



Mid-Columbia Economic Development District

MID-COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT JULY 1, 2010 TO JUNE 30, 2011

**Mid-Columbia Economic
Development District**
515 East Second Street
The Dalles, OR 97058
www.mcedd.org

MCEDD is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Lender and Provider.

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) is composed of five counties bordering the Columbia River: Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties in Oregon and Skamania and Klickitat counties in Washington. These five counties established MCEDD in 1969. The founding members realized that the sharing of a common workforce, a common geography and common demographics bound together their economic fates. They believed that joining together would benefit them through better access to economic development loans and grants, pooled technical assistance, marketing, and administrative resources. Most importantly, by joining forces they would bring a regional approach to their economic development efforts.

Today MCEDD retains the distinction of being the only regionally-focused economic development agency in the Mid-Columbia, and therefore, the agency most appropriate to serve as lead agency for the Economic Development Administration. MCEDD is organized as a government non-profit in Oregon as an ORS-190 and in Washington as a RCW 39.34.010.

A 20 member board of directors governs MCEDD with a representative from each of the five counties of the district, the cities of each county, the ports, chambers of commerce and six private sector representatives.

<u>Board of Directors</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Represents</u>
Harold Haake, Executive Committee	1987	Private Business-Utilities
Jan Brending, Sec/Treasurer	2003	Cities of Klickitat County
Dan Ericksen, Executive Committee* (through Dec 2010)	2003	Wasco County
Cliff Jett	2004	Cities of Sherman County
Paul Pearce, Executive Committee	2005	Skamania County
Ken Bailey	2006	Private Business-Agriculture
Dianne Storby	2006	Private Business-Healthcare
Dr. Susan Wolff, Vice Chair, Exec. Comm.	2006	Private-Higher Education
Barbara Briggs, Exec Comm * (through Dec 2010)	2007	Hood River County
Nancy White	2007	Private Business-High-Tech
Don Stevens, Chair, Exec Committee	2008	Cities of Skamania County
Rex Johnston, Exec. Committee	2008	Klickitat County
Ray Lafond	2008	Washington Chambers
Tonya Brumley	2008	Oregon Chambers
Mike Smith, Executive Committee	2009	Sherman County
Martin Campos-Davis	2009	Private- Minorities/Workforce
Tony Bolstad ** (through February 2011)	2009	Washington Ports

Jane Beatty (through August 2010)	2010	Cities of Hood River County
Dan Spatz	2010	Cities of Wasco County
Jeff Nicol (as of September 2010)	2010	Cities of Hood River County
Robert Benton, Executive Committee	2011	Hood River County
		Oregon Ports (through Dec 2010); Wasco County (as of Jan. 2011)
Rod Runyon, Executive Committee	2010	
Mike Courtney (as of January 2011)	2011	Oregon Ports
Kevin Waters (as of March 2011)	2011	Washington Ports

MCEDD's mission is to promote the creation of family-wage jobs, the diversification of the economic base, and the growth, development and retention of business and industry within the five-county district. MCEDD has seven professional staff members who serve the region and meet the organization's mission. To help the organization continue to offer positive economic assistance to the region, MCEDD expanded its staff by hiring an additional project and mobility manager. The increase in staff is keeping pace with increased services now available to MCEDD's service area and members.

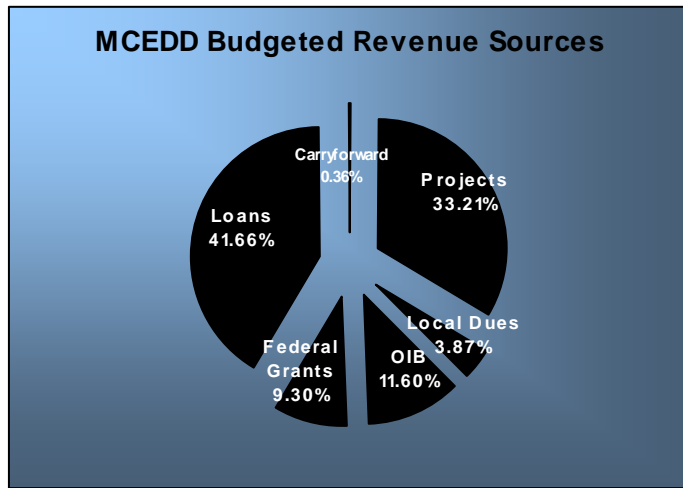
<u>District Staff</u>	<u>Joined Us</u>	<u>Title</u>
Pat Hoffman	1975	Office Administrator
Amanda Hoey	2006	Executive Director
Sherry Wickert	2007	Finance Manager
Jessica Metta	2008	Project Manager
Eric Nerdin	2008	Loan Fund Manager
Anna Tompkins	2010	Assistant Project Manager
Scott Turnoy	2010	Project/Mobility Manager

A Special Thanks

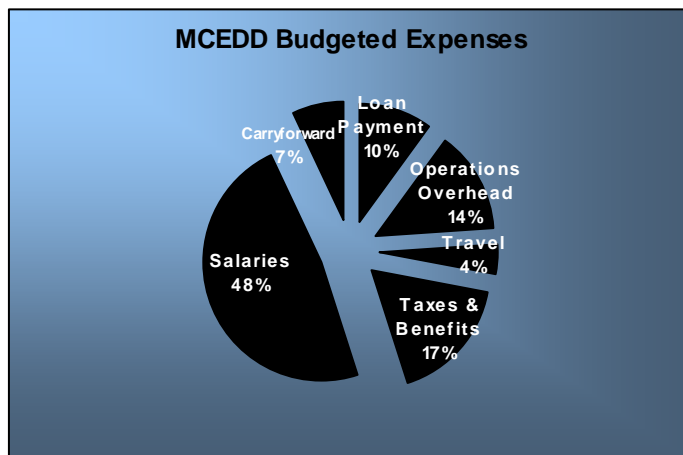
After 36 years with MCEDD, Pat Hoffman retired on June 30, 2011. We express our sincere appreciation for her dedication to our organization. Thank you, Pat!

OPERATIONS BUDGET OVERVIEW

As shown in the **MCEDD Revenue Sources Chart**, MCEDD's largest source of funds in FY 2011 was Projects, including Oregon Investment Board (OIB). Loan revenues accounted for 41.66% of MCEDD's income, with the balance coming from carry forward, local dues and federal grants. These percentages are based on total income of \$760,993.00 and are budgeted figures.



The **MCEDD Expenses Chart** depicts the budgeted expenses for FY 2011 as a percentage of the total operational expenses of the organization (\$760,993.00). Sixty-five percent of the expenses covered the cost of salaries plus payroll taxes and benefits. Operational overhead expenses account for 14%, with the balance going to travel and loan payments. Carry forward to 2011-12 is seven percent.



PROGRAM UPDATE

MCEDD staff and board members are actively involved with several local, regional and statewide economic development efforts. The following is a brief synopsis of activities.

Revolving Loan Fund Programs

One of MCEDD's most successful economic development strategies over the years is its revolving loan fund programs. In 1980, MCEDD received a \$300,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration to start its first revolving loan fund (RLF). From this beginning, MCEDD has continued to expand its RLF programs by obtaining additional funds for lending from USDA's Rural Enterprise Grant and Intermediary Relending Loan programs. To date MCEDD has successfully acquired a total of \$4,584,252 in Federal and State grants and loans for the Mid-Columbia region. This amount, combined with \$209,500 in local matching dollars, equals a total capitalization of \$4,793,752.

New and existing revolving loan fund programs use repayments from the loans to continually relend, creating the potential for additional job growth. Since 1980, MCEDD has made 180 loans to businesses totaling \$9,817,127. Those businesses have created over 909 jobs and helped retain over 882 jobs.

In fiscal year 2011, MCEDD made 13 loans totaling \$571,508. These loans will help retain over 34 jobs and help create 41 jobs in the region, for a cost per job of 1 job for every \$7,620 loaned. MCEDD's participation in these projects made it possible for businesses to invest in the Mid-Columbia region. The following are examples of businesses and projects supported through MCEDD financing:

- A & O Sports of Hood River, the North American Roberto Ricci Design distributorship of windsurfing and other related products, received a \$90,000 loan to purchase additional inventory.
- MCEDD provided a \$50,000 loan to help with the purchase of Hood River Hobbies, a retail toy and hobby store.
- Old Stone Events Center, an event center operating in a renovated and improved historic stone church in The Dalles, obtained a \$76,000 loan to consolidate debt to improve cash flow and to add a neighborhood espresso bar and small café.
- MCEDD supported the owners of La Fogata Grill, a start-up mexican restaurant. Loan funds supported completion of leasehold improvements and equipment purchases.
- Columbia PhytoTechnology received a \$198,220 MCEDD loan, in partnership with a larger loan through U.S. Bank, for a new drying line to met increased customer demand.

