



Communiqué

Volume 1, Issue 2

February 2011

THEN & NOW

1978

COG Membership:
19 Entities

Budgeted Revenues:
\$274,194

2011

COG Membership:
28 Entities

Budgeted Revenues:
\$1,526,538

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Program review shows progress for Drug Free Communities grantees

An evaluation of the effectiveness of communities that receive federal Drug Free Community grants shows significant declines among youth for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana use over the past seven years. The review revealed that past 30-day use declined significantly across all substances and for all grades levels in middle and high schools.

Youth are becoming more aware

of the risks involved in alcohol, tobacco and marijuana use as reported by the DFC coalitions' first report (January 2002) and their most recent report (November 2009).

Other trends are that high school tobacco use continues to decline. The perception of the risks of marijuana use, however, is also declining, meaning youth are perceiving marijuana use as not as harmful as in previous reports.

The four Drug Free Communities grantees in Cowlitz County are the Kelso STOP Coalition, Longview Anti-Drug Coalition, Castle Rock CARE Coalition and the Cowlitz Drug Free Communities Coalition. For information regarding this program and any of these coalitions, contact Brian McCrady at 360-577-3041, or bmccrady@cwco.org.

2011 Cowlitz Meth Action Team banquet shows results

The Cowlitz Meth Action Team (CMAT) held its 8th Annual Banquet and Silent Auction last month in collaboration with the Kelso/Longview Elks Lodge. The event raised over \$2,000 to be used for the next countywide youth drug and alcohol prevention summit. The Honorable Judge Steven Warning delivered this year's key-note address, emphasizing the continuing need to fight substance abuse for our youth and community. Robb Atherton discussed his moving and life-changing story of struggle, recovery, empowerment and happiness. The Mark Morris Jazz Band provided extraordinary

entertainment for the event with 1930's inspired jazz. Toutle High School Prevention Club students served dinner to over 120 community and agency representatives.

Meth Action Team members thank the local businesses, agencies, and individuals that supported the event with donated services and the 40 silent auction items. The team extends its appreciation to the Kelso/Longview Elks Lodge for their support, the Toutle High School Prevention Club for their efforts, and Ashley Scott and Erica Lewis for their help with every aspect of the

event. Special thanks go to Shellee Brassard, Kelso School District intervention specialist, who kept the night rolling as emcee.

For more information or further involvement with the Meth Action Team, contact Shannon Miller at 360-577-3041 or smiller@cwco.org.

CMAT members thank all the local businesses for their donated services and 40 silent auction items

Economic development district news



**Business
Technology
Center Classroom**

At the semi-annual meeting of the Cowlitz-Lewis Economic Development District (EDD) in January at the Kelso Red Lion, the board reviewed and gave the go-ahead to two project proposals. One was for a Cowlitz County Three Rivers Business & Technology Center, and the other a joint project with Columbia-Pacific Resource Conservation and Economic Development District (Col-Pac) for a land use and redevelopment strategic plan. In addition, the board elected Cowlitz County Commissioner Mike Karnofski the 2011-2013 chair and Lewis County Commissioner Ron Averill vice chair.

Three Rivers Business & Technology Center: The Cowlitz Economic Development Council's Strategic Plan identifies the need for a business and technology center. EDD staff has aided the formation of a partnership for the Three Rivers Business & Technology Center, which includes Lower Columbia College Business and Industry Center, the Small Business Development Center, the CWCOG, and the Cowlitz EDC, the group's lead entity. The project includes a feasibility study to house professional business services as well as classrooms for training and certification, a

potential WHETS lab, office space and conference rooms. Activities include enhancing current services to businesses, entrepreneurs and startups, and developing new services and programs that assist the business community. A grant application is being submitted to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under its Rural Innovation program. For more information, contact Mary Brown at the CEDC at brown@cowlitzedc.com or Jennifer Keene at jkeene@cwco.org.

