

Lincoln County Economic Development Council

Minutes

October 23rd, 2008
Homestead Café, Wilbur WA

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

I. Roll call and introductions

President Dale Swant opened the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

The following persons were present:

Board Members: Lynn McWhorter, Gary Green, Rex Harder, Ron Groff, Doug Plinski, Kim King, Dale Swant and staff members Pam Kelley and Joyce Mings.

Guests: Steve Starr

II. Minutes and Treasurer's reports

Rex gave the treasurers report (see attachment in Oct 23rd, 2008 packet). Rex **motioned** to set up a capitalization account and only capitalize over \$250 if it is useful for more than a year, and then track it. Scott seconded and motion carried.

Scott **motioned** and Gary seconded to approve the treasurers report. Motion carried.

Pam suggested that a committee be formed for the Lincoln County Visitors & Convention Bureau (LCV&CB). It was decided that Pam, Ron and Dale would be the committee members. Bills paid would be approved by the Board. Rex said he would speak to Leffel, Otis and Warwick about the taxes for LCV&CB.

Dale presented the Board with a proposed 2009 budget for the LCV&CB(See attachment to Oct 23rd, 2008 packet). Doug **motioned** to accept the proposed budget. Gary seconded and motion passed.

III. New Business

Pam led a discussion on what the difference is between the EDC and a PDA.

When asked what the mission of the EDC is, the following responses were given:

- Develop new businesses
- Support Structure
- Advisory
- Brainstorm Center
- A 501 c 3 that can apply for grants from foundations as well as government
- Could start a revolving loan fund for revitalization, education, housing , and business

- Could get compensation for writing grants, but hope not to

As a new Board member, Ron asked where the funding is now coming from. Pam responded with the following:

- Towns and cities as members pay \$1.75 per head per year
- Lincoln County contributes around \$40,460.00 a year out of the .09% sales tax earmarked for economic development
- The state ADO fund contributes \$46,000.00 a year
- Other members include the Chambers of Commerce, PDA's, Businesses, and Individuals

Pam and the Board then discussed the PDA's. A handout was given to supplement the presentation. (Please see attached)

- There are 5 PDA's in Lincoln County
- The Odessa PDA owns an Industrial park with 3 tenants, as well as, the Inland Empire Oilseeds biodiesel facility
- The Harrington PDA is working on downtown revitalization
- The NW Lincoln County PDA owns an industrial park leased to Columbia BioEnergy biodiesel facility
- The Sprague PDA is working on two industrial park developments
- The Reardan Area PDA is working on a small business incubator, a railroad museum and a wildlife reserve

Pam noted that the EDC will be sending out Lincoln County Economic Development Fund grant applications in November.

Membership!! Pam emphasized the importance of member dues to the sustainability of the EDC. It was decided to hold another event in March. This event will be held near St. Patrick's Day. The theme of the event will be based around going green. Potential places to hold the event are the Davenport School or the Memorial Hall in Davenport. It was suggested that the FBLA in Davenport be contacted to partner. The budget would be around \$1,500.00 and Doug will approach Avista for sponsorship and the possibility of a speaker. Dale will look into Project Joy for entertainment. It was noted that it would be great if some small bottles of the first biodiesel being made in Odessa could be obtained for auction.

Pam and Kim King reported on the formation of a new entity addressing economic development in Odessa. The five organizations that came together to form the organization are the Town of Odessa, the Odessa Hospital, the OPDA, The Odessa Chamber and the Odessa School District. Kim King is

the administrator. The Odessa organization asked that Kim King be paid through the EDC as an employee. Ron **motioned** to have the EDC pay Kim King as an employee. The EDC will invoice the Odessa organization as membership dues which would then be used to pay Kim. The Board asked the EDC staff to check into the retirement benefits to see if Kim would automatically need to be added as a recipient. Gary seconded the motion and the motion passed. Gary **motioned** to make sure that all costs involved in paying Kim King are reimbursed by the Odessa organization. Scott seconded and the motion carried.

Next meeting

The next meeting was set for Nov 20th at the Hospital meeting room in Odessa at 10:00a.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by: