



*Mid-Columbia Economic Development District*

# MID-COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT



## ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

### JULY 1, 2008 TO JUNE 30, 2009

**Mid-Columbia Economic  
Development District**  
515 East Second Street  
The Dalles, OR 97058  
[www.mcedd.org](http://www.mcedd.org)

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## ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

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Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) is composed of five counties bordering the Columbia River: Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties in Oregon and Skamania and Klickitat counties in Washington. These five counties established MCEDD in 1969. The founding members realized that the sharing of a common workforce, a common geography and common demographics bound together their economic fates. They believed that joining together would benefit them through better access to economic development loans and grants, pooled technical assistance, marketing, and administrative resources. Most importantly, by joining forces they would bring a regional approach to their economic development efforts.

Today MCEDD retains the distinction of being the only regionally-focused economic development agency in the Mid-Columbia, and therefore, the agency most appropriate to serve as lead agency for the Economic Development Administration. MCEDD is organized as a government non-profit in Oregon as an ORS-190 and in Washington as a RCW 39.34.010.

A 20 member board of directors governs MCEDD with a representative from each of the five counties of the district, the cities of each county, the ports, chambers of commerce and six private sector representatives.

<b><u>Board of Directors</u></b>	<b><u>Appointed</u></b>	<b><u>Represents</u></b>
Harold Haake, Executive Committee	1987	Private Business-Utilities
Lorena Lowell ** (through March 2009)	2002	Private Business-Childcare
Rodger Ford	2002	Washington Ports
Jan Brending	2003	Cities of Klickitat County
Chuck Daughtry	2003	Oregon Ports
Dan Ericksen, Executive Committee	2003	Wasco County
Cliff Jett, Sec/Treas	2004	Cities of Sherman County
Paul Pearce, Executive Committee	2005	Skamania County
Ken Bailey	2006	Private Business-Agriculture
Dianne Storby	2006	Private Business-Healthcare
Dr. Susan Wolff, Vice-Chair, Exec. Comm.	2006	Private-Higher Education
Barbara Briggs, Chair, Exec Comm	2007	Hood River County
Bill Dick	2007	Cities of Wasco County
Nancy White	2007	Private Business-High-Tech
Randy Holmstrom	2008	Cities of Hood River County
Don Stevens	2008	Cities of Skamania County
Rex Johnston, Executive Committee	2008	Klickitat County
Ray Lafond	2008	Washington Chambers
Tonya Brumley	2008	Oregon Chambers
Mike Smith, Executive Committee	2009	Sherman County
Martin Campos-Davis ** (as of May 2009)	2009	Private- Minorities/Workforce

MCEDD's mission is to promote the creation of family-wage jobs, the diversification of the economic base, and the growth, development and retention of business and industry within the five-county district. MCEDD has six professional staff members who serve the region and meet the organization's mission. To help the organization continue to offer positive economic assistance to the region, MCEDD will be expanding its staff by hiring an additional project and mobility manager in July 2009. The increase in staff is keeping pace with increased services now available to MCEDD's service area and members.

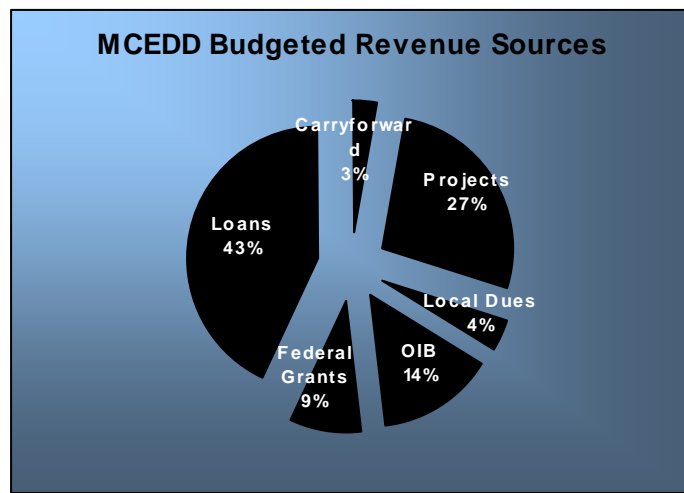
<b><u>District Staff</u></b>	<b><u>Joined Us</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
Pat Hoffman	1975	Office Administrator
Amanda Remington	2006	Executive Director
Jessica Metta	2008	Project Manager
Sherry Wickert	2007	Finance Manager
Layne Sylvester	2007	Assistant Project Manager
Eric Nerdin	2008	Loan Fund Manager

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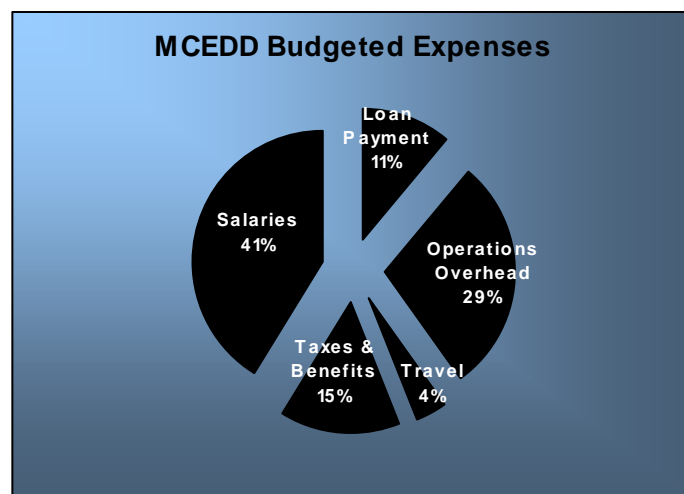
## 2008–2009 OPERATIONS BUDGET OVERVIEW

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As shown in the **MCEDD Revenue Sources Chart**, MCEDD's largest source of funds in FY 2009 was from loan revenues (43%). Projects, including Oregon Investment Board (OIB), accounted for 27% of MCEDD's income, with the balance coming from carry forward, local dues and federal grants. These percentages are based on total income of \$630,082.00. These are budgeted figures.



The **MCEDD Expenses Chart** depicts the budgeted expenses for FY 2009 as a percentage of the total operational expenses of the organization \$630,082.00. Over half of the funds (56%) covered the cost of salaries plus payroll taxes and benefits. Operational overhead expenses account for 29% with the balance going to travel and loan payments.



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## PROGRAM UPDATE

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MCEDD staff and board members are actively involved with several local, regional and statewide economic development efforts. The following is a brief synopsis of activities.

### ***Revolving Loan Fund Programs***

One of MCEDD's most successful economic development strategies over the years is the revolving loan fund programs. In 1980, MCEDD received a \$300,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration to start its first revolving loan fund. Over the past fifteen years, MCEDD continued to expand the programs and successfully acquire a total of \$4,285,252 in Federal and State grants and loans for the Mid-Columbia region. This amount, combined with \$197,500 in local matching dollars, equals a total capitalization of \$4,482,752.

These revolving loan fund programs use repayments from the loans to continually relend, creating the potential for additional job growth. Since 1980, MCEDD has made 173 loans to businesses totaling \$10,865,594. Those businesses have created or retained 1,086.5 jobs.

In fiscal year 2008-09, MCEDD made 16 loans totaling \$1,106,578. These loans will help retain or create 108.5 jobs in the region. MCEDD's participation in these projects made it possible for these businesses to invest in the Mid-Columbia region. The following are examples of businesses and projects supported through MCEDD financing:

- Financing the purchase of a small coffee shop in Hood River. This loan was made in partnership with CenterPointe Community Bank and with business counseling support and facilitation from the CGCC Small Business Development Center.
- Loan to a market in Grass Valley to purchase a concessions trailer. The market now offers high quality food on-site at such venues as the Oregon Raceway and local wind farms.
- Gap financing for completion of a new commercial building. Financing was made in partnership with Columbia River Bank. This project completed the transformation of an abandoned gas station and vacant lot into the first new commercial building in downtown The Dalles in 16 years.
- Funding for a company in Goldendale to create a new product line that compliments their strong line of portable concrete mixers. It allowed for new expansion into overseas markets, while retaining local manufacturing jobs.

**Since 1980,  
MCEDD has  
made 173 loans  
to businesses  
totaling  
\$10,865,594.**

**This FY,  
MCEDD made  
16 loans totaling  
more than \$1.1  
million. These  
loans will help  
retain or create  
over 100 jobs.**

The strength of the revolving loan fund program has been enhanced with the addition of Eric Nerdin as the Loan Fund Manager. Eric focused on building relationships with the Small Business Development Center, local financial institutions and business and civic organizations. Due to these efforts, a diverse group of local businesses were able to grow and remain in the region.

### ***The Dalles Urban Renewal***

MCEDD provides assistance to individuals and entities accessing The Dalles Urban Renewal programs. MCEDD staff provides assistance to clients completing applications, prepares staff reports for the City of The Dalles and presents reports at Urban Renewal meetings for decisions. During fiscal year 2008-2009, MCEDD staff consulted on multiple projects and presented one application that received approval. The approved project will improve the usability and appearance of the American Legion building in downtown The Dalles.

### ***Oregon Investment Board***

Since 1998, MCEDD has coordinated the Oregon Investment Board's grant and loan program for Oregon counties in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Project funding awarded through OIB helps to strengthen and diversify the economy of the region. A seven-member board approves projects and the Gorge Commission certifies that projects are consistent with the National Scenic Act, the management plan and land use ordinances. MCEDD also hosts and maintains OIB's website ([www.mcedd.org/oib.htm](http://www.mcedd.org/oib.htm)). Awards for FY 2008-2009 include \$55,870 in grants and \$340,000 in loans.

**OIB has funded over \$1,250,000 in grants and nearly \$4,500,000 in loans since 1990.**

A sampling of projects funded in that timeframe includes:

- Grant funding for a mobile farmer's market that serves communities around the Mid-Columbia region.
- Support for an angel investment conference for Columbia River Gorge entrepreneurs.
- Development of a handbook on energy and resource efficiency programs and funding sources available for Oregonians.
- Construction of a new fire station in the City of Cascade Locks.
- Purchase of a jewelry gallery in downtown Hood River.
- Construction of a new building for a multi-lingual child care center in Hood River.

OIB has funded over \$1,250,000 in grants and nearly \$4,500,000 in loans since 1990. In addition, MCEDD works with the Washington Investment Board (WIB) staff to coordinate Bi-State Advisory Council meetings between the OIB and WIB.

### ***Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)***

MCEDD takes pride in being the region's primary representative for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Each year MCEDD creates a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for EDA in collaboration with community representatives throughout the region. This document identifies strategies based on current trends and areas best suited for growth to sustain the region's economy and reduce unemployment. The document includes demographic information specific to the five-county, bi-state region.

In preparation for the CEDS, each of the counties prepares a project priority list of technical assistance and public works projects that need funding. The MCEDD board combines the lists and picks the top five projects in each category for Oregon and Washington. This list serves as an action plan for MCEDD activities. Following development of the list, MCEDD provides information on Economic Development Administration funding and acts as a catalyst to support communities seeking EDA support. This fiscal year we supported the Port of Klickitat, Port of Hood River, Mid-Columbia Council of Governments and City of The Dalles in applications, travelling with two of those entities to discuss projects with the EDA Investment Review Committee in Seattle.