**Since 1980,
MCEDD has
made 180 loans
to businesses
totaling
\$9,817,127.**



**MCEDD targets
growing
industries.
- A & O Sports-**

**In fiscal year
2011, MCEDD
made 13 loans
totaling \$571,508.
These loans will
help retain or
create 75 jobs.**

- Henni's Kitchen and Bar received a \$10,000 loan to expand the restaurant with the addition of banquet and events space.
- Solstice Café utilized a \$20,000 loan through MCEDD to purchase a van and mobile wood fire oven and BBQ trailer.
- Cruz Thru Grocery received a \$30,000 loan to start a drive through convenience store in The Dalles, Oregon.
- Dry Hollow Vineyard received a \$48,000 loan to increase production of their wines and add more varietals.

MCEDD provided 13 loans during FY 2011, compared to six in FY 2010. MCEDD had a larger amount of funding available for lending due to two new grant funded loan programs. The first, a \$99,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant through USDA, is available to small businesses in Klickitat and Skamania counties. The second, a \$200,000 Community Development Block grant for which MCEDD acts as a sub recipient, capitalizes a microenterprise loan fund specific to Klickitat County businesses. Matching funding for both of these programs provided resources for technical assistance through a contract with the Columbia Gorge Community College Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

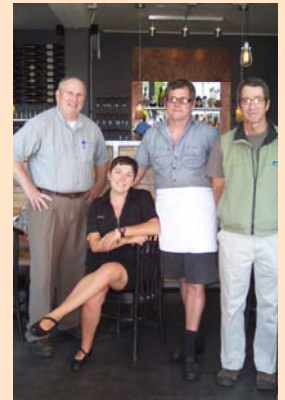
The revolving loan fund program has a larger impact due to its partnership with the SBDC, local financial institutions, and business and civic organizations. Due to the referral efforts of these partners, MCEDD is able to increase its outreach to businesses in the counties that MCEDD serves without increases in staffing and support costs.

The Dalles Urban Renewal

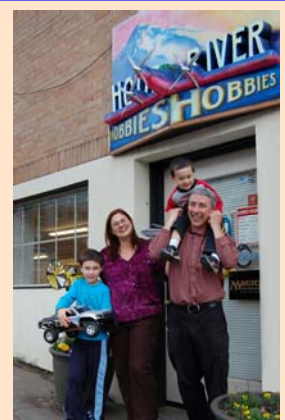
MCEDD provides assistance to individuals and entities accessing The Dalles Urban Renewal programs. MCEDD staff provides assistance to clients completing applications, prepares staff reports for the City of The Dalles and presents reports at Urban Renewal meetings for decisions. During Fiscal Year 2011, MCEDD staff consulted on multiple projects and presented two applications which received approval for interest rate subsidies from Urban Renewal for bank loans obtained to make improvements to buildings in downtown The Dalles.

Oregon Investment Board

Since 1998, MCEDD has coordinated the Oregon Investment Board's grant and loan program for Oregon counties in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Project funding awarded through OIB helps to strengthen and diversify the economy of the region. A seven-member board approves projects and the Columbia River Gorge Commission certifies that projects are consistent with the National Scenic Act, the management plan and land use ordinances. MCEDD also hosts and maintains OIB's website (www.mcedd.org/oib.htm). Awards for FY 2011 include \$46,526 in grants and \$142,000 in loans.



**MCEDD funds
Business
Expansions
- Henni's Kitchen
and Bar-**



**MCEDD funds
business
ownership
- Hood River
Hobbies-**

A sampling of projects funded in that timeframe includes:

- Erland Properties (Fun Country Power Sports) loan for new parking facility at new showroom in The Dalles, Oregon.
- Oregon Entrepreneurs Network grant to support the launch of the Gorge OEN Chapter.
- Farmers Conservation Alliance grant to support the marketing of new fish screen technology.
- Port of Cascade Locks grant for an Environmental Assessment for construction of a mountain bike trail system.
- Columbia Gorge Sustainability Consortium grant to support matching funds to host a RARE participant.
- City of Mosier grant enabling pre-acquisition activity to ultimately acquire a Union Pacific Railroad Parcel in the downtown district.

