



Our mission: "To foster an innovative and resilient economy for North Central Washington's Businesses, Workers, and Families."

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 09, 2024, at 9:30 am

Virtual

WEB CONFERENCE AND CALL-IN INFORMATION:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89411594173?pwd=RI1LZBnoqRJI3XKlGyyi9uOadzMM8.1>

Designated Representatives: Kurt Danison (Past Chair), Matthew Pleasants (Chair), Vacant Seat (Vice-Chair) Renee Swearingen (Treasurer), Roni Holder-Diefenbach (Secretary), Chris Branch (Okanagan County Representative), Gina Muller (Chelan County Representative), Mark Botello (Douglas County Representative), Jim Huffman (Douglas County Representative), Mima Cole (Historically Underserved Representative), Melissa LaFayette (Public Sector), Sarah Brown (Methow Valley), Vacant (Small Business), Joe Gluzinski (Small Business), Vacant (Education Sector), Vacant Seat (Small Business), Vacant Seat (Hospitality), Steve Wilkinson (Chamber Representative), Trevor Lane (Agriculture Representative).

CALL TO ORDER at 9:36 am

Secretary Roni Holder-Diefenbach began the meeting and established a quorum with the following board members present: Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Chris Branch, Mark Botello, Sarah Brown, Jim Huffman, Steve Wilkinson, Mima Cole, and Kurt Danison. Melissa LaFayette joined just as the staff report was wrapping up. Steve Wilkenson had to leave early during the guest discussions.

Staff present: Shandie Howell (Finance Director)

Guests present: Rob Ogburn – Central Washington University, Wes Cochran – EDA, and Chris Cox - EDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST No Board Member disclosed a conflict of interest.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Jim Huffman made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Kurt Danison. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT (RENEE AND SHANDIE)

Shandie Norris reviewed the balance sheet and income statements. Additionally, a few of the municipalities and two other members have not paid their membership. The EDD has applied for grants and made a few sponsorship requests. There was a discussion regarding Plug-In NCW's status under the EDD finances.

STAFF REPORT

Shandie reported on the increase in her duties above her scope of work due to the Executive Director position being vacant. She worked to clean up our email protocols and reduced the number of unnecessary emails. The quarterly drawdowns were submitted in July and October to the EDA. Shandie worked with Alyce Brown on several tasks for the 2024 Supernova BLC. Shandie also completed 40 hours of training classes and webinars over the first quarter and attended meetings with numerous district partners. She also reviewed the various grants again and continues to search for grants that are relevant to the EDD and our partners. Shandie set up a YouTube channel to privately upload the board meeting recordings. She also reached out to the tribe for assistance in creating a land acknowledgment for the EDD. She submitted a digital equity commitment to the NCW Tech Alliance. She also worked to lower our expenses as much as possible. Finally, she began the process of updating our severely outdated website with new information.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- 2024-2025 NCWEDD Board Officer Nominations and Vote
 - Chair – Mark Botello
 - Vice Chair – Roni Holder-Diefenbach
 - Secretary – Jim Huffman
 - Treasurer – Renee Swearingen

Motion 24-10-09-01 – Accept new board officers as nominated. Board officers will also serve on the executive committee. Chris Branch made the motion. Sarah Brown seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

GUEST DISCUSSIONS

Chris Cox wanted to hear from the board as to the direction of where the district was heading and see how the board was functioning and adapting to all the recent changes and challenges. He was also interested in hearing about our funding strategy. Roni discussed some of our previous funding strategies and how different the landscape had changed for funding and grant availability. There was discussion regarding staffing and capacity of the organization in the past and looking forward. Chris also discussed the shift in the EDA Planning grant going from a July 1 start date to April 1 start date and the impact on the application process for the EDD. This also gives the EDD one “bonus” quarter of funding.

Wes Cochran mentioned the possibility of using some of the federally declared disasters to help us with our match percentage. This can be evaluated annually as well.

Rob Ogburn shared about CWU’s Business and Community Services and some of the history of how they were formed and what they could possibly help the EDD with regarding strategic planning and moving forward on our next CEDS. Chris Branch shared about some of the past infrastructure projects that the EDD had a hand in throughout the region.

DISCUSSION

Board members shared various noteworthy items from their various areas and different projects occurring in the district.

Jim shared his dad joke of the day. “How does Mickey Mouse floss his teeth?” Answer is “string cheese!”

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Chris Branch. Sarah Brown seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:42 am.