In addition to focusing on the TA/PW list the Board also updated the strategic vision with seven primary goals:

- Retain and expand existing businesses in the region to enhance the region's established economic base. Create a supportive environment that promotes entrepreneurship and business expansion.
- Attract new business and industry to the region that will provide opportunities for existing residents at family wages.
- Create adequate public infrastructure that will serve key industrial, commercial and residential areas of the region contributing to increased opportunities for employment and expanded property tax base.
- Increase region's access to resources for economic development initiatives.
- Coordinate public transportation needs to improve regional public transportation options for workers, shoppers, students, tourists, and special needs populations.
- Continue to build the economic support structure to grow and sustain our region.
- Work with industry, entrepreneurs, and public entities to ensure a qualified and available workforce and training opportunities to meet rapidly changing needs.

**"We were able to thoughtfully develop a list that focuses on projects which support the economic vitality of the entire Mid Columbia region." -Barbara Briggs, MCEDD chair.**

### **Community Development Block Grant Administration**

MCEDD continues to offer resources to the region in the administration of federal grants: assisting in environmental assessments, record keeping, labor standards compliance, and reporting. We retain qualified staff; providing pooled technical assistance for small communities without the capacity to administer grants with state and federal requirements.

In this fiscal year, MCEDD administered two Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects: an emergency services building in Cascade Locks, Oregon and a fire hall/community center in the High Prairie community outside of Lyle, Washington.

The Cascade Locks Fire Station successfully completed construction in this fiscal year of a new fire station at 100 SE WaNaPa Street. Oregon Economic and Community Development Department awarded the City of Cascade Locks a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant in 2006. This funding was used to construct a new station to replace the existing station which was structurally unsound and too small to hold all of the City's emergency vehicles. Final grant administration aspects will be complete in FY 2009/2010. Major support was provided by Finance and Operations Manager, Sherry Wickert, in monitoring labor standards, including monthly interviews with an individual representing each trade, review of certified payroll reports, and working with contractors to address shortages. She developed a highly regarded tracking system that support an ease in state monitoring of the project.

The High Prairie Fire Hall and Community Center is currently under construction. Washington Community Trade and Economic Development Department initially awarded Klickitat County a \$389,000 Community Development Block Grant in 2006. With MCEDD's assistance, the Fire District was able to secure \$211,000 in additional funding. The station, now under construction, will include vehicle bays for the fire department, a community center, and bathrooms.

### **Gorge Technology Alliance**

The Gorge Technology Alliance (GTA) contracts with MCEDD to provide project management assistance. MCEDD works with the board of the GTA to promote growth of the technology cluster by providing networking and educational opportunities for high-tech entrepreneurs as well as branding the Gorge for high-tech. With more than 50 dues-paying members and 200 participants, the GTA is increasingly becoming an avenue for those new to the area to connect with established businesses and for those seeking employment to meet potential employers. MCEDD assisted the GTA in hosting:

- An alternative transportation technology event that showcased the latest hybrids and plug-in electric cars, motorbikes and scooters.



**Cascade Locks  
Fire Station**

**“completeness of the files was awesome. That was the best monitoring I've ever participated in.” -Beverly Kupperman, OECDD**



**High Prairie Fire  
Station, Under**

- Eight regular monthly membership meetings with valuable networking opportunities and topics from youth robotics programs to anti-counterfeiting technologies to trends in employer-provided healthcare.

During the past two years, the GTA partnered with the Software Association of Oregon (SAO) to cooperate on educational programming and connect to larger statewide networks. This year, the GTA was able to offer healthcare options to its Oregon members through GTA's partnership with the SAO, including coverage for sole-proprietors.

**The GTA is an avenue to connect with established technology businesses.**

MCEDD has also provided assistance with GTA's primary goal for 2009: the development of an organizational sustainability plan. MCEDD applied for and received two grants for this project including a \$9,300 grant from the Oregon Investment Board and a \$10,000 grant from USDA Rural Development's Oregon office. This plan is important for the future of the GTA as it outlines a financial plan and workplan, develops marketing materials and more closely aligns the GTA's agenda and member benefits with the needs of the Gorge's technology sector. MCEDD has also assisted the GTA in applying for a Google grant to foster a Gorge-wide youth robotics program (grant decision is pending).