**MCEDD
supports job
creation
through OIB
funded projects.**

OIB has funded \$1,501,510 in grants and \$5,477,347 in loans since 1990.

National Scenic Area Bi-State Coordination

MCEDD hosts discussions for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Bi-State Advisory Council. The Council assesses economic development issues, markets the economic development program and identifies potential joint projects. The Bi-State Council also initiates ideas for economic development that emphasize creative thinking, partnerships and linkages among Gorge communities.

One of the elements identified by MCEDD and presented to the Bi-State Advisory Council was the need to update the Bi-State economic vitality plan. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Economic Vitality Plan provides a framework for utilization of funding to support the economic development purpose of the National Scenic Area. The Oregon and Washington Investment Boards and their respective staffs worked cooperatively in the development of this plan, to ensure a cohesive regional document to support what is truly a regional economy, crossing between the states of Oregon and Washington. In addition to the core mission and purposes of strengthening and diversifying the economy, the Boards added language to reflect the need and desire to work cross-jurisdictionally. While the National Scenic Area encompasses two separate states, Oregon and Washington, the area shares a common geography and related factors which ties the economic fate of the entire region together

**OIB has funded
over \$1.5
million in
grants and over
\$5.4 million in
loans since 1990.**

In addition to work with the Bi-State Advisory Council, MCEDD also participates as a member of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area 25th Anniversary Committee. The Committee includes a broad group of organizations and interests in the Gorge to coordinate commemorative events highlighting the 25th anniversary of the National Scenic Area.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

MCEDD takes pride in being the region's primary representative for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Each year MCEDD creates a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for EDA in collaboration with community representatives throughout the region. The CEDS provides a framework to support economic vitality of the region. It analyzes the regional economy and serves as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. The CEDS process helps create jobs, fosters more stable and diversified economies, and improves living conditions. It provides a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of individuals, organizations, local governments, and private industry concerned with economic development.

MCEDD acts as the regional body to prioritize and support economic development public works and technical assistance projects.

The MCEDD CEDS Committee, community partners, and MCEDD staff worked cooperatively in the development of the plan to ensure a cohesive regional document to support what is truly a regional economy, crossing between the states of Oregon and Washington. It covers a bi-state area including Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties in Oregon and Klickitat and Skamania counties in Washington. Key components of the regional strategy include:

- Background of the region and economic development situation.
- Analysis of economic development problems and opportunities.
- Definition of regional goals and objectives.
- Plan of action.
- Performance measures.

This process is an important component of the region's development. It was developed to be flexible in meeting both the current needs of the region, as well as providing for future accommodation for development. In addition, the CEDS process is required for every region to qualify for EDA assistance under its public works, economic adjustment, and most planning programs, and is a prerequisite for designation by EDA as an economic development district. Furthermore, the CEDS is an excellent resource to assess many of the economic development activities in the five-county region.

Grant Administration

MCEDD continues to offer resources to the region in the administration of federal grants: assisting in environmental assessments, record keeping, labor standards compliance, and reporting. We retain qualified staff; providing pooled technical assistance for small communities without the capacity to administer grants with state and federal requirements.

In this fiscal year, MCEDD administered the following:

- Oregon Department of Energy State Energy Program ARRA funded projects in the Mid-Columbia region, which included the Sherman County Courthouse and South Wasco High School Lighting Project. These projects are anticipated to be complete by the end of 2011.
- Hood River Crossing Project, a 40-unit low-income housing located in Hood River, Oregon. The cost of the facility is estimated at \$5.5 million and includes American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds. MCEDD provided the labor standard administration, which included monitoring the project to ensure compliance with both federal and state prevailing wage laws. The housing unit complex was finished in early May, 2011.
- The Dalles Safe Drinking Water Project, which utilized American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds and had an estimated cost of \$8.1 million. MCEDD performed services for labor standard activities, including developing project filing systems for labor standards, performing worker interviews, reviewing all certified payroll reports for compliance, and verifying that all necessary paperwork was accurately completed. The anticipated completion date for the project is early July.



