

WASCO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008  
PORT OF THE DALLES  
10:00 A.M.

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Carina Schmidt, Dan Durow, Dan Spatz, Donella Polehn, Gay Melvin, Joan Silver (Chair), Keith Mobley, Mark Cherniack, Rob Miles (Vice-Chair)

GUESTS:

Kleve Kee (OMEP), David Griffith (The Dalles Chamber), Bill Lennox (Wasco County), Sherry Holliday (Wasco County)

MCEDD STAFF:

Amanda Remington (Executive Director); Layne Sylvester (Assistant Project Manager); Pat Hoffman (Office Administrator)

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Joan Silver called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF JULY 17, 2008 MINUTES:

One correction to the minutes was noted: Under New Business, Wasco EDC Purpose and Goals, change "September" to "July." Keith Mobley made a motion to approve the July 17<sup>th</sup> minutes as corrected. Mark Cherniack seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORT: *(See attached staff report dated September 17, 2008.)*

Reports included: Economic Development Action Plan/Needs and Issues; County Planning Ordinances, Columbia Gorge Renewable Energy Zone; Rural Fire Training Center; Discovery Center/Oregon Solutions; Inventory of Properties; Juicy Ideas; Economic Development Administration; MCEDD staff and OECDD Realignment.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT:

It was noted by staff that the EDC site was left out of the Wasco County website redevelopment. It will cost between \$450 - \$550 to add it to the Wasco County site. Dan Spatz moved to request \$550 from the Wasco County Court for the development and addition of EDC to the Wasco County website. Mark Cherniack seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OREGON MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP (OMEP) PRESENTATION:

Kleve Kee, OMEP, gave a presentation on OMEP. OMEP is a not-for-profit team of manufacturing professionals whose mission is to help small to mid-sized Oregon manufacturers transform the way they do business and become more competitive. OMEP is a part of the national MEP program administered by the Department of Commerce and collaborates with key state and regional economic development groups including the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department and the Oregon Institute of  
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Technology to provide as many resources as possible. More information on the program is available at [www.omep.org](http://www.omep.org). OMEP is funded with approximately 1/3 Federal funds, 1/3 State funds and 1/3 fees for services.

#### UGB EXPANSION DISCUSSION:

Dan Durow reported the Columbia River Gorge Commission has been working since June on rulemaking for the Urban Growth Boundaries in the Scenic Area. An appointed Rules Committee has met twice and is working with staff to make the process work. The main concern at this time is “minor” versus “major” and the prioritization of lands. The Gorge Commission may use a mediation process where key stakeholders will be interviewed and an assessment made. It is anticipated the process will go before the full Commission in October. The Dalles is conducting a periodic review and is working with the Warm Springs Tribe and three other tribes on a needed cultural review. The City Council will have to do a hearing process, which is a priority for State funding, and will take approximately 9 months – 1 year.

#### SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM:

The possibility of a Small Grants Program through Wasco EDC was discussed. This year MCEDD has contracted with Wasco County for \$40,000, leaving \$10,000 which, if approved by the County Court, could possibly be used for other economic development, including a Small Grants Program. EDC discussed the need for a small grants program, what kind of program, and how much admin staff and costs would be associated with the program. The need to focus on priority projects and continuing that strategy with additional grant writing and direct project help was also addressed. Carina expressed she felt there were other avenues for small grants. Keith suggested asking Wasco County Court if the remainder of the funds from each year can be rolled over to the next year. Keith Mobley moved to ask the County Court to move forward any remaining balance of the \$10,000. Dan Durow seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The need for the setting of a goal of how to best spend the whole \$50,000 annually was discussed briefly and will be discussed further in the future.

It was discussed to utilize the available \$10,000 to assist those on the Needs & Issues list with grant writing or finishing a project. Rob Miles stated he would rather spend less money on admin and more on results. Currently, 80% of the money is used for admin. It was the consensus to continue on in the same manner currently used.

Mark Cherniack moved to continue on the current track and look at the broader issue next year but in the meantime the WEDC will look into the Needs & Issues list and make contacts from that list and look at the mechanism for funding. Staff will assess the Needs & Issues inventory and bring back recommendations at the next meeting. Dan Spatz seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Costs - Staff will prepare discussion points for the next meeting.

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GRANT WRITING CONTRACT WITH ROBIN COPE:

Robin Cope's contract for grant writing ends October 31, 2008. Rob Miles made a motion to tentatively agree to continue the contract with Robin Cope based on approval of the amount by WEDC. Dan Spatz seconded. Motion carried (Keith Mobley abstained).

NEXT MEETING – NOVEMBER 20, 2008, MAUPIN, 10:00 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM: Process for Needs and Issues

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Hoffman, MCEDD Staff*