

COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA  
BI-STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2014  
12:00 P.M.  
HEGEWALD CENTER MEETING ROOM  
710 ROCK CREEK DRIVE STEVENSON, WA 98648

ATTENDANCE:

OIB MEMBERS: Karen Fairchild (Hood River County), Ken Bailey (Wasco County), Ken Farner (Wasco County), Judith Perry (Multnomah County), Jack Miller (Hood River County), Peg Caliendo (Multnomah County), Bob McFadden (member at large), Amanda Hoey (MCEDD staff), Scott Turnoy (MCEDD staff), Carolyn Meece (Business Oregon)

WIB MEMBERS: Matt Masco (WA Department of Commerce), Sandy Seaman (Skamania EDC), Mike Bomar (CREDC), Anita Gahimer (Skamania County), Robert Waymire (Skamania EDC staff), Kari Fagerness (Skamania EDC staff)

GUESTS: Terry Cullen (Columbia River Gorge Commission)

CALL TO ORDER:

Ken Bailey called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Round table introductions took place.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2013 MINUTES:

Jack Miller moved to accept the September 18, 2013 minutes as presented. Judith Perry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OVERVIEW OF BI-STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Amanda gave an overview of the bi-state advisory council including its history and the roles of its members which include the OIB, WIB, MCEDD, Skamania EDC, Gorge Commission, USFS, and State staff. She briefly summarized the purposed of the council which is to support bi-state economic development and encourage collaboration between the two Investment boards. The annual meetings and sub-committee meetings provide an opportunity to discuss potential joint projects and adopt and change plans for managing funds.

Robert gave an overview of the Washington Investment Board activity for the past year. He indicated that the Washington Investment Fund is back up to about \$450,000 due to a couple of larger loans being paid off. He gave a summary of the loans approved in the past year including a loan that was approved in partnership with MCEDD's loan program. The WIF currently has a total of 18 loans with a balance of \$1.9 million with only 4% delinquency. Historically, the WIB has approved 50 loans/grants. Of those, \$4.2 million has been loaned out and \$1.6 million granted with matching funds of over 7 million. Approximately 216 jobs have been created since the program began.

Scott completed the overview for the OIB and passed around a handout showing the overview with a total of \$20,000 granted and \$525,000 in loans. Historically the OIB has approved \$1.5 million in grants and \$6.7 million in loans leveraging \$14.4 million in private business and \$13.3 million in public investment creating nearly 600 jobs. OIB currently has approximately \$945,000 to grant or loan and current receivables is at \$1.82 million.

#### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Amanda and Bob gave an overview of the status of the RDC's efforts to obtain the remaining economic development funding from Congress in the amount of \$5 million.

Scott gave an overview of the RDC indicating that the committee is in a transition period since Kelly Sills left as he spearheaded the organization of the meetings Scott discussed the website development and the current development of one page documents tailored to different audiences. Scott asked for continued participation in the committee to be able to move forward on the committee's efforts.

The council members discussed the importance of providing the same message with consistent information when speaking to state and federal representatives in order to help them remember the council's message and funding request.

#### FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT – AGORA INVESTMENT PLATFORM:

Amanda provided an overview and update on the Agora Investment Platform including how it is used, the clients served, challenges for users and ongoing coordination efforts with the EDA and USDA to fund projects.

#### PARTNER UPDATES:

##### Business Oregon

Carolyn Meece indicated that the new director of Business Oregon is Shawn Robbins so everyone has been getting used to the new administration and management structure as well as getting ready for election efforts. She indicated that she represents the sports apparel industry in Oregon.

##### MCEDD Update

Amanda gave an update on housing and the broadband efforts as well as efforts made in the industry clusters the regions is focusing on (Investment in Manufacturing, Value added agriculture and Aerospace). The Gorge Consortium is having an event on November 7 to promote the issues and solutions within the Gorge. The last one was held in May in White Salmon. The upcoming event will be in The Dalles.

##### Gorge Commission Update

Terry Cullen is the new senior planner with the Gorge Commission. He gave updates on 5 major areas that the Gorge Commission is working on:

- Collaborative Engagement Assessment
- Regional recreation area planning – there are lots of issues with recreation in the Gorge with many users/people saying it is “loved to death”. There are also lots of issues with trespass, illegal trails, traffic hazards, etc.
- Vital Signs Indicator process – Gorge Commission will be applying for a ½ million dollar grant through the National Science Foundation to further fund this project
- Environmental issues pertaining to climate change
- Recent budget submittal – for both the State of Oregon and Washington

Discussion ensued with the council members on these activities summarized by Terry.

#### COMMON ISSUES, COLLABORATION ACTIVITIES AND OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

Anita mentioned the continuing and increasing traffic issues on SR-14 particularly truck traffic around the tunnels. The council also discussed the issues with both bridges that connect the gorge communities.

Terry brought up the coal and oil train issues that have been popping up and its potential environmental impact if an accident occurs.

Scott mentioned the expansion to the Skamania transit service on the weekends to specific trailheads from Vancouver/Portland out into the Gorge.

ADJOURNMENT: 1:30 p.m.