Land use and development strategic plan: The land use and redevelopment project is a regional plan identifying land use issues and redevelopment concerns regarding obtaining new employers. This proposal was created last year as part of the CWCOG's and Col-Pac's planning grant for the HUD Sustainable Communities program. We seek funding from the Economic Development Administration and potentially other sources. This project includes six southwest Washington counties: Cowlitz, Lewis, Mason, Grays Harbor, Pacific and Wahkiakum. More information will be available on the CLEDD website this spring.

HUD Sustainable Communities grant application update: A debriefing with HUD officials revealed that the grant application submitted last fall to HUD for its Sustainable Communities program was not accepted due to a technicality. The partners are already revising the proposal and will seek support from all the local jurisdictions. Letters of support will be sought beginning in March. For more information on the above two projects, contact Jennifer Keene at jkeene@cwco.org or Jesse Cardenas at Col-Pac at jcardenas@colpac.org.

The City of Woodland's Schurman Way-Guild Road project, Lewis County's Trans Alta Industrial Park: Woodland's infrastructure project, set to be going out to bid this month, is receiving \$2.4 million from the federal EDA's Community Trade Adjustment Act. The project will enhance the access off of I-5 exit 22 (Dike Access Road) to the Port of Woodland's industrial park. Also, Lewis County adopted a land use amendment for the TransAlta Industrial Land Bank so that lots can be created at a minimum of 100 acres for industrial development.

Month of February includes Children of Alcoholics Week

**Alcohol and Drug
Abuse Hurts
Everyone in the
Family...**

**It doesn't have to
be that way.**

**For more info, call
1-800-662-HELP**

Last week celebrated the recovery of the many thousands of children (of all ages) who have received the help they needed to recover from the pain and losses suffered in their childhood, and it offers hope to those still suffering from the adverse impact of parental alcohol and drug addiction through educational programs, proclamations by mayors and governors, poster contests in schools, and radio, television and print media. Tools and suggestions can be found at: http://www.nacoa.org/coaweek_tools.html

For more information on the topic, or if you or your agency is interested in free training, information, or materials contact: Shannon Miller, Cowlitz Meth Action Team Coordinator or Brian McCrady, Cowlitz Substance Abuse Coalition Coordinator at 360-577-3041.



Staff experiences Smart Growth Conference

Three COG planners recently attended the 10th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth conference in Charlotte, NC. This is a national event sponsored by many agencies including the Local Government Commission, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Centers for Disease Control, Urban Land Institute, Kaiser Permanente, US Rural Development, and the National Association of Realtors, to name a few.

With 1,500 participants and over 100 sessions over three days, Amy Asher, Barb Kincaid, and Matt Hermen interacted with other professionals from many fields at multiple sessions to learn innovative techniques for sustainable communities using Smart Growth principles (see below).

Smart Growth covers a range of development and conservation principles focused on creating vibrant places to live, work, and play. Smart Growth issues include community, quality of life, economics, environment, health, transportation, housing and design. Because no single professional group can solve the enormous challenges facing us today, the New Partners for Smart Growth Conferences bring together multiple disciplines to explore how effective partnerships can provide the political will and technical expertise necessary to overcome inertia and change “business as usual.”

Smart Growth communities preserve natural lands and critical environmental areas, protect water and air quality, and reuse already-developed land. They conserve resources by reinvesting in existing infrastructure and reclaiming historic buildings. By designing neighborhoods that have shops, offices, schools, churches, parks, and other amenities near homes, communities are giving their residents and visitors the option of walking, bicycling, taking public

transportation, or driving as they go about their business. A range of different types of homes makes it possible for senior citizens to stay in their homes as they age, young people to afford their first home, and families at all stages in-between to find a safe, attractive home they can afford. The high quality of life in these communities makes them economically competitive, creates business opportunities, and improves the local tax base.

