

FINAL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting

April 14, 2005

Sunnybrook Service Center
Clackamas, Oregon 97015



ATTENDING: Jeff Bennett, Chair; Jack Scott, Vice Chair; Carl Grossman, Rick Gruen, Jerry Smith, Kevin Davies, Rick Dawes, Gary Duell, Jim Edwards, Toby Forsberg, Rick Hall, Denise Honzel, Annette Mattson, Cathie Moravec, Mariam Odermann, Mike Poteet, Roger Rees, Glen Sachet, Elaine Smith, Michael Wells, Michael Wetzel

GUESTS:

Carolyn Sanco

Terri Houde

Wilda Parks, North Clackamas chamber of Commerce

Mark Ellsworth, Governor's Office

STAFF: Shelly Parini, Renate Mengelberg, and Shawn Burgett

Call to Order and Introductions – Jeff Bennett

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Bennett at 7:40 a.m. EDC members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of EDC Meeting Minutes January 13, 2005

Roger Rees moved for the approval of the meeting minutes. Mike Poteet seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

EDC Executive Committee Update

Executive Committee

Jeff Bennet provided highlights on the Sunrise Corridor hearings he testified at on behalf of the commission. Mike Wells and Kevin Davies will testify in Salem on April 25th on two transportation funding proposals.

WICCO Unified Plan Update

Terri Houde

Terri Houde, Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Council of Clackamas County (WICCO) shared highlights of the program. WICCO is responsible for policy direction of \$4.7 million in federal dollars given to the County for work force needs.

- **Youth:** Up to 600 youths are being served through this program in the County. This program is a leveraged dollar program. Youth programs focus on in-school and out of school at risk youth. The in school program helps kids who are in danger of dropping out of school, through tutoring and counseling. The out of school program captures kids who have dropped out of school and tries to get them back into a structured environment and learning job skills. Every high school in the County is involved.
- **Adult training and assistance:** Another key part of this program is adult employment and training for low income adults. This program focuses on helping workers rise from an entry level job to a career path job in two years. WICCO also provides assistance for dislocated workers and fund Oregon City's One Stop Resource Center.

- **Business Services:** WICCO provides business services for companies. For instance, businesses that don't have a human resource department they can receive assistance is finding qualified workers. WICCO provided \$575,000 in work force grants to Clackamas County businesses. Rite Aid received a grant to train supervisors to speak "command Spanish" to work better with Spanish speaking employees. Another project WICCO funded partnered with Kaiser Permanente to train 20 level lower level workers to become nurses to fill a dire need. The capacity to train new nurses is the main road block. There is lack of lab space, instructors, overall training space, etc. In May and June the Workforce Response Team (WRT) will get put together a new strategy, and new grant dollars will be available in July. Workforce development is for current work force training dollars. This is a brand new program.

WICCO focuses on Return on investment (ROI) in a number of ways. The participant should have new transferable skill set for multiple career paths, and be able to make more money, etc. Increased business growth, more competitive businesses and a more skilled labor pool are other indicators of success.

There could be opportunities for partnership between WICCO and the County's Economic Development Team. WICCO's 2005 strategic priorities include supporting the blue-ribbon health care initiative, summer jobs for youth, improving WICCO and Work Source brand recognition in the community, and identify high industry growth industries or sectors to develop new career pathway.

Workforce Discussion:

Jeff Bennett asked what the economic development commission can do to help WICCO. He felt one of our biggest barriers is the ability to attract a quality workforce. Mike Wells added that dozens of businesses want to expand if they could find the right work force that is trained to fill there needs. Cathie Moravec added that the importance of a working relationship between all the work force training representatives and the economic development team is a huge advantage in getting people connected to jobs.

People must understand the resources available to them. Shelly Parini feels awareness is the key, getting the Governor here to talk with everyone at once as a set of partners could be valuable to our cause. Kevin Davies, Wilda Parks and Jerry Smith and Work Force Development will discuss strategy to contact the Governor and invite him to Clackamas County in September.

EDC Work Plan

All

Jerry Smith suggested accepting the EDC work plan, while making minor revisions. Mike Wells also suggested accepting the EDC work plan. Jeff Bennett asked the group: How do we progress from here? How do we get these action items done? One idea is to have a point person for each of these areas listed in the EDC work plan. The point person would be the person of contact, and would be in charge of organizing and coordinating efforts to get things accomplished. Shelly Parini stated that we have professional staff to do the background work; the point person would be more of an advocate and voice of support. The following volunteers stepped up to take the lead on various initiatives:

- Toby Forsberg agreed to take on "marketing and outreach."
- Jim Edwards agreed to take on "business recruitment and outreach".
- Mariam Oderman is interested in "transportation and infrastructure".

Concurrency

Annette Mattson

Annette talked about the EDC's efforts to support the County's removal of transportation concurrency requirements in the Clackamas industrial area. The policy revisions passed the Planning Commission by a vote of 7-1. The Board of County Commissioners is voting on this issue next week. There has

been a fear by some that the Commission is throwing out concurrency completely, but that's not true. The policy change would only affect the Clackamas Industrial area - its only one small tweak in policy, in one area. Jeff Bennett mentioned that it would be good to monitor the results of the change of the concurrency requirement, and see if it works as planned.

Update on Regional Collaboration

Renate Mengelberg

Work on a Portland Regional Economic Development Strategy is well underway and on a fast track. A number of efforts have laid a strong foundation for strategy. The Regional Economic Development Partners developed an Economic Development Framework several years ago. This work was expanded on and supported by the Metropolitan Metropolitan Economic Policy Task Force (MEPTF) a group with broad high level representation from the region. This task force recommended that the Portland metropolitan area create a regional economic development strategy.

That strategy development process, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) began this winter and will finish its work this summer. It involves extensive technical analysis and recommendations on how the region can position itself well for long term competitiveness and sustainability. This CEDS process is critical to the establishment of the Portland region Economic Development District, making the region eligible for federal funds and other programs that would be helpful in implementing the plan.

Business support and active involvement will be critical to refining and implementing the recommendations of the Strategy. Accordingly, there is a major outreach effort lead by the Portland Business Alliance that will following on the CEDS work. This involves public meetings, stakeholder interviews, and surveys. Based on this extensive outreach- the group will finalize implementation recommendations that will be unveiled at the Oregon Business Summit this November.

Natural Resources

Rick Gruen

Rick Gruen talked about the creation of a Clackamas County log sort yard, as part of the fuel reduction, bio fuels program. Each community sort yard could potentially employ five workers. Mike Wells added that the sort yard would be a good partnership between the County Fire plan and Stewardship Plan. Mike Wells wondered what the effect of Floragon Forest Products in Molalla would have, since it was just bought by a Canadian firm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

The next meeting will be May 12, 2005 at the Sunnybrook Service Center.