



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

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 9:00 am

WEB CONFERENCE AND CALL-IN INFORMATION:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88942275260>

Designated Representatives: Kurt Danison (Chair), Jim Huffman (Past-Chair), Stacy Luckensmeyer (Vice-Chair), Renee Swearingen (Treasurer), Roni Holder-Diefenbach (Secretary), Chris Branch (Okanagan County Representative), Vacant (Chelan County Representative), Mark Botello (Douglas County Representative), Matthew Pleasants (Colville Tribes Representative), Rafael Aguilar (Minority Representative), Mima Cole (Small Business Representative), Aaron Todd (Small Business Representative), Gina Muller (Private Business Representative), and Annette Pitts (Hospitality Representative).

CALL TO ORDER 9:04 am

Chair Kurt Danison established a quorum with the following board members present Roni Holder-Diefenbach (Okanagan County Economic Alliance), Stacy Luckensmeyer (Wenatchee Valley College Center for Entrepreneurship), Mathew Hepner (City of East Wenatchee), Jim Huffman (DRPA), Jill Thompson (City of Waterville), Karen Frisbie (Oroville Chamber), Trevor Lane (WSU), Craig Larsen (CDRPA), Mima Cole (Mima's Famous Salsa), Matthew Pleasants (Colville Confederated Tribes)

Staff present: Alyce Brown (Executive Director), Brooklyn Holton (Development Director), Crystal Bishop (Associate Director)

TREASURER REPORT

The board received the P&L and balance sheet. No discussion was had.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Motion 21-10-01: Conflict of Interest Policy:** Chris Branch made a motion to approve the conflict of interest as presented. Seconded by Roni Holder-Diefenbach. **Motion passed unanimously.**
2. **Motion 21-10-02: Financial Policy:** Chris Branch made a motion to approve the financial policy as presented. Seconded by Matthew Pleasants. **Motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Motion 21-10-02: Financial Committee Charter:** Jim Huffman made a motion to approve the financial committee charter as presented. Seconded by Roni Holder-Diefenbach. **Motion passed unanimously.**

ACTION ITEM DISCUSSION

1. **Conflict of Interest:** Alyce Brown asked the board to go back over conflict of interest. Roni Holder-Diefenbach suggested that the board have a conflict-of-interest action item on the agenda from here on out.
2. **Finance Policy:** There was no discussion.
3. **Finance Committee Charter:** There was discussion on the charter presented as well as obligations of those on the committee.
4. **Board Applications:** The organization has received one application and have several people of interest that have been contacted to participate on the board.
5. **Board Appointments:** Matthew Pleasants has been nominated for Vice-Chair, Jim Huffman for Douglas County seat, and Mima Cole has shown interest in the Historically Underrepresented Chair.
6. **Economic Adjustment Grant for new program:** (#backingsmallncw) Alyce Brown and Brooklyn Holton met with Laura with the EDA. The EDA expressed support for the program. There was a suggestion to go after an economic adjustment grant to continue with Project Ignite (AKA #backingsmallncw).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

- **Commerce Discussion:** Alyce Brown was able to talk to the state Department of Commerce about #backingsmallncw. It was a positive conversation in which the department of commerce was in support of the project.
- **Rural Partnership Program (RPP):** There is a zoom call at 1:30 on November 10,2021. This program is part of the USDA and Alyce is hopeful that this will fall in line with the direction of the organization.
- **Downtown Strategies update:** Oroville and Brewster received the funding to bring in Downtown Strategies. There will be a meeting in December to present the 100 page reports.
- **Douglas County Meeting:** The county commissioners met on Tuesday. Retail Strategies was able to connect with several partners of the NCWEDD during this meeting.
- **Grant Writer update:** Robin Poppen with Grant-dog came into the area and met with a couple NCWEDD partners. She would be able to help the 22 communities that are a part of the recovery work being done by Eric Hovee. Alyce Brown is hoping to put her on a 90-day retainer starting in February.
- **Supernova 2022:** An application portal will become active in the next couple of days. Postcards will be handed out at various holiday bazaars. There has been a tentative meeting scheduled for the Supernova Committee.
- **Agtech Project with Obsidian Investment Partners:** City and investment partners just partnered with an ag-tech project out of Florida. There is a root-stock program that was implemented in Canada in which the program replaced orchards with plants that are not susceptible to disease. Alyce will be setting up a zoom call to delve further into this project to see if it is a fit for this region.
- **Grand Coulee Chamber of Commerce:** The chamber reached out to EDD to help with a downtown revitalization project they are working on. Alyce Brown and Matthew Pleasants will be going to Grand Coulee and meeting with the chamber to discuss this potential partnership. Matthew Pleasant let the board know that although a lot of Grand Coulee is in Grant County that the area that the chamber serves is much larger than just Grand Coulee. There was a suggestion to reach out to the Grand Coulee Economic Council.
- **Tribal Market sponsorship:** Alyce Brown is moving forward on building a tribal market. There is potential of a sponsor for the event. The Tribal council is in support of the project.
- **2022 Membership:** The organization is working on the two-sided flyer to send out with membership applications.

What do you call a condescending bear? A Pan-Duh.

Craig Larsen: That was un“bear”able.

ADJOURNMENT @ 10:12 am

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME: *Wednesday, December 8, 2021 @ 9:00am, location-TBD*