



APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE OF LINCOLN COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, August 5, 2021, 3:30 pm
In-Person (Port of Newport) and Zoom Hybrid Meeting

Call to Order: 3:35pm by Tracy Bailey

In Attendance: Curt Abbott, Tracy Bailey, Bob Cowen, Zack Dahl, Bryan Fitzsimmons, Doug Hollbrook, Carrie Lewis, Birgitte Ryslinge, Linda Roy, Michael Smith and staff (Paul Schuytema)

Agenda Review: No changes to the agenda.

Review and Approval of June 3, 2021 Minutes: Abbott moved and Dahl seconded a motion to approve the June 3, 2021 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentation:

Mark Farley (Chief Initiatives Manager at Hatfield) and Rachael Maddock-Hughes (Principal and Founder of Sequoia Consulting) were in attendance for a presentation on the Oregon Ocean Innovation Hub (O2IH). The presentation began with introductions of everyone in attendance.

The presentation started with the concept of building back better after the pandemic, defining the Blue Economy, the current low level of investment in the sector, the size of the sector/opportunity (Washington and California far ahead – a huge opportunity for Oregon), the “Hub” approach (Europe is a mature market). Two primary pillars: workforce development and innovation/entrepreneurship. Goal is to make Oregon a leader in the blue economy. O2IH has existing strong leadership (several on EDALC’s board already). Overview of involved partners and strong support from state and federal elected officials. O2IH seeks to leverage existing investments. Overview of revenue and federal funding streams. Looking at EDALC becoming an “administrative home” for O2IH – currently, looking at only 12-18 months in the future. Blue economy is looking to double in size and impact by 2030, and a lot of momentum right now.

After the presentation, there was a period of questions, answers and discussions with the Board and Farley and Maddock-Hughes.

Ryslingle is supportive but doesn't want this to swamp EDALC's capacity. Cowen indicated that a separate oversight board for O2IH would do the core management, grants would bring in additional funding to support the EDALC director and any additional support staff. Schuytema recalled that the blue economy was discussed with him from day one, but is in support of an advisory board, since that's where the expertise lies. Holbrook asked about reporting requirements for any incoming grant funding. Cowen indicated that OSU is used to doing that type of reporting. Dahl asked about any paperwork needed to solidify the partnership – Farley indicated an MOU is probably appropriate. Maddock-Hughes said the next stage of the project is formalizing those relationships and MOUs – as part of EDA Phase 1 funding.

Farley and Maddock-Hughes left the meeting and the Board continued discussion.

Dahl said the partnership excites him – both for funding and for EDALC working on the “next big thing.” Bailey said this could be the foundation of moving forward. Cowen suggested a short MOU over a one- or two-year time frame, and there is a sense of urgency. Fitzsimmons indicated excitement and asked who on the board is already involved, beyond Ryslingle and Cowen. Ryslingle stated that Karen Gray and Paula Miranda are both actively involved. Ryslingle emphasized support but that this doesn't become Paul's only work. The first step should be looking at taking over the management of the Burning Glass Blue Economy Sector Study as an initial MOU and hand-off with the county – Paul was given direction to start on that work.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Michael Smith. Reviewed June report. Overall, a pretty good year. The expense numbers were very well controlled. We did operate at a loss of about \$23,000, but that was expected, and far less than anticipated. For July, we have some work to do redefining the budget regarding income – more active in our revenue sourcing.

2021-22 Proposed Budget: Schuytema indicated that we really can't nail down a budget right now, because future revenues are unknown. He has put together a bare bones budget and an aspirational budget and will send to the board. In the meantime, we will follow the bare bones budget on the expense side.

Revisiting Officers for 2021-22: Abbott said he's pleased there are conversations about officers taking a little stronger stand given current circumstances, a little more thrust to take advantage of opportunities. He stated that we have an opening at the executive committee level with the resignation of Kerry Kemp. Smith indicated that he was in favor of the addition. Hollbrook stated that in article 7.2 of the by-law that there can be five voting members of the executive committee. Dahl said it would be a good idea having one of the O2IH hub folks on the executive committee. Cowen said he'd prefer expanding the executive committee to creating a new committee.

Schuytema suggested that it would be a good idea to have a monthly standing executive committee meeting. Ryslinge indicated that she's like to see the executive committee focused on rebuilding the relationship with the county, building relationships with the municipalities, and seeking out new funding opportunities.

Abbott made motion to change by-laws to allow six voting members of the Executive Committee. The extra position would be at-large. Seconded by Cowen. Motion passed unanimously. Hollbrook will prepare a by-law amendment.

Abbott nominated Cowen and Ryslinge to the Executive Committee. No additional nominations. Dahl also suggested we talk to Lorna from the Port of Toledo as a potential board member.

Abbott suggested that the executive committee look at making sure there is more turn over and variety in our officers rather than just rolling officers into the same positions year after year.

Directors voted into the Executive Committee unanimously.

Short-term Funding Update: Schuytema indicated he'd keep it short. He said that it looks like the county is not completely off the table for future funding, but certainly not at past levels. He also stated that he attended a meeting about Business Oregon's Rural Opportunity Initiative program – it's a six-year program to bring in a coalition of partners together with some funding to develop a local entrepreneurial ecosystem – one of our strategic priorities.

Schuytema indicated that Cindy's hours would be very limited going forward. He indicated that in the short term, he has contracted with Sequoia Consulting to do some grant writing and research on behalf of EDALC.

Schuytema also updated the Board on the new round of Community and Economic Development Grants, with a potential split of half the funds going to grants as before and half going to a larger, more impactful single grant.

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.