

**Cowlitz-Lewis Economic Development District Board Meeting**  
**Rose Tree Restaurant, Castle Rock**  
**February 27, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Attendees:**

George Cress	Port of Longview	Bob Gregory	City of Longview
Steve Harvey	CWCOG	Jennifer Keene	CWCOG
Bill Schulte	Lewis County	Ted Sprague	Cowlitz EDC
Dick Larman	Lewis County EDC	Ryana Covington	City of Castle Rock
Polo Enriquez	City of Centralia	Kei Zushi	City of Woodland
Taylor Aalvik	Cowlitz Tribe		

- ◆ **Taylor Aalvik** – Cowlitz Tribe – Diversifying its economic base. Now have 100 employees. Acknowledged by feds in 2002. Have seat on 2 CFRB. The Tribe elders will be meeting first Saturday of month regarding position in CLEDD Board.
- ◆ **Dick Larman** – South Cowlitz Economic Development Plan – help from Cowlitz Tribe. George Cress moved, Bob Gregory seconded to approve Cowlitz Tribe seat added to board.
- ◆ **Jennifer Keene** – Review of EDA visit in January. Three projects evident in favor – Port of Woodland, Longview Mint Farm, Trans Alta Industrial Park. Relationship of projects to current CEDS. Use a “duck approach.” CEDS plus use letter of amendment approach. “Regional project” still applicable.
- ◆ **Dick Larman** – We use it for evaluation of .09 projects and for applying for other grants. Need to determine extent of the CEDS Report and projects/plans in report for funding opportunities.
- ◆ **Bob Gregory** – A driver of reason for EDD Board to meet. What comes out of CEDS committees may determine when, how often we meet. Bylaws will need to be drafted and would address the frequency, too.
- ◆ **Next meeting April 9, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. at Spiffy’s.**
- ◆ **Ted Sprague** – Attended trade show in California – Medical Conference with Viable leads first day, slow other days. Another in Los Angeles end of month. Workforce Development Council effort. Getting business inquiries still.
- ◆ **Dick Larman** – WEDA Conference report. Stimulus info – RTPO projects. \$55 million for energy projects. Final report for TransAlta being developed. Total leads in office at 23. Announcement maybe mid-summer for potential business industry growth. See increasing number of leads from mid-size firms. Unemployment rate leveling off compared to other counties who are now experiencing higher rates. Lewis and Cowlitz 19<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> overall in rate of unemployment increase. Increases modest.
- ◆ **Polo Enriquez** – Seeing a lot of positive motion; some building permits for downtown underway soon. Can now file for unemployment for one day – how does that impact the rate?
- ◆ Discussion re energy money from stimulus package.

- ◆ **George Cress** – Report on EGT grain terminal project - \$150 million capital investment. Rail access. Grain from Eastern Washington and Oregon. Looking at related industries – biodiesel, etc. Wind energy strong. Nap Steel expanded – 50 acre expansion. Light Manufacturing, sorting.
- ◆ **Ted Sprague** - Another elevator looking at expanding. He sees a Lewis County connection.
- ◆ **Kei Zushi** – Woodland - Mixed use standards for downtown. Preparing commercial design standards. Fertilizer manufacturing company at Port of Woodland. Lifeport expanding as is Sunlight Supply.
- ◆ **Polo Enriquez** – Miller Refrigeration Services – hiring 66 local. Electric sub-station needed. Lowe’s Distribution Center breaking ground this summer for another 30 jobs. Downtown still doing well with building construction.
- ◆ **Bob Gregory** – PUD finishing sub-station at Mint Farm. Seeking funding for Weber Avenue improvements including an EDA application. Tri-County Truss/Lyman Lumber – property is on market. Wal Mart plans for new store are due soon. New pathology offices. Columbia Theatre improvements are underway and seeking funding for phases.
- ◆ Discussion re LIFT program. Legislation being worked re Tax Increment Financing (TIF) approach.
- ◆ Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.