



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

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 9:00 am

WEB CONFERENCE AND CALL-IN INFORMATION:

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

Designated Representatives: Stacy Luckensmeyer (Chair), Matthew Pleasants (Vice-chair/Colville Tribes Representative), Kurt Danison (Past-Chair), Renee Swearingen (Treasurer), Roni Holder-Diefenbach (Secretary), Jim Huffman (Douglas County Representative), Chris Branch (Okanagan County Representative), Gina Muller (Chelan County Representative), Mima Cole (Historically Under-Served Representative), Aaron Todd (Small Business Representative), Trevor Lane (Agriculture Representative), Vacant (Private Business Representative) and Vacant (Hospitality Representative),

CALL TO ORDER 9:03 am

Chair Stacy Luckensmeyer called to order with a quorum with the following board members present: JC Baldwin, Jill Thompson, Olga Camarena, Kurt Danison, Melissa Lafayette, Renee Swearingen, Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Trevor Lane, Jim Huffman, Chris Branch, Mathew Pleasants.

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

Guests present: Brooklyn Holton (Firm Foundations), Sarah Brown (Twispworks), Mathew Tate (Retail Strategies), Ernie Rasmussen (WA State Commerce)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No Board Member disclosed a conflict of interest.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Jim Huffman made a motion to approve the January 2022 consent agenda as presented, seconded by Chris Branch. Motion Passed Unanimously.

GUEST PRESENTATION: Matt Tate, Retail Strategies—ARPA Final Ruling

Mathew Tate discussed the differences between the CARES act funds and the ARPA funding and how it affects communities. The US Treasury came out with a final rule to help dispel hesitation on spending the funds. He went over some experiences that Retail Strategies has had coaching different communities on this final rule.

TREASURER REPORT

The board received the P&L, balance sheet, and year to date report. Renee Swearingen let the board know that the financials are becoming more accurate.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Motion 22-02-01:** Kurt Danison made a motion to approve the submission of the USDA

RBDG Grant in Okanogan and Coulee Dam/Elmer City to retain Retail Strategies. Seconded by Roni-Holder-Diefenbach. Motion Passed unanimously.

2. **Motion 22-02-02:** Chris Branch made a motion to approve NCWEDD Fiscal Year 2022 Budget working proposal as presented. Seconded by Renee Swearingen. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION of ACTION ITEMS

1. **Approve the submission of USDA RBDG Grant to support downtown strategies in Okanogan and Coulee Dam/Elmer City:** Alyce Brown has been approached to help submit USDA RBDG Grants for Okanogan and Coulee Dam/Elmer City to retain Retail Strategies Downtown revitalization for both communities. With both communities being within Okanogan County the USDA representative advised that both asks would not require a match. Alyce Brown would like to submit an ask for \$70,000. Roni Holder-Diefenbach let the board know that these communities both were very active in the discussion. There was a little bit of discussion on past conflict between Coulee Dam and Elmer City. With the influx of new individuals in position within these communities there has been progress with the relationship.
2. **Approve NCWEDD Fiscal Year 2022 Budget:** Alyce Brown let the board know that the EDA Planning grant has already had the match made for the year. All of the items that are highlighted have potential to change.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

1. **Tourism Summit:** Alyce Brown encouraged the board to sign up for the Tourism Summit on 2/10/22. The event is by donation that will be presented to the Young Warriors Project. It is an online event. There is a recreational round table with a focus on helping rural communities develop the recreation specific to their community. She let the board know that the EDA will be presenting at 10am. As of January 31st the EDA is not accepting any more grant asks related to tourism.
2. **EDA Grant Manager Update:** The organization will be getting a new Grant Manager, Ethan Fromm. The previous Grant Manager Sharon will still be present through the end of the fiscal year.
3. **New Board Member Luncheon on February 23, 2022 11:30am-2pm:** Alyce Brown let the board know that the luncheon will be taking place at the Hilton Garden in and she encourages all board members to join—old and new.
4. **Tech Conference on March 22, 2022:** Alyce Brown let the board know that there is discussion on making the first TA event an online event as opposed to a Hybrid event.
5. **New Growth Innovation Network Update:** Alyce Brown let the board know that the EDA had funded the NGIN as a focused way to on EDDs and other organizations have inclusion and equity included in their CEDS. The EDD was one of six organizations across the nation chosen to be a part of the technical assistance. This means the organization will be one of the first receive a toolkit and data that will help ensure that equity and inclusion will be included in the CEDS update. The Toolkit will be available in March and the data in June. There has been a discussion with the EDA about getting an extension for the CEDS update so that these pieces can be included.
6. **Cascade Loop Project update:** There have been conversations with the communities involved on how to move forward with this project. There have been suggestions about classes and a social media take-over. She encourages the board to send along ideas for
7. **Backingsmallncw Domain purchase:** Alyce Brown let the board know that the domains have been purchased for backingsmallncw.com. She asked Lisa Traum to have the landing page up in April. The Northstar OZ site will be finding a home on this site as well.
8. **WEDA funding opportunity:** Alyce Brown let the board know that the winter conference for WEDA was coming up in March. Alyce Brown sent over information to WEDA about Backing Small NCW and the organization was very impressed with the program. The organization then requested that the program be included in a request for state funding. This funding would need to have a one to one match and Alyce Brown approached the Chelan Douglas Port Authority about helping to support the project.
9. **WSMA grant submission:** The WSMA grant was submitted around the TA forum, Supernova, and the Tribal Market.

COMMITTEE/STAFF REPORTS OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Supernova Committee Report:** The committee had discussions on crowdfunding and how this funding can help those with barriers to gain access to funding—there was not solution but this will be a continued conversation. Updating the scorecard will be the focus of the next meeting. There are 21 diverse applicants. Applications will be accepted through February 18th with programs launching in March.
2. **Financial Committee Report:** Stacy Luckensmeyer let the board know that the committee will be starting work on audits and audit compliance.
3. **CEDS:** Alyce Brown let the board know that with the extension the CEDS committee meetings were pushed out.
4. Mathew Pleasants let the board know that the Colville Confederated Tribes is finalizing a contract to move forward with their Munitions project. The project will be starting the first week of March to be completed by August. The project is looking at munitions manufacturing on the Colville Tribes Reservation. The Tribe was awarded the funding last month. This project began in an attempt to support manufacturing in the region.
5. Mima Cole attended the Small Businesses, Small Farms conference in Spokane. There was a lot of discussion on what recovering from COVID looks like for many aspects of the food service industry.
6. Kurt let the board know that Dollar General developers have begun permit processing in Okanagan and Bridgement. Omak also submitted an application to the EDA for 2.5 mil dollars for tourism.

Jim's Corner

I ordered and Chicken and an egg from amazon. I'll let you know.
If you own three or more dogs what's that called. A Rover-Dose.

ADJOURNMENT @ 11:01 am

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME: *Wednesday, March 9, 2022 @ 9:00am, location-TBD*