**MCEDD provides
Grant
Administration
- City of The
Dalles Project-**

Gorge Technology Alliance

The Gorge Technology Alliance contracts with MCEDD to provide project management assistance for the organization. In this fiscal year, the GTA completed a Sustainability Plan to improve its ability to promote the Gorge's technology business sector. The grant-funded work enabled the GTA to launch several new initiatives and increase sponsorship and membership by 175% each. Some of these initiatives included:

- Launching the Member Spotlight, a promotional email highlighting one member per week.
- Revising the GTA website to make it easier for members to search for other members, thereby increasing connections and business between members.
- Developing three articles to brand the Gorge for high tech businesses and promoting these through national and regional media sources.



**MCEDD Partners
with Local
Agencies
-Hood River
Crossing Project-**

MCEDD staff also assisted the GTA in continuing regular activities such as the monthly meeting for networking and educational opportunities, the monthly newsletter, partnerships to offer health benefits and joint membership options and representation of the Gorge high tech business community at various events, meetings and trainings within and outside of the Gorge. MCEDD staff also helped launch a new monthly event called "Geek Lunch" which allows connections over technical topics.

MCEDD staff also assisted the GTA in securing a grant from Google for a Technology Education Program. The youth portion, developed in

partnership with the Columbia Gorge Robotics Club, helped launch the Youth Loaner Robotics Program with robots and laptops available for loan to schools and community groups in the Gorge. It allowed for participation in several events to showcase youth robotics including Tech Discovery Day in The Dalles. Through the grant, the GTA also hosted the first-ever FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Qualifying Tournament for the Columbia Gorge. Fourteen teams of kids aged 9 to 14 participated, many using the GTA's loaner robot/ laptop sets. The adult portion brought expert speakers in technological innovations to address Gorge audiences. The GTA held four Google Speakers Series events on the leading edge of technology in renewable energy, agriculture, wind power and mobile apps, connecting experts in these areas with the larger Gorge community.

As a result of work with the GTA, MCEDD received a 2010 Innovation Award, presented by the National Association of Development Organizations. The award recognizes innovative projects and programs, in regional development program areas.

Gorge Health Connect

Gorge Health Connect (GHC) is a new non-profit group formed by a diverse variety of health and education providers to serve Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, and Gilliam county medical practices and hospitals with exchanging health information electronically. The mission of GHC is to improve consumer experience, enhance provider efficiency, and improve clinical outcomes via a secure, apolitical, value-based information exchange solution.

In April 2010, GHC received a grant to identify the key gaps in information sharing among community health providers. MCEDD was contracted to assist with gathering data, organizing events, and providing administrative services to GHC.

Sherman County Economic Development

Since July 2005, Sherman County has contracted with MCEDD to provide economic development services. MCEDD provides business recruitment and relocation, support and training to businesses, long-range planning, grant writing and grant administration assistance for the County. MCEDD works closely with county employees and community members on projects ranging from the redevelopment of a park in Rufus to support for educational workshops to encourage residential solar installations.

As part of the work with Sherman County, MCEDD supported the John Day River Territory, a regional tourism marketing group for Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler and Grant counties in Oregon. MCEDD helped successfully apply for the Territory to be chosen as a participant in Travel Oregon's Rural Tourism Studio. The studio is a professional development program to deliver hands-on skill-building and planning workshops rich in



**MCEDD
supports youth
robotics
- FLL
Tournament
Team-**

information to help develop tourism businesses and infrastructure in the community. Workshops were held from October 2010 through January 2011 in Condon, Fossil and Moro and were designed to support the region in developing products to increase tourism by building businesses and itineraries for tourism. MCEDD is also acting as the fiscal agent for a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant for the Territory, which will continue through the end of December 2011.

Wasco County Economic Development

Since 2008, Wasco County has contracted with MCEDD to provide economic development services to the County. Staff works with the Wasco County Economic Development Commission on strategic planning, identification of County Needs and Issues and completion of projects intended to support and develop the County's economy.

The EDC's work is informed by the annual Needs and Issues process; project information submitted through the process helps keep the EDC apprised of needs in the County that staff can connect with potential funding sources. Additionally, the prioritization of Needs and Issues projects helps focus the EDC's work on the top needs in the County.