### ***Technology Needs Assessment***

Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC), a provider of post-secondary education in the Columbia River Gorge, contracted with MCEDD to conduct a needs assessment survey for a workforce training program at the college to serve the growing technology sector. CGCC brought together members of both large and small technology businesses, the local school district, the Gorge Technology Alliance, and other local businesses with technology needs to form the Fundamental Applied Core Technologies (FACT) Advisory Committee.

Under the direction of the FACT Advisory committee, MCEDD conducted research of regional technology and non-technology businesses including a web survey, interviews, and selection of possible technology courses. As a result of this research, the assessment indicated that a workforce need in these areas does exist, but that a career-focused path in the manner outlined through the survey would not achieve as much as individual classes. MCEDD then worked with the College to change the direction of the assessment to focus on class options that would best meet the defined technology workforce need. Introductory and intermediate classes in computer programming and scripting, network design and administration and computer hardware setup and administration were most desired among the businesses that responded to inquiries.



**GTA Member Meeting**

**Sherman County Economic Development**

Since July 2005, Sherman County has contracted with MCEDD to provide economic development services. MCEDD provides business recruitment and relocation, support and training to businesses, long-range planning, grant writing and grant administration assistance for the County. MCEDD works closely with county employees and community members on projects ranging from the development of a race track in Grass Valley to the county’s new investment strategy for revenue from wind farms.

**Wasco County Economic Development**

Since 2008, Wasco County has contracted with MCEDD to provide economic development services to the County. MCEDD staff has worked with the Wasco County Economic Development Commission (EDC) to redesign their website, achieve funding for an Oregon Solutions process for the Discovery Center, develop a Needs and Issues inventory and Strategic Action Plan, and begin an infrastructure inventory of available lands in South Wasco County.

The Oregon Solutions process for the Discovery Center was convened to help the financially-stretched facility. MCEDD staff obtained an Oregon Investment Board grant for the process and participated in the meetings. Through MCEDD’s involvement with Wasco County Economic Development, staff was contracted to pull together the pieces of a business plan for the Discovery Center, the final step in the Oregon Solutions process.

The Needs and Issues inventory compiled information about 55 projects from 20 organizations around the County. These projects were prioritized and developed into the Strategic Action Plan for the EDC. MCEDD staff uses information about these projects in assisting the organizations and communities in seeking funding and helps them apply for grants as needed. MCEDD staff acting on behalf of the EDC regularly attends meetings and presents information as the economic development coordinator for the County.

**Juicy Ideas**

In coordination with a national competition coordinated by Advantage West, MCEDD hosted a regional Juicy Ideas competition to spur entrepreneurship, encourage creativity and develop a culture of innovation. The national effort included schools from western North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Iowa and the Columbia River Gorge.

Juicy Ideas challenged teams to create value or meaning from a “throw-away” item. The competition launched in October 2008 with the revealing of the secret throw-away item: baling twine. After the item was revealed, teams from Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) had ten days to

**MCEDD staff  
obtained an  
OIB grant for  
the Oregon  
Solutions  
process for the  
Discovery  
Center**



develop a marketable product from baling twine, produce a three- to five-minute video and upload it to YouTube.com.

Three teams with students from CGCC participated in the competition:

- Team Eco Ninjas. The team created a wine steward.
- Baling Girls. The team brainstormed household uses including a clothesline, water pail handle, placemat, coaster, hair tie, and more.
- Dumpster Divas and Ben. The team used baling twine for multiple uses, including a bird feeder which is visible on the CGCC campus.

Winning regional teams were announced in November at the Hood River Chamber Business After-Hours at CenterPointe Bank. Winning prizes for the regional competition were donated by multiple local businesses including Google, NW Natural, Insitu, Dakine, and the CGCC Small Business Development Center. Support for the competition was also provided by Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Lightwave Communications.

