

**COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA
BI-STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notice and Agenda**

**ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, November 16, 2016
**** 12:00 P.M. ******

**Walking Man Brewery
240 SW First Street, Stevenson, WA**

**Note: Lunch will be served for a working lunch meeting.*

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Estimated Time</u>	<u>Item</u>
Call to Order	5 minutes	Information
Introductions	5 minutes	Information
Approval of September 2015 Minutes	5 minutes	Approval
Overview of Bi-State Advisory Committee; Oregon/Washington Investment Board Updates	10 minutes	Information
Vitality Plan Status Regional Economic Development Strategy	15 minutes	Information
Policy Interpretations <i>Program Administration</i>	15 minutes	Decision
Funding Request Status; Ongoing Strategy	10 minutes	Discussion
Urban Area Boundaries	30 minutes	Presentation
OIB/WIB Opportunities for Collaboration	15 minutes	Discussion
Partner Updates <i>USFS, MCEDD, CRGC, Skamania EDC</i>	15 minutes	Discussion
Other New Business	5 minutes	Discussion
Adjournment		

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you have a disability that requires any special materials, services or assistance, please contact us at (509) 427-5110 at least 48 hours before the meeting so arrangements for appropriate accommodations can be made.

**COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA
BI-STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015
Bridgeside Meeting Room
745 NW Wa Na Pa Street, Cascade Locks, OR**

ATTENDANCE

OIB MEMBERS: Jack Miller (Hood River County), Ken Bailey (Wasco County), Judith Perry (Multnomah County), Bob McFadden (member at large), Amanda Hoey (MCEDD staff) and Sherry Bohn (MCEDD staff)

WIB MEMBERS: Matt Masco, Jane Swanson, Mike Bomar, Jeff Swanson, Pat Albaugh (WIB staff), Kari Fagerness (WIB staff)

CALL TO ORDER

Ken Bailey called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Round table introductions took place.

MINUTES

Judith Perry moved to accept the September 25, 2014 minutes as presented. Bob McFadden seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OVERVIEW OF BI-STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Amanda provided an overview of the Bi-State Advisory Council including its history and the roles of its members, which include the OIB, WIB, MCEDD, Skamania EDC, Gorge Commission, USFS, and State staff. She briefly summarized the purpose of the council which is to support bi-state economic development and encourage collaboration between the two Investment Boards. She stated that the annual meetings and sub-committee meetings provide an opportunity to discuss potential joint projects and adopt and change plans for managing funds.

Pat Albaugh provided an overview of the Washington Investment Board activity for the past year. He reported that they had funded three new loans including Scenic Auto Body for \$107,000, El Rio Restaurant which has 20 employees and LDB Beverage. Pat stated that LDB Beverage received funding from both the WIB and MCEDD. Pat reported that LDB Beverage has 26 employees and is currently running two shifts. He also reported that Backwoods Brewing was in the process of moving their production from Carson to the Stevenson waterfront.

Amanda Hoey reported that the OIB had recently approved funding for Defiance Brewery in The Dalles and a startup restaurant, Gorge Culture, located in Hood River. Amanda reported the OIB currently had approximately \$1million to grant and loan and has two outstanding grants to the Port of The Dalles.

Discussion: John Kasberger asked for an update on the Agora platform. Amanda discussed the current status of Agora and the next phase of roll-out of the Platform to additional regions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STATUS of FUNDING REQUESTS – Pat Albaugh reported that Senator Murray was drafting a letter requesting the final \$2 million in funding. Bob McFadden reported that delegates on both side of the river are supportive of the effort. He reported that both Senator Merkley and Senator

Murray are working together to present the request as an unfulfilled promise. He stated that \$1.8 million has not been appropriated and the recommendation from staff is that they will pursue that \$1.8 million figure. Amanda Hoey stated that there had previously been a request for letters of support, which were provided, and she stated that it is now time to renew those requests. Pat Albaugh stated that the funding comes through the US Forest Service and reemphasized that their support is needed as well.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Amanda described the purpose of the committee and noted that the Council needed to approve the representatives to the Resource Development Committee. Ken Bailey stated that there was a need for two members from OIB and two from WIB. Jack Miller and Bob McFadden volunteered for OIB.

Judith Perry moved to appoint Jack Miller and Bob McFadden to represent the Oregon Investment Board and Anita Gahimer-Crow and Jeanie Stewart (with assistance from Mike Bomar to represent the Washington Investment Board on the Resource Development Committee. Matt Bomar seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

OIB/WIB ECONOMIC VITALITY PLAN UPDATE

Amanda Hoey presented an overview of the Vitality Plan, stating that in 2010 the Columbia River Gorge Bi-State Advisory Council began a process to consolidate the Oregon and Washington Economic Development Plans into a single document. She explained that the current combined plan was approved in 2011, and was therefore scheduled for review next year. Amanda presented a draft for the Council's review and requested input on the following:

- Reaffirm or revise the joint mission
Discussion: Consensus that the mission, as presented, was appropriate.
- Confirm the commitment to seek appropriation
Discussion: Consensus that this request was still important to the board and confirmation to continue to seek appropriation of the authorized funds.
- Review the Program Administration Goals
Discussion: Consensus that the goals, as presented, were appropriate.
- Update the Economic Outlook
Discussion: Amanda highlighted that the outlook is designed for consistency with the regional economic development strategy and requested particular input on how the Multnomah and Clark County portions were incorporated. Matt Masco suggested that the Economic Outlook section of the plan identify the percent of Skamania County that is located in the National Scenic Area. Mike Bomar discussed the cluster activities taking place that will impact Clark and Multnomah counties, and by extension the entire region, and suggested that a reference to that activity be included and that the border activities be acknowledged. Amanda asked if the IMCP cluster work was part of what he was referenced and Mike stated that it was. Pat Albaugh stated that economic engines on the edge of the Scenic Area are relevant. Mike stated that the discussion included in the Vitality Plan should not be extensive. Bob McFadden reiterated the tie with MCEDD. He stated that the National Scenic Area is a small part of the economic zone and felt

it was appropriate, therefore, to tie the economic outlook to the regional economic development strategy.

- Establish the timeline for review. Consensus confirmed the timeline as follows:
 - Bi-State Advisory Council reviews key elements of the 2015 plan update in September 2015.
 - OIB and WIB staff consults with impacted agencies on a draft revised plan. OIB and WIB review their independent sections by December 2015.
 - OIB and WIB review draft plans, providing opportunity for public meeting by March 2016.
 - Plan adoption by Bi-State Advisory Council, OIB and WIB; submission to States and USFS by June 2016.

- Other
 - Discussion: Jeff Swanson noted under Appendix B: Washington Investment Board Composition that the new name for Clark County's governing body is the Clark County Board of Councilors.*

PARTNER UPDATES

MCEDD – Amanda Hoey reported that MCEDD experiences the same lending cycles as OIB. She reported that the MCEDD region was included in the IMCP designation. Amanda also reported that MCEDD is working with USDA as they engage in updating the CEDS strategies. Amanda also reported that there had been two large funding approvals through EDA over the past year: for the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport and Port of Skamania building.

Skamania EDC – Pat Albaugh reported that it had been a little slow for requests and inquiries. He stated that they had been working with existing loans clients and that they were working with the County and PUD in order to be one bigger voice in the schools and work force development council.

Washington Department of Commerce – Jane Swanson reported that there were state funds available for small business loans. She also reported that there was a line item in the President's budget of SSBCI and she was seeking letters of support. Jane also reported that there was interest for the state to provide funds for small business emergency loan funds through the state small business credit initiative and she was seeking input.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.