In connection with projects listed in the County Needs and Issues, EDC staff assisted with an application for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Local Government Grant program and a capital campaign request to raise matching funds for a \$1.5 million Transportation Enhancement Program grant from ODOT for the Riverfront Trail. Staff provided similar support to develop an application for the Fort Dalles Museum in an application for a \$1.3 million grant request. On behalf of Dufur Recreation District, staff also successfully applied for Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Local Government Grant for \$47,322.57. The project developed an ADA accessible restroom and shower building at Dufur City Park.

**MCEDD
successfully
applied for
funds for an
accessible
restroom and
shower
building at
Dufur Park.**

Additional work undertaken this fiscal year by MCEDD staff included:

- Outreach to unincorporated communities to develop strategic plans,
- Beginning development of an inventory of available industrially zoned land in the County,
- Hosting a PubTalk to support private enterprise,
- Providing economic information, listing of major employers and county data, and
- Providing strategic and business planning assistance.

Through its role with Wasco County, MCEDD is also an active participant in The Dalles Community Outreach Team. The team annually develops The Dalles Community Enhancement Program, which identifies priority projects and issues and seeks solutions that increase the quality of life for the community's residents.

Gorge TransLink

The public transportation providers of the region's five counties invited MCEDD as a bi-state agency to join them in working to increase regional connectivity in 2001. MCEDD has helped the group receive grants from both Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation as well as the Community Transit Association of America. Translink was successful in securing funding sources to increase MCEDD's involvement through a Mobility Management initiative, which has been active in the Mid-Columbia region for the past biennium. MCEDD hired a Mobility Manager in 2009 to increase connectivity throughout the region and focus on serving special needs populations and the general public through quality public transportation networks. Most recently, MCEDD successfully secured grant funding from both the Oregon Department of Transportation and Washington State Department of Transportation to ensure the continuation of the Mobility Manager initiative through 2013.

The Mobility Manager has assessed the services offered by regional transportation providers from Hood River, Sherman, Wasco, Klickitat and Skamania counties, collected ridership data, analyzed costs associated with services, and identified funding needs, technology improvements and areas for potential coordination. MCEDD's goal is to enhance current transportation systems by improving coordination to deliver services efficiently and respond to additional community needs by implementing complementary services. The Mobility Manager facilitates meetings of the Gorge TransLink Alliance, develops marketing materials, completed the redesign and update of Gorge TransLink's website, and researches appropriate Information Technology Systems to support regional transportation coordination. MCEDD has also engaged its University partner to complete a Vanpool Feasibility Study for the Mid-Columbia River Gorge region. The study assesses vanpooling options, incentives, and connections with employers for transportation resources. The study includes a survey of large employers (80 employees or more) within the District, a financial feasibility assessment, and an analysis of the economic, environmental, and social costs and benefits of a vanpool program for the region.

In early June, Gorge TransLink hosted a Gatekeeper Network Forum to build awareness about existing transportation services among individuals and organizations that currently serve groups of people with a consistent need for public transportation. MCEDD staff met with and obtained sponsorship funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation in the amount of \$4,000 to develop and facilitate the Forum. The Forum provided TransLink transportation providers with the opportunity to distribute updated service publications, discuss issues and challenges with event participants, and conduct an asset-mapping exercise to identify potential partners and gaps in the public transportation network of the Gorge. The



event was attended by 32 transportation professionals, human and social services providers, and concerned citizens representing each county and state in the District. The information collected through the event activities and questionnaire will be presented in a post-event summary report.

The Mobility Manager currently participates in multiple collaborative efforts to enhance transportation options and facilities in the region, including the Transportation Options Group of Oregon, the Lower John Day Area Commission on Transportation, and most recently, a coalition of mobility managers active in Washington State.

MCEDD received a 2010 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations for work with the Gorge TransLink Alliance. The award recognizes noteworthy projects and practices in rural and small metropolitan transportation planning, programming and service delivery

Oregon Connections

MCEDD participated both as fiscal agent and on the planning committee for the Oregon Connections 2010 conference. We were selected as the local host for the conference, which was held in October 2010 at the Best Western Hood River Inn. The 2010 conference program explored the importance and value of broadband telecommunications for business, government, education, energy, healthcare, public safety, communities, and individuals, and reflected the renewed priority in broadband funding, technologies and applications. The 2010 Keynote Speaker was Steven Bass, President and CEO of Oregon Public Broadcasting. Over 200 attendees participated in the event. We will also act as host for Oregon Connections 2011 and are currently engaged in the planning process for that event. The event will focus on the power of adoption for broadband. Lee Rainie, Director of the Pew Internet & American Life Project, will provide the keynote address. More information is available at <http://www.oregonconnections.info/>.