### ***The Dalles Community Outreach Team***

MCEDD is an active participant in The Dalles Community Outreach Team. The team annually develops The Dalles Community Enhancement Program, which identifies priority projects and issues and seeks solutions that increase the quality of life for the community's residents. Members include MCEDD, City of The Dalles, Mid-Columbia Council of Governments, Wasco County, Port of The Dalles, Columbia Gorge Community College, Northern Wasco PUD, and The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce. Included in the projects supported by the team were additional appropriations for the Oregon Investment Board.

### ***Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning***

MCEDD completed updates to Special Transportation Fund plans for Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties. The aim of the coordinated plans is to improve transportation services for individuals with disabilities, individuals who are senior, and individuals with lower incomes by providing a strategy to guide the investment of available funds and guide the acquisition of future grants. The project work involved updating an inventory of current resources and comparing them to the forecasted demographics to create a prioritized project list to meet future needs effectively and efficiently.

As a result of the plan prioritization, Hood River Transportation District was able to continue to obtain funding to begin regular daily bus service between The Dalles (in Wasco County) and Hood River (in Hood River County). In addition, a weekly route is now available between Hood River and Portland. Further, the plans were utilized in applications for a Gorge-wide Mobility Manager.



**How many uses can you find for baling twine? Eco-Ninjas had a winning solution.**

**The coordinated plans were utilized to successfully apply for a Gorge-wide Mobility Manager.**

### ***Gorge TransLink***

The public transportation providers of the region's five counties invited MCEDD as a bi-state agency to join them in working to increase regional connectivity in 2001. That relationship has continued and Translink has successfully sought funding sources to increase MCEDD's involvement as their mobility manager for the next biennium. MCEDD has helped the group receive grants from both Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation as well as the Community Transit Association of America.

The first major project created a regional needs assessment study and a marketing plan. In 2008, MCEDD assisted the group in completing a project providing the technical support of the Community Transit Association of America and a consultant. The project helped the group move forward with regional, bi-state intercity transportation goals and identified both mobility management and vanpooling as key focus areas. Funding for the Mobility Manager position will ensure that connectivity throughout the region increases.

### ***Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone***

MCEDD worked with members of the five counties to establish the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone (CGBREZ). This self-declared zone was created to reduce the region's dependency on federal subsidies, bring economic vitality to the region, establish a national model for energy self-sufficiency, and provide a model of self-reliance for other rural economies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. CGBREZ resolutions have been passed by all five counties, a logo has been developed, and each participating county has passed a collective set of priorities. Monthly CGBREZ meetings provide a forum for county leaders to discuss potential collaborations in renewable energy projects and developments.

This year, MCEDD engaged in a regional marketing effort to attract manufacturing and small scale wind development to the region, using the CGBREZ brand. The regional Columbia Gorge collaborative pooled technical and financial resources to develop an exhibit booth. With over 8,000 components in each wind turbine, the growing wind industry presents additional economic opportunities which the booth was designed to attract. The booth was designed primarily to connect to component manufacturers for the wind industry and to meet with research and development companies. The first show was at the American Wind Energy Association Windpower 2009 conference in Chicago which had approximately 1,200 exhibitors and 23,000 attendees. This regional partnership between Oregon and Washington in the Columbia River Gorge won a Best of Tradeshow award at the conference. It has since been used at the "Powering the Northwest" conference and is circulating among the counties.



**Miland Walling,  
CGBREZ, and  
Denise Bode,  
AWEA President,  
WindPower 2009.**

### ***Financial Services***

MCEDD provided financial services for Columbia Gorge Economic Development Association, Oregon Broadband Cooperative, and Columbia Gorge Future Forum. Fiscal administration included the managing of funds and financial reports.

MCEDD acts as fiscal agent to coordinate the Oregon Broadband Cooperative's initiative to develop a statewide broadband network. In the initial planning phases, the Cooperative has received funding to begin a feasibility analysis for deployment of Wi-Max statewide with a small test pilot in Phase 2.