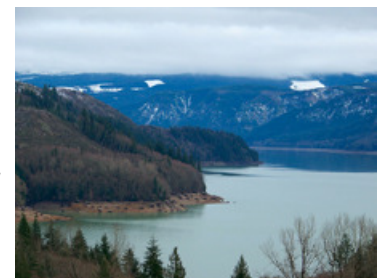
Amy, Barb, and Matt benefited from a full and varied itinerary at this conference. Each attended sessions applicable to their areas of work, including:

- * *Building Better Streets and Connected Cities*
- * *On a Collision Course: Smart Growth and Traffic Safety*
- * *Livable Communities in Smaller Cities, Towns Rural America*
- * *Smart Growth: The Investment Opportunity for Financiers*
- * *Stronger Economies Together: Enabling Communities to Collaborate Successfully on a Regional Basis*
- * *Innovative Strategies in Infrastructure Financing*
- * *Integrating Smart Growth Livability Principles in Rural Lands and Small Cities*
- * *Financing Smart Growth - Smart Capital for Smart Growth*
- * *Parks, Rescue, and Restore: Economic, Environment, and Public Health*

Much of the information and techniques learned will be useful as the COG staff and members continue building on these principles in day-to-day and long range work to ensure a vibrant and healthy future for the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum region. Staff welcome the opportunity to share what they learned and look forward to your questions.

SMART GROWTH PRINCIPLES

- ◆ **Compact Building Design**
- ◆ **Create Range of Housing Opportunities and Choices**
- ◆ **Create Walkable Neighborhoods**
- ◆ **Encourage Community and Stakeholder Collaboration**
- ◆ **Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place**
- ◆ **Make Development Decisions Predictable, Fair and Cost Effective**
- ◆ **Mix Land Uses**
- ◆ **Preserve Open Space, Farmland, Natural Beauty and Critical Environmental Areas**
- ◆ **Provide a Variety of Transportation Choices**
- ◆ **Strengthen and Direct Development Towards Existing Communities**



Lake Mayfield, Cowlitz River

January Board Meeting Highlights

- * Elected officers and appointed committees for 2011: Chair - Pete Poulsen, Mayor, City of Kalama; Vice Chair – Susan Humbyrd, Woodland City Council.
 - Executive Committee – Pete Poulsen, Kalama, Chair; Susan Humbyrd, Woodland, Vice Chair; George Raiter, Cowlitz County Commissioner; Lisa Marsyla, Wahkiakum County Commissioner; Kurt Anagnostou, City of Longview; Dan Myers, City of Kelso; Nelson Holmberg, Port of Woodland.
 - Finance Committee – Bill Hallanger, Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue; George Raiter, Cowlitz County; Kim Adamson, Beacon Hill Water & Sewer District.
- * Amended the 2011-2014 Regional Transportation Improvement Program to add \$300,000 of federal funding for a preliminary design of a grade separated vehicle crossing over/under the Burlington Northern Santa Fe mainline railroad.
- * Heard a presentation by Jennifer Keene, Associate Planner, about an authorized support for a grant application being developed for submittal to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on behalf of a number of COG member entities, for economic and community development purposes.
- * Heard a report from the Director about the agency's 50th anniversary plans; status of the SR432/433 rail and highway project proposal and Woodland's Scott Avenue/I-5 overcrossing proposal; the recently updated homeless housing plan developed by the Cowlitz Housing First Coalition; status of funding and future of the Cowlitz Substance Abuse Coalition and Cowlitz Meth Action Team; and activities of the COG's Medical Insurance Rate Stabilization Pool program.
- * Approved submittal of letters to area Congressional representatives and senators in support of funding for the national estuary programs in general and the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership in particular.
- * Next meeting is Thursday, February 24th @ 12 Noon

For more information, contact the COG Office ~ 360-577-3041.

Highlights from the Annual Report of 1978

- * Wahkiakum County, Cowlitz County and Longview received \$1,072,000 in block grant monies for their projects.
- * Began work on a region-wide Urban Growth Study to identify logical "spheres of influence" in each region's incorporated areas.
- * Kalama, Kelso and Wahkiakum County each contracted with the COG for staff assistance in drafting new comprehensive plans.
- * Woodland contracted with the COG to revise its zoning and subdivision ordinances after completing its comprehensive plan.
- * The COG turned its attention to an intriguing new project ~ Historic Preservation, identifying the significant structures in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties of historical importance to the local community.
- * The Community Urban Bus System (CUBS), with COG help, began development of a Transportation Development Plan.
- * Welcomed Wahkiakum County Port District No. 1 as the COG's newest member.