Columbia Gorge Arts and Culture Alliance

The Columbia Gorge Arts and Culture Alliance (CGACA) is a recent collaboration of arts and culture organizations and economic development interests to promote the Gorge as an arts and culture destination. MCEDD participated in a brainstorming session in 2010 with Columbia Center for the Arts, Maryhill Museum, and Weinstein and Associates. This group discussed the benefits of developing a Gorge-wide collaboration to brand the region as an arts and culture destination. In August 2010, these members held a meeting to bring in a larger regional group of arts, culture, tourism and economic development interests. The meeting was attended by over 30 organizations who all affirmed their desire to develop the regional collaboration.



MCEDD helped CGACA successfully apply for an Oregon Arts Commission grant, Washington State Arts Commission grant, and Hood River Visitors Association grant to provide for collective branding, a website, marketing materials for “May is Gorge Arts and Culture Month,” and cooperative ad space in several print publications. Additional information is available at <http://columbiagorgeartsandculture.com/>.

Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone

MCEDD worked with members of the five counties to establish the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone (CGBREZ). This zone was created to reduce the region’s dependency on federal subsidies, bring economic vitality to the region, establish a national model for energy self-sufficiency, and provide a model of self-reliance for other rural economies in the 21st Century. CGBREZ resolutions were passed by all five counties and each participating county passed a collective set of priorities. This past year, Gilliam County requested inclusion and was welcomed into the group, strengthening CGBREZ outreach to the wind power industry with Gilliam County’s significant wind farm development.

This fiscal year MCEDD again engaged in a regional marketing effort to attract manufacturing and small scale wind development to the region, using the CGBREZ brand. The team attended the American Wind Energy Association Windpower conference for the third year in a row to market the region to the 1,400 exhibitors and 20,000 attendees. The booth materials have also been used at the national Small and Community Windpower Conference and at events within the participating counties.

Sustainability Consortium

MCEDD led a series of discussions regarding HUD’s announcement of competitive funding for regional sustainability plans. Following deliberation, the group determined that an application did not fit our needs at this time. Due to the benefit of the discussion, however, the group has continued with regular meetings as a consortium and is currently expanding partnerships. A memorandum to formalize the group was passed by four regional entities: MCEDD, Mid Columbia Council of Governments, Columbia River Gorge Commission, and Mid Columbia Housing Authority. The partnership has targeted local government members and outreach to Tribes, educational partners, and other special districts. The partnership allows for further integration of housing, transportation, workforce and land use issues into our CEDS and provides a forum for regional vetting and support of projects. Representatives of the Consortium are promoting regional awareness of the emerging partnership and have partners to host a participant in the AmeriCorps RARE program. The RARE participant will coordinate Consortium meetings, lead a strategic/sustainability planning process to guide Consortium activities and priorities, and solicit formal endorsement of the Consortium and its goals among targeted partners.



Financial Services

MCEDD provided financial services for Columbia Gorge Arts and Culture Alliance, John Day River Territory, Columbia Gorge Economic Development Association, and Oregon Connections. Fiscal administration included the managing of funds and financial reports.

Washington Economic Development District Association

MCEDD staff participated in the development of the Washington Economic Development District Association. To support this newly forming Association, MCEDD staff presented regarding the “Oregon Experience,” provided draft organizational documents, and established an electronic communications system.

Oregon Association of Economic Development Districts

MCEDD staff initially facilitated communication of this informal association in 2007 and has continued active participation over the past four years. MCEDD’s Executive Director currently serves as the President of this statewide Association. It is a way for the Oregon federally designated economic development districts’ staff to keep in touch with each other and tap into resources from across the state. We maintain the Association’s website (www.oedd.org) and furthered the Association’s electronic communication by partnering with the University of Oregon to transfer ownership of the listserve.