MCEDD participated both as fiscal agent and on the planning committee for the twenty year visioning process led by the Columbia Gorge Commission called the "Gorge Future Forum." This effort engaged organizations, individuals and communities through a one-day conference, multiple community meetings, and online surveys. The effort won the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association's Professional Achievement in Planning award for 2009.

### ***Lower John Day Watershed***

Since 2007, the National Policy Consensus Center has contracted with MCEDD to bridge the gap between farmers, landowners and local governments, and natural resource and environmental organizations doing work in the Lower John Day Basin. MCEDD works to restore communication and build trust among these organizations and the local citizens. MCEDD meets with farmers, land owners and local governments to develop a list of projects to present to the various organizations for funding and support. MCEDD anticipates that this new endeavor will result in projects that are compatible with agricultural and cultural practices of people who live in the basin and create common ground for locals and environmental groups.

**MCEDD works  
to restore  
communication  
and build trust.**

### ***Oregon Association of Economic Development Districts***

MCEDD staff initially facilitated communication of this informal association in 2007 and has continued active participation over the past two years. It is a way for the Oregon federally designated economic development districts' staff to keep in touch with each other and tap into resources from across the state. In 2008-2009 we assisted the Association with development of a website ([www.oedd.org](http://www.oedd.org)), creation of organizational documents, and continuation of electronic communication.

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## EVALUATION OF 2008–2009 ACTION PLAN

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MCEDD is in its fourth year of a reorganization project to be more responsive to client needs and has hired project managers to provide additional assistance to businesses, organizations, and governments. With the assistance of new staff, MCEDD accomplished the following items in relation to the four work items outlined by the MCEDD board for 2008-2009:

1) Stabilize agency and hire key positions

a) Executive Director.

**Result:** A new Executive Director, Amanda Remington, was hired in May, 2008. She previously served as a Project Manager at MCEDD. With a background in economic and small business development, Amanda has focused on continuing to develop vibrant regional relationships and a strong Board and staff. The agency maintains and increases its core competencies under Amanda's leadership: regional cooperation, pooled technical assistance, and business assistance.

b) Loan Fund Manager.

**Result:** Eric Nerdin was hired to fill this critical position for the agency. He brings expertise from the commercial banking world and has been instrumental in reactivating the loan fund program. As an advocate for small business needs, Eric is an accessible resource for entrepreneurs. He has also strengthened the agency's relationship with other area funders and small business support services.

c) Board and staff development.

**Result:** MCEDD staff has sought to advise MCEDD Board members of training opportunities available through the Special Districts Association of Oregon. New employees have received training for their positions including training on rural community development, branding, loan portfolio software, EDA training, local budget law and insurance options. Also, staff members have attended conference trainings including the Washington Workforce and Economic Development Conference, Oregon Rural Congress, Transportation Management program, Oregon Economic Development Association, Portfol users conference, Washington Economic Development Association, EDA Western Regional Conference, and Rural Development Initiatives' Regards to Rural.

2) Market MCEDD and its services

a) Continue cooperative relationships and communication with partners.

**Result:** MCEDD has engaged in a significant regional marketing effort with the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone. Also, the Executive Director has been conducting an outreach campaign, visiting chambers, county commissions, city councils, and local groups to provide an update on the MCEDD annual report. New partnerships were forged with MCEDD joining The Dalles Community Outreach Team this year, and

activating memberships in all local Chambers of Commerce. The Loan Fund Manager has visited banking clients and continued a strong relationship with the Small Business Development Center, serving on the SBDC Advisory Committee. He has also participated in lender forums and panels as well as providing information at the Latino Service Fair. MCEDD staff also sits on the Mt Hood Economic Alliance Board, a partner in lending for Wasco and Hood River counties. Project Managers have engaged in client outreach, resulting in an increasing number of clients and projects for the organization, as seen throughout the annual report.

3) Identify regional issues and opportunities

a) Identify new clusters.

