

Lincoln County Economic Development Council

Minutes

January 29th, 2009

Reardan, WA

Members: Doug Plinski, Rex Harder , Dale Swant, Billie Herron, Gary Green, Steve Starr, Scott Hutsell, Ron Groff and Lynn McWhorter

I. Roll call and introductions

President Dale Swant opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

The following persons were present:

Board Members: Scott Hutsell, Lynn McWhorter, Rex Harder, Doug Plinski, Ron Groff, Steve Starr, Gary Green and staff members Pam Kelley and Joyce Mings.

Guests included Larry Condon.

II. Minutes and Treasurer's reports

Ron **motioned** to accept the minutes as presented. Gary seconded and motion passed.

Joyce and Rex presented the treasurer's report. Lynn **motioned** to approve the treasurer's report. Ron seconded and motion passed.

Joyce reported that the landlord for the LCEDC office was requesting a \$25.00 rent increase to mitigate the escalating utility bills. Gary **motioned** to pay the increased rent amount by \$25.00 bringing it to a total of \$350.00 a month. Doug seconded and motion was carried.

After reviewing Pam's hours for the last 2 quarters Ron **motioned** to add her comp hours to her vacation time as additional time off and to revisit this on a yearly basis. Scott seconded and motion passed.

Pam reported that she testified before a Senate Committee on January 22nd. It appears it is quite possible the EDC's will lose up to 20% of their funding from CTED. This would translate to a loss of around \$10,000.00 a year for LCEDC.

III. Old business

Pam reported the following:

- The Sprague I-90 project is moving along nicely. The Washington Dept. of Transportation is showing a great deal more cooperation in the question of approving the access for the property n question. Once the access has been approved the City of Sprague will apply for funds to extend water and sewer service for the construction of a new fire hall and an industrial/commercial site.
- The Harrington PDA will be spearheading an effort to form a County-wide Certified Local Government that will be devoted to restoration and preservation of the County's historic buildings.
- The college classes in the Davenport, Reardan and Creston schools are doing well and there is hope to expand this project.
- The Barr Regional Bio-Industrial Park project is moving forward quickly. The Odessa PDA received a \$2 million award from CERB for the engineering and basic infrastructure construction.
- Steve Starr gave the Board an update on Inland Empire Oilseeds' progress. IEO is producing biodiesel and is now facing the challenges of selling it. They are in the midst of government agency negotiations and IEO has hired a lobbyist in Olympia.

IV. New Business

The spring event was discussed. Doug reported that Avista would sponsor half the event with \$750.00 and that hopefully Tom Lienhardt from Avista would be able to speak. Scott reported that he had spoken to Karen Hay, the Davenport Future Business Leaders of America teacher about having her class serve the event. Joyce and Pam will follow up with her. He also reported that the Memorial Hall has been reserved. It was suggested that business cards be collected for door prizes at the event and use those cards to contact and recruit new members. Joyce will have invitations printed for the next meeting to give Board members to disperse. Pam will attend Chamber meetings to personally invite businesses to the event.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be in Odessa, February 19th at 10:00a.m. in the Odessa Library located in the City Hall. Lynn **motioned** to adjourn at 6:05 and proceed to the Mayors and Commissioners meeting. Gary seconded and motion carried.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by: