

**MID-COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
CEDS STEERING COMMITTEE**

AGENDA

**Tuesday, September 14, 2021
3:30 PM**

Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91668157381?pwd=Qm9qbEx4QVlqYVBQMkFTS0hiNXdyUT09>

AGENDA

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Estimated Time</u>	<u>Item</u>
Call to Order/Introductions	5 minutes	Discussion
Public Comment	5 minutes	Information
Approval of the Minutes <i>August 10, 2021</i>	2 minutes	Approval
Sept 1 Meeting Debrief <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Review draft strategies</i>	20 minutes	Discussion
September 1 CEDS Meeting Preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>In-Person or Virtual?</i>• <i>Review meeting goals</i>• <i>Suggestions for this final meeting?</i>	10 minutes	Discussion
Other Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Annual Symposium Feedback</i>• <i>Future CEDS Steering Committee Engagement</i>	5 minutes	Discussion
Adjournment		

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you have a disability that requires any special materials, services or assistance, please contact Lauren Hernandez at 541-296-2266 (TTY 711) at least 48 hours before the meeting.

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**MID-COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
CEDS STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

August 10, 2021 at 3:30 P.M.

Via Zoom

Committee Attendance: Greg Davis, Kevin Waters, Liliana Justo-Bello, Carrie Pipinich, Hannah Brause, Richard Foster, Austin Evans, Buck Jones

Staff: Jessica Metta, Jill Brandt

Public Comment

Jessica Metta asked if there was any public comment. There was not.

Approval of July Minutes

Kevin Waters motioned to approve the July minutes. Buck seconded this motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

July 28th Meeting Debrief

Jessica requested feedback from committee on the July 28th meeting. She reported on the survey responses that will be tallied into the meeting results.

Discussion: Richard Foster appreciated having staff support in his group. He noted that his facilitation style was argumentative, and the staff support helped to guide the group. Kevin replied that he felt positive about his group's discussion. Austin reported that his group had an interesting topic but that progress in the past 5 years has been seriously derailed by Covid, so that workforce levels are only now approaching the levels they were at pre-Covid. Austin further pointed out that discussion on workforce pointed right back to the affordable housing issue as the basis for lack of any progress. Kevin agreed, noting that his group also focused on the lack of affordable housing. Kevin emphasized that this is THE biggest issue, period.

Jessica thanked members for their feedback. She will do a strike-through/underline draft on the survey responses on the SWOT and the Vision and Goal language that will show the changes suggested by the feedback. This will give the Committee an opportunity to see the changes and to share their thoughts on these changes. Jessica noted that there will be another survey reminder sent out.

September 1 CEDS Meeting Preparation

Committee feedback was requested on whether to hold the next meetings in person or virtually. Current Covid status in general suggests that the September meeting will be virtual. Input from the committee confirmed that the virtual format is a reasonable safety measure. MCEDD will send out an updated notice to all registered participants.

The September meeting topic will be developing strategies. Because the last CEDS update was in person, this topic was designed for one room with each goal area set up as a specific station in the room, so that participants could move around to each station and give their input on each goal. To accomplish this within the virtual format, a lot of time in breakouts will be needed. Jessica suggested to begin that the participants return to their original goal groups from the July meeting. This will give additional

time to finish up with the goal statements, since many of the groups were not able to finish at the last meeting. This will give the group who crafted the goal time to brainstorm strategies for meeting their goal.

To allow everyone to brainstorm strategies for all goal areas once the initial goals groups are finished, Jessica proposed that everyone then go to a different goal area and be given 15 minutes at each goal area's discussion board. Once participants have been to all four areas, they would go back to their original group to identify strategies that were quick wins (able to be accomplished in 6 months to a year) and the top 3 priorities for longer term. Jessica asked for committee feedback.

Discussion: Kevin Waters suggested a break in the middle of the session. Greg Davis insisted that realistic goal setting takes time, and that allowing enough time for prioritizing is crucial. Jessica suggested that the question focus on what would be realistic and actionable in the next 5 years. Carrie Pipinich agreed with the plan to give the original group that created the goal statements at the July meeting more time to finish up. She pointed out that in the review at the end, as the info on the jamboards is synthesized, there will be more and more notes that are repeated, with less new items to add. At the end, it will be easier to spend a few minutes identifying priorities based on the number of times that the comment has come up. Once the groups identify the same topics the only new adds will be for new ideas.

Jessica noted we will need to use the full meeting time up to 11am in order to give enough time to get a full handle on the strategies.

Other Items

Jessica gave a brief update to the committee on the special focus groups (Latinx and Native American communities) that have been contracted out with Next Door. Liliana is helping with this project. There will be two focus groups for each community. The first is designed to gather their feedback on SWOT and goal analysis. The second meeting will give these groups an opportunity to identify strategies. Some of the focus groups will be virtual as a pandemic precaution, some will be conducted as individual interviews.

Jessica noted that to hold the meeting in person at the Hegewald Center in Stevenson, we would need to slightly adjust the date from October 6 to October 7. She asked if the Committee had a preference or concerns about the date change.

Discussion: Buck noted that he has a possible conflict on the 7th- but that it is not set in stone yet. Greg Davis stated that either date works for his schedule. Austin is available on both days. Liliana can adjust her schedule to accommodate.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Brandt, Administrative Assistant



**Columbia River Gorge Regional
Economic Development Strategy
Thursday, October 7, 2021**

Via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82947309940?pwd=NjJ6KzJNTnFvNGhNcy9XOXMwa2hXUT09>

AGENDA: Implementation and Metrics

Time	Agenda Item	Who
8:30	Welcome, Session Overview, Review of Prior Sessions	Jessica Metta
8:45	Breakout Group Discussion <i>Review Strategies</i> <i>Review Priorities</i> <i>Detail Partners</i> <i>Detail Measurements for Success</i>	Strategy Committee
10:00	Breakout Group Report Out	Strategy Committee
10:20	Adjourn	

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