

WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017
9:00 am
MCEDD OFFICE
515 East 2nd Street
The Dalles, OR 07058

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Joan Silver, Kathy Ursprung, Mathew Klebes, Nan Wimmers, Frank Kay (TC), Dean McAllister, Gary Grossman and Terry Moore (TC)

EDC STAFF: Carrie Pipinich and Sherry Bohn (TC)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kathy Ursprung called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

DECEMBER 2016 EDC MINUTES:

Frank Kay moved to approve the December 1, 2016 meeting minutes. Joan Silver seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS PROCESS OVERVIEW:

Carrie Pipinich explained that the Community Enhancement Projects process provides a formal dialogue with communities and organizations as well as a platform for the EDC to highlight their key priorities. This process also allows the EDC to leverage its capacity and mandate for provision of technical assistance to identify and support key projects throughout Wasco County that enhance the economic competitiveness of its communities.

Carrie presented the current criteria for determining EDC engagement around projects.

Gary Grossman arrived at 9:25 am.

Carrie explained the project ranking process noting that each project will be scored on all five criteria using a 1 to 5 rating. Each Commissioner also has 20 additional points that are "Commissioner's Choice." These additional points can be used at the discretion of each individual Commissioner. Carrie noted that the Commissioner's Choice points are intended to allow the EDC Commissioners to further highlight key projects in their rankings and ensure the final rankings are more reflective of the diversity in geography and project size the EDC continues to emphasize.

Carrie noted that any questions should be directed to staff by January 17th. Staff will work with the project owners in order to gain answers and then compile both the questions and answers and distribute them to the commissioners. She requested that all ranked spreadsheet be returned by January 24th.

Carrie noted that after staff has received spreadsheets from each Commissioner, the scores will be compiled into a total score for each project and then ranked from most points to least received. This draft ranking will then be provided to the EDC for consideration and revision at its February meeting to ensure that the list adequately reflects EDC priorities and the broader framework for economic development, capitalizes on current opportunities, and supports the EDC's vision and goals for economic development in Wasco County.

Discussion: Frank Kay requested clarification on the process dates. Carrie Pipinich explained that questions needed to be submitted by January 17th and the final ranking by

the 24th. Terry Moore stated that he was only seeing nine projects in Agora. Carrie Pipinich noted that the packet included a brief description of each project, a quick overview and a link in Agora. Kathy Ursprung asked for clarification on the total points available. Carrie explained that each project had 25 plus the 20 commissioner points. Terry Moore stated that while noting the presented criteria and EDC priorities he encouraged the other commissioners to take into consideration the other broader EDC priorities such as job creation. Frank Kay stated that last year he tried to use the commissioner points to help weigh projects for the broader EDC priorities such as economic development, increased job creation and the abilities to provide future jobs. Frank stated that the ranking meeting is an opportunity for the commission to agree on the most effective project that could have the biggest impact. Terry Moore stated that he thought the process worked very well last year and that it was an opportunity to discuss and understand why each commissioner ranked each project what they did. Joan Silver noted that she does not find the Agora potential funding sources relevant and that they are misleading. Carrie Pipinich explained how Agora selects and notifies those potential funding sources.

Carrie Pipinich presented the 2017 process dates highlighting the following:

- **January 4, 2017:** Deadline for Agora Projects to be updated and staff notified that the project is being submitted for consideration. Staff then compiles information on each project, sends them to Commissioners and schedules presentations. EDC reviews project information provided in advance of the project presentations and brings any questions to the meeting for discussion.
- **January 12, 2017:** Presentations to the EDC by organizations who submitted projects (longer meeting, to be held in The Dalles).
- **January 12 to January 24, 2017:** EDC Commissioners prioritize projects via matrix with proposed criteria and “Commissioner’s Choice” points.
- **January 27, 2017:** Staff sends compiled rankings to EDC for consideration.
- **February 2, 2017:** EDC holds its meeting to review combined prioritization scores, discuss modifications to rankings, and identify key projects to provide technical support to during 2016. Carrie noted that this meeting will also include discussion of the strategies portion of the EDC’s strategic action planning efforts as well as information on the regional comprehensive economic development strategy update process. (9:30am to 12pm)
- **February 2017:** In Mid-February the Wasco County Board of Commissioners will acknowledge prioritized list. Staff sends the top priorities to MCEDD for inclusion in discussion at the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy session on February 23, 2017 and incorporates them into the EDC’s Strategic Action Plan.