**Result:** MCEDD participated in a wind component cluster discussion with OECDD and have continued to pursue this emerging cluster through the Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone. In addition, with an increasing request for support from non-profit organizations, MCEDD sought to look at the establishment of cluster initiatives engaging nonprofit entities.

b) Grow the revolving loan fund program.

**Result:** New loan fund staff has revitalized the revolving loan fund program. Applications were submitted for additional funding requests for the loan fund program to USDA Rural Development through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant, but were not successful. Additional opportunities are being pursued with local county match, Community Development Block Grant, and microenterprise programs. Lending activity has also increased, which supports the growth of the revolving loan fund program as funds are utilized and interest/fees are collected.

c) Engage in and establish regional planning initiatives.

**Result:** Columbia Gorge Bi-State Renewable Energy Zone is a new planning initiative to which we provide support. We also engaged in a planning effort with Columbia Gorge Community College to conduct a Needs Assessment for the growing high tech industry. Transportation planning was supported by MCEDD with updates to the Sherman, Wasco and Hood River Coordinated Transportation Plans. Support was provided to Gorge TransLink in seeking funds for a Mobility Manager. Participation in local economic development plans and the regional Columbia Gorge Future Forum also constituted a portion of our activities.

d) Seek and facilitate opportunities for economic development.

**Result:** MCEDD provided economic development services for Wasco and Sherman counties to facilitate opportunities for economic development. This year, a Needs and Issues list was developed for Wasco County and a housing survey was conducted for Sherman County. Broadband access was also a key area of focus with funding received to work with a pilot program for wi-max deployment. MCEDD further facilitated these opportunities through grant management for Community Development Block Grants, assistance to Gorge TransLink, provision of revolving loan fund programs, and administration of Oregon Investment Board grants and loans.

4) Improve organizational efficiency

**Result:** Identify cost sharing solutions. Cost sharing solutions were sought in matching grants for: regional Mobility Management, regional renewable energy marketing, regional web development, revolving loan funds, and high tech cluster development. Operationally, MCEDD looked at cost sharing solutions for building and rent costs.

In conjunction with the action plan and the resulting initiatives, from April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009, MCEDD was able to :

- Implement 31 initiatives from the CEDS during the 2008-2009 planning grant investment period
  - 2 of these were technology based
  - 2 were funded by EDA and 29 by other sources
- Initiatives resulted in 120 jobs created or retained
- Private sector investment from projects was \$5,161,000
- Public sector investment from projects implemented was \$1,627,000
- All 19 sub-state jurisdictions eligible to participate in the districts participated by attending meetings or contributing financially.

## Many Thanks to the MCEDD Financial Supporters

<p><b>Counties:</b>                  Hood River County                  Sherman County                  Wasco County                  Klickitat County                  Skamania County</p>	<p><b>Cities:</b>                  City of Antelope                  City of Dufur                  City of Maupin                  City of Mosier                  City of Shaniko                  City of The Dalles                  City of Stevenson                  City of Hood River                  City of Cascade Locks                  City of North Bonneville</p>	<p><b>Ports:</b>                  Port of Hood River                  Port of The Dalles                  Port of Klickitat                  Port of Skamania                  Port of Cascade Locks</p>
<p><b>Federal:</b>                  Economic Development Administration                  U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development                  Oregon Department of Energy</p>	<p><b>State:</b>                  Oregon Economic and Community Development Department                  Washington Community Trade and Economic Development</p>	
<p><b>Other Funding Sources:</b>                  Sherman County Economic Development                  Wasco County Economic Development Commission                  Columbia Gorge Community College                  Columbia Gorge Economic Development Association                  Gorge Technology Alliance                  Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Oregon Investment Board                  Policy Consensus Institute                  Ford Family Foundation                  Association of Oregon Counties                  Northern Wasco County PUD                  Special Districts Association of Oregon                  Pacific Power                  Northwest Natural</p>		