EVALUATION OF MCEDD ACTION PLAN

MCEDD's 2010-11 action plan was designed to be responsive to client needs. We have continued to hire new project managers to provide additional assistance to businesses, organizations, and governments. With the assistance of new staff, MCEDD accomplished the following work items outlined by the MCEDD board for 2010-2011:

1. Prepare and maintain the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
 - Collect data relevant to the regional economy.
 - Identify opportunities/issues and define vision/goals for the region.
 - Create strategies to accomplish goals.
 - Coordinate activities to implement these strategies.
 - Create prioritized list of Technical Assistance and Public Works projects.
2. Create opportunities to develop adequate public infrastructure
 - Support the availability of high speed connectivity: Host the Oregon Connections 2011 conference.
 - Support infrastructure development in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and identification of needs.
 - Work closely with the Economic Development Representative and EDA staff to develop future potential economic development projects.
3. Promote growth, development and retention of businesses and industry within the region by enhancing programs to retain and expand existing businesses
 - Build and advocate for a local business support network and grow the availability of funding sources for businesses.
 - Create economic opportunities in industry clusters for the Mid-Columbia region:
 - Enhance regional high tech cluster initiatives through the Gorge Technology Alliance (GTA); support workforce development through the GTA's robotics program.
 - Host May Arts and Culture month in the Gorge in conjunction with the Columbia Gorge Arts and Culture Alliance.
 - Promote the renewable energy supply chain through CGBREZ.
 - Provide assistance to further Gorge Health Connects.
4. Identify opportunities for regional coordination to enhance economic development initiatives and promote the creation of family wage jobs.
 - Actively partner to develop the Columbia Gorge Sustainability Consortium.
 - Continue to coordinate transportation needs to improve regional public transportation through support for a regional Mobility Manager.
 - Provide technical assistance for grant writing and administration.
 - Provide monthly updates on grant resources and access to region-wide demographic and statistical data.
 - Engage in cooperative bi-state coordination activities.
 - Provide assistance for local economic development related activities and act as a liaison between appropriate Oregon, Washington and federal interests.
5. Provide economic development support to counties within the region, filling in gaps and providing services for which they lack the capacity or resources to fill.

In conjunction with the action plan and the resulting initiatives, from April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011, MCEDD was able to:

- Implement 41 initiatives from the CEDS during the 2010-2011 planning grant investment period
 - 11 of these were technology based
 - 2 were funded by EDA and 39 by other sources
- Initiatives resulted in 48 jobs created or retained
- Private sector investment from project was \$1,121,436
- Public sector investment from projects implemented was \$541,831

All 22 sub-state jurisdictions eligible to participate in the districts participated by attending meetings or contributing financially.

Many Thanks to the MCEDD Financial Supporters

<p>Counties: Hood River County Klickitat County Sherman County Skamania County Wasco County</p>	<p>Cities: City of Antelope City of Bingen City of Cascade Locks City of Dufur City of Goldendale City of Hood River City of Maupin City of Mosier City of N. Bonneville City of Shaniko City of Stevenson City of The Dalles City of White Salmon</p>	<p>Ports: Port of Cascade Locks Port of Hood River Port of Klickitat Port of Skamania Port of The Dalles</p>
<p>Federal: Economic Development Administration U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development</p>	<p>State: Oregon Business Development Department Washington Department of Commerce Oregon Department of Energy Oregon Department of Transportation Washington Department of Transportation Oregon Arts Commission Washington Arts Commission Travel Oregon</p>	
<p>Other Funding Sources: Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Oregon Investment Board Columbia Gorge Community College Columbia Gorge Economic Development Association Columbia Gateway Urban Renewal Agency Gorge Technology Alliance and member businesses TransLink: Hood River County Transportation District, Mid-Columbia Council of Governments, CTA-NW, SW Washington Agency on Aging Hood River Crossing, LLC Oregon Connections and sponsors Gorge Health Connects Cannon Power Group Hood River Visitors Association CityCounty Insurance Services Washington State University National Association of Development Organizations Arts Alliance: Marsha Holliston, Maryhill Museum, Tracy Mollenholt, Lee Weinsten, Columbia Center for the Arts, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce, Gorge Artist Open Studios, Soderberg Bronze Works, Skamania Performing Arts Foundation, White Salmon Arts Council, Lorang Fine Arts, Burgerville, Sherman County Museum, The Dalles Art Center John Day River Territory: Gilliam County, Oregon Paleo Lands Institute, Arlington Chamber, Wilson Ranches, Wheeler County, Condon Chamber Summit sponsors: NW Natural, CenturyLink, Mt Hood Meadows, VPSI, Insitu</p>		