STAFF REPORT

Carrie Pipinich presented the staff report highlighting Wamic Water & Sanitary finalized their Water System Assessment in December. The recommended investments total to almost \$2 million. Staff is working with RCAC to explore hosting an additional training to discuss planning for and prioritization of these projects.

EDC Commissioners Mary Kramer and Kathy Ursprung are working closely with staff to support the Dufur community. Next steps with the visioning process are the focus of the Dufur committee at this time. A draft community visioning document has been developed that includes vision, goals, strategies, and an action matrix. The Dufur Chamber will meet in January with staff and Committee members to further refine this draft to prepare it for adoption by the Chamber and City.

Discussion: Frank Kay asked how the committee was getting the Dufur community involved in the strategic planning process. Kathy Ursprung reported that there had been a lot of community outreach via two public meetings in October and November, a Facebook page and surveys. Carrie Pipinich stated that they had worked closely with the Chamber. Frank Kay asked what facets had been considered. Kathy stated that they were broad ranged. Frank Kay asked who had facilitated. Kathy explained that she and Amanda Hoey had done the facilitation. She also noted that there will be public comment time available when the plan is presented to the city council.

A second meeting between representatives of Q-Life, partners in the Maupin fiber project, and staff with CenturyLink has been scheduled for January to further collaboration conversations around the Connect America fund investments in Wasco County.

The Open for Business Committee is working closely with staff to implement an update of the EDC's portion of the Wasco County website as their site gets a major overhaul and that they have a meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

The Agriculture Committee is attempting to get a better understanding of what agritourism type activities are allowed in EFU zoning.

Discussion: Joan Silver noted that the committee was also attempting to meet with the planning department so that they could discuss these pieces and more broadly identify ways to work together.

The next two sessions of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy session will be held January 19, 2017 in Bingen (RSVP required) and January 26, 2017 in The Dalles. At the January 26th session, Kathy Ursprung will be presenting an overview of Wasco County economic development opportunities and challenges. Networking starts at 8:30 a.m. and the session starts at 9:00 a.m.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Mathew Klebes – Mathew reported that The Dalles' housing study was presented to the planning commission. He also reported that the airport flex space project was moving forward, Enterprise zone reporting was due in April, the city is beginning its budget process and that they had received a grant from Cycle Oregon for their Bike Hub.

Kathy Ursprung—Kathy reported she had received an e-mail from a grantor on Agora for the Food Hub. Kathy also reported the Port was working with the high school to enhance workforce training and that they are seeking new businesses to participate in the mentor program.

Joan Silver—Joan reported that the Senior Center Elevator project is moving forward but as with all construction projects they are concerned that issues will arise so are continuing to fundraise for some additional contingency funds.

Nan Wimmer – Nan reported that as there are discussions with the planning department they should discuss use of the original adoption date for the comp plan (1972 vs 1980) as this changes property owner's status in terms of grandfathered in uses.

Dean McAllister – Dean reported that there continues to be discussion on Ag tourism and EFU rules. He also reported that the Farm Bureau is discussing estate and succession planning to enable family farms to stay within families.

Terry Moore – Terry reported that he and others from Team Mosier are meeting on January 27th with Union Pacific. Terry explained that Team Mosier is made up of representatives from the school, city and fire district. Terry noted that the December meeting with Union Pacific was a listening meeting and that the team was expecting to hear proposals from them at the January 17th meeting. Terry also reported that the Mosier well work was moving forward.

Frank Kay – Frank reported that the Maupin fiber project was moving forward but that they are experiencing some easement issues on private property. Frank also reported that the library/city hall project was moving along but that a major funder, Ford Family Foundation, had raised the matching criteria to 50 percent and that they were asking for an economic development component as well. He noted that the community may not be able to raise the additional match.

Discussion: Carried Pipinich offered a letter of support from the EDC and suggested they discuss the issue off line.

Meeting Adjourn at 10:09am
Next meeting is February 2, 2017.

Submitted by Sherry Bohn, EDC Staff