

# Lincoln County EDC Newsletter

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## Why Biodiesel?

- Biodiesel promises Eastern Washington a new industry that will benefit the agricultural community and the urban environment
- Biodiesel reduces reliance on foreign oil
- Biodiesel produces 3 times the energy it takes to produce
- Emissions are less harmful

## Lincoln County Companies Leading the Way in Developing Ag-Based Fuel

The N.W. Lincoln County Regional Public Development Authority has succeeded in resolving its problems at its industrial park located west of Creston. The NWLCRPDA Board is finalizing its lease with its new tenant Columbia BioEnergy.

Columbia BioEnergy is the first permitted biodiesel refinery in the State of Washington. The company is currently importing soybean oil and refining it to create a high quality biodiesel that is then distributed throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Columbia BioEnergy is now employing 10 people at family wages. It is using the PCC Railroad to import the soybean oil.



**Columbia BioEnergy Facility in Creston, Washington**



**Future site of IEO—Oilseed Crusher & Biodiesel Refinery**

The Odessa Public Development Authority has partnered with Inland Empire Oilseeds, LLC to build the first large scale canola seed crushing facility in the Pacific Northwest. Once the crusher is completed, the facility that will be located inside the Odessa city limits, will expand to refine its oil into biodiesel.

Inland Empire Oilseeds will employ 14 people at family wages. It will offer an alternative rotation crop to Washington wheat farmers.

Inland Empire Oilseeds plans to open its facility, designed to crush 45,000 tons of canola seeds per year, in early winter 2008.

## Biodiesel Cluster Emerges in Lincoln County

Biodiesel is emerging as a promising new industry that benefits the agricultural industry, the environment and fuel self-sufficiency.

It is proven that canola oil refines into a highly efficient biodiesel with a lower pour

point and lower NOx emissions than soybean and palm oils.

By 2008 the WA Renewable Fuel Standard mandates that all petroleum diesel contain 2% biodiesel. This will require at least 20 million gallons of

biodiesel production by 2008.

Columbia BioEnergy and Inland Empire Oilseeds will have the capacity to provide the region with at least 10 million gallons. Lincoln County has become a leader in this new industry.

## The New Lincoln County Economic Development Fund

The Washington State Rural Local Option Sales/Use Tax Credit offers rural counties a .08% credit against state sales tax. By law these funds must be spent on economic development projects that ultimately produce jobs.

Four applications were submitted and reviewed by a third party committee that sent its prioritized recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners which made the final decision on January 16, 2007.

- City of Sprague Utilities Extension - \$20,000  
Unable to fund immediately. Will re-apply once funds are replenished

Each qualifying county in the state has come up with its own way of utilizing the funds. The Lincoln County Commissioners asked the Lincoln County EDC to develop a program to offer local economic development projects small grants.

The results are as follows:

- Wilbur Airport Project - \$11,000
- Reardan Area PDA Small Business Incubator - \$14,000
- Harrington Opera House - \$10,000



*“Growing Lincoln County’s economy from within”*

## What is a Public Development Authority?

A Washington State public development authority (PDA) is made possible by RCW 35.21.730 -757, authorizing Cities or Counties to create public corporations, commissions and authorities. A PDA can apply for public funds and enter into public/private partnerships to undertake missions prescribed to it by the city or county that formed it.

There are currently five PDA’s in Lincoln County:

- *Odessa PDA*
- *N.W. Lincoln County Regional PDA – Towns of Almira, Creston & Wilbur*
- *Harrington PDA*
- *Sprague PDA*
- *Reardan Area PDA*

Each of these PDA’s is dedicated to enhancing the economic picture in its town or region. The results to date:

- Odessa Industrial Park
- NWLCRPDA Ind. Park
- 23 new jobs
- Currently each PDA is working on an exciting new project! Stay Tuned!

## Current Projects: Harrington Opera House Society (HOHS)

The HOHS is moving forward after weathering some frustrating years while its Board of Directors tried to find money to build a fire escape. The HOHS was restricted from staging performances in the building without a fire escape, making it difficult to raise funds to *buy* a fire escape! But the problem is finally solved with two grants from the Northwest Area Founda-

tion and the Lincoln County Economic Development Fund.

Now HOHS has the funds needed to build a fire escape AND restrooms! We can’t wait for the performances to begin!



### Current Projects: City of Sprague Plans to Expand to the I-90 Freeway

The City of Sprague is the only point of Lincoln County that has contact with the I-90 Corridor. Millions of cars drive by Sprague every year, stop at the rest stop and admire Sprague Lake, but very few people actually visit the community and fewer still spend their money there.

The City of Sprague, a private landowner and the Sprague PDA are partnering to engineer and construct the extension of water and sewer service to freeway property.

The goals for this project are as follows:

- Take advantage of Sprague’s strategic location along the I-90 corridor
- Provide commercial/ industrial land that is outside of the floodplain
- Attract businesses that will provide good jobs for the community
- Provide water & sewer for the new Fire District #1 Fire Hall and Training Center that will be located along the new utility lines
- Draw people from I-90 into the City of Sprague to experience the community



*Infrastructure upgrades are investments in future economic development*

### Current Projects: Reardan Area PDA Small Business Incubator

The Reardan Area PDA has made progress in applying for the public funding to build the first small business incubator in Lincoln County. It will provide affordable business space for three to four small emerging businesses. The goal of an incubator is to grow new businesses that will then establish themselves in the community.

The PDA has a commitment from two businesses and a third has shown interest.

The PDA has received a State grant to do the preliminary engineering and site analysis and a Lincoln County Economic Development Fund grant to pur-

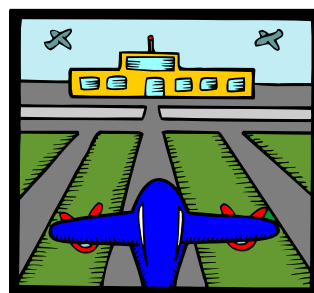
chase the land. The PDA just submitted a USDA grant application.



**Audubon Lake in Reardan, WA.**

### Current Projects: Wilbur Airport

The Town of Wilbur has recognized its airport as a valuable



economic development asset. The Airport Layout Master Plan for the next 20 years is complete and now the Town is eager to move to construction of a 3,200 foot extension to the runway. This will bring the runway up to a total of 4,000 feet.

The cost will reach \$830,000 and will take approximately 2 years to complete.

The runway expansion will make the Wilbur Airport accessible to:

- Recreational visitors
- Freight companies
- First strike fire control
- Air ambulance
- Better aerial application
- Hangar space
- Aircraft tie-downs
- Potential for a light industrial park

## Lincoln County Economic Development Council

### LINCOLN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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#### EDC Board Members

Sam Braun, President  
Dale Swant, V. President  
Rex Harder, Treasurer  
Lauri Long, Secretary  
Scott Hutsell, Director  
Ted Hopkins, Director  
Howard Nelson, Director  
Mike Evans, Director  
Billie Herron, Director  
Gary Green, Director  
Lynn McWhorter, Director

#### What is the Lincoln County EDC?

The Lincoln County EDC is a member supported non-profit organization dedicated to business recruitment. The EDC is overseen by an eleven-member Board of Directors. It opened its doors on July 1, 2006 with Pam Kelley, Executive Director and Joyce Mings, Administrative Assistant. The office is located at 303 6th Street in Davenport in the Lincoln County Courthouse annex shared with WSU Extension.

The EDC has a diverse set of goals to include the following:

- Business assistance & training
- Project planning & development
- Grant writing
- Member in statewide economic development organizations
- Assist local PDA's to attract new businesses
- Assist in funding infrastructure improvement
- Foster an economic development network within Lincoln County

The EDC depends heavily on membership support in order to function at a competitive level. The EDC Board is grateful to those businesses who have already stepped forward with generous membership contributions. If you are interested in becoming a member please call Pam or Joyce at 509-725-1170

#### Opportunities...

The opportunities for growth and prosperity in Lincoln County are endless. Affordable land, upgraded infrastructure, good schools and safe communities all located in a rural setting with the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area as its playground.



**Lake Roosevelt offers camping, boating and hiking**

Lincoln County EDC  
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