along and he passed around New York Times article "Wind blows in Sherman County". He also passed along congratulations to Maupin group for their hard work on the Strategic Action Plan.

Donella Poheln announced that in May 2013 she will be hosting The Dalles Chamber Area Business After Hours at the orchard.

Joan Silver gave an update from The Dalles Business Team. They have worked with five different contacts and have had very positive feed back from their efforts. The business team is for the whole county so she requested everyone to keep sending business prospects to The Dalles Business Team.

Jessica Metta closed with a few updates and invited the board to a land conservation meeting at the Discover Center on December 7 and to the SET program trainings which will launch on January 12, 2012.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00 pm

-Minutes submitted by Anna Tompkins