COG Phones on Fridays in March

Starting March 4, and every Friday in March, the phones will be transferred to the voicemail system in order to facilitate uninterrupted secretarial time for special projects. Staff can still be reached during business hours by pressing the corresponding number to the staff member you wish to reach.



TITLE VI and ADA Notice to the Public

COG ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the American Disabilities Act of 1990 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disabilities in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, call program coordinator at (360) 577-3041.

Amtrak Cascades hits all-time record in 2010



OLYMPIA – Ridership on Amtrak Cascades finished 2010 with a 16-year high of 838,251 passengers. Total annual ridership exceeded 2009 by 76,641 for a 10 percent increase. The final ridership total capped a year of record heights where eight of the 12 months set new benchmarks.

“This tremendous growth in ridership confirms the demand for Amtrak Cascades and the need to continue improving the service and reliability,” said Washington State Transportation Secretary Paula Hammond. “The next steps in our long-term plan will improve rail infrastructure, reduce freight- and passenger-train congestion and expand Amtrak Cascades service.”

Washington State received \$782 million in federal Recovery Act funds for high-speed

rail in 2010. WSDOT will invest the federal money in Amtrak Cascades, a high speed passenger rail service as a convenient travel option that eases traffic congestion and reduces emissions.



Amtrak Cascades

The fourth quarter of 2010 set a new ridership record with an increase of more than 1,700 riders over 2009. Total ridership for the fourth quarter was 202,675.

Service to Vancouver, B.C., remained in

high demand and contributed to Amtrak Cascades ridership growth. A second daily train to Vancouver, B.C., began in August 2009 which provided more travel options for Amtrak Cascades passengers especially during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. The second train is to remain in service through at least October 2011.

Area residents and visitors using the Kelso-Longview Amtrak station resulted in a five percent increase over number of passengers in 2009. Nearly 24,000 passengers used the Amtrak station in 2010. Amtrak partners also recently announced the addition of free wifi service to its Cascades trains as a further inducement to attract business and commuter travelers. Amtrak Cascades is operated by Amtrak in partnership with the Washington and Oregon departments of transportation. For Amtrak Cascades fares and schedules, visit AmtrakCascades.com.

Pathways to Prosperity: A Conference for Rural Communities March 18-19, 2011 Big Bend Community College ~ Moses Lake, WA

A two-day conference focusing on smart strategies for rural communities in:

Economic Development

- Small Community Tourism with Big Impacts
- Rural Jobs and eCommerce

Community Development

- Rural Health and Healthy Food
- Personal Financial Literacy

Workforce Development

- Retooling the Rural Workforce

Learn cutting edge techniques in these and many more workshops!



WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Community leaders, volunteers, business owners, elected officials ~ anyone passionate about making a difference in their rural community!

NOTE: You will get a break on early registration if you act before February 28. Plus, the first 100 people registered to attend will be entered in a drawing for 10 prizes. **YOU** could be a winner, but you must act now!

Visit <http://extension.wsu.edu/ruralwaconference/> for complete conference and lodging information. The registration link will be available soon!

Publications Received

The CWCOG received the following publications. You may review them at the COG office until the next newsletter is published. After that time, you may borrow the publication for up to 30 days. If you would like to have a copy of your own or need more information, call (360) 577-3041.

Planners and Planes: Airports and Land-Use Compatibility, American Planning Association, Planning Advisory Service, Report Number 562, November 2010.

Urban Agriculture: Growing Health, Sustainable Places, American Planning Association, Planning Advisory Service, Report Number 563, February 2011.



50th Anniversary Celebration
Keep watching for details

