



APPROVED MEETING MINUTES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE OF LINCOLN COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Thursday, September 2, 2021, 3:30 pm  
Zoom Meeting

**Call to Order:** 3:37pm by Tracy Bailey

**In Attendance:** Curt Abbott, Tracy Bailey, Bob Cowen, Doug Hunt, Karen Gray, Carrie Lewis, Paula Miranda, Lesley Ogden, Birgitte Ryslinge, Linda Roy, Michael Smith and staff (Paul Schuytema)

**Agenda Review:** No changes to the agenda.

**Review and Approval of August 5, 2021 Minutes:** Cowen moved and Smith seconded a motion to approve the August 5, 2021 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Michael Smith. Reviewed August report. No income other than some membership and uncategorized income – we know that's a top priority right now. Expenses are kept low – probably too low. Our largest expense is personnel.

**Discussion – Short Term Funding Overview:** Schuytema stated that we could probably expect some funding from Lincoln County, but nowhere near past levels. Any future county funding must first have some municipal funding coming into EDALC and it would probably not be at a level much larger than larger municipal funding. He indicated that he had talked with both Commissioner Jacobson and Commissioner Hunt. Hunt indicated that Schuytema represented the county's position accurately.

Schuytema also discussed potential funding through Lincoln City's support grant program, from \$10-\$25,000 annually. Applications would be due in January with funding in the next fiscal year.

Schuytema gave an update on potential earmark funds for O2IH through Senator Merkley's office. He had met with several of their staffers. EDALC is already named as the administrative entity. That is approximately one million dollars, with some administrative overhead to be captured by EDALC. Those earmarks are currently being reviewed in the markup process to see if they get into a draft bill – if that's the case with this funding, then it will probably happen. We should know that soon.

Schuytema discussed the EDA Build Back Better grant application, with a Phase One application due in October (for O2IH) – OSU will be the lead applicant, but some funds for EDALC in services and administration. That would be a \$500,000 potential grant, with Phase 2 (due in February 2022) looking to set up several connected, larger applications, potentially totaling 80-100 million dollars. If invited to apply to Phase 2, EDALC would probably be one of the lead applicants on a sub project (related to BRE and business attraction and venture fund building).

Schuytema indicated that he is currently working on a Rural Opportunity Initiative application through Business Oregon. This is a six- or seven-year program with funding that would come in from municipal partners and Business Oregon. Out of the gates, he is working towards an initial coalition joining together EDALC, Lincoln City, Newport, Toledo and the SBDC.

Long term funding could be built from the ROI model with increased municipal financial support and increased private sector report.

Gray asked Hunt why there was no county funding for EDALC. Hunt said the Commissioners wanted to wait to provide support until a funding plan was created and then potentially only funding a small percentage of what they did in the past. They wanted the other stakeholders to chip in (municipalities) before they would provide any funding. Hunt also indicated that the county is looking to invest funding in housing solutions.

Bailey responded that housing is vital, but it is not, in and of itself, economic development. Childcare is important, Broadband is important. The county is supporting these things, but at the same time, EDALC is trying to build its economic development base.

Schuytema said that while the community leaders certainly have their fingers on the pulse of their communities – they are not full-time economic development practitioners. As a result, there were a number of key economic development priorities that were not addressed in the county’s listening sessions – nobody’s fault, but those elected leaders are not day-to-day practitioners. Those priorities are several EDALC’s key priorities and were outlined in a report Schuytema sent to the County Commissioners in December.

Schuytema stated that EDALC should only seek grant funding opportunities that align with our strategic priorities and the economic development needs of the county, and not just “chase the money.”

**Discussion (with possible action) – Oregon Ocean Innovation Hub (O2IH) Administrative Adoption:**

Schuytema reviewed where we left things in the last meeting: EDALC being an administrative home for O2IH, putting together an MOU outlining our administrative role. He said that as the team was working on the EDA Build Back Better (BBB) grant, it looks like O2IH will most likely become its own entity and that our administrative role would be for 12-18 months. He also stated that there is no need, now, to define an MOU – those partner roles will be determined as part of the scope of the Phase One BBB grant.

Cowen said that was an accurate reflection of where we are. He stated that there are other things “spinning up” from the Futures Commission regarding Innovation Centers and that they are looking closely at what O2IH is doing. He stated that it means that O2IH work won’t end if there isn’t BBB funding – that there is some longer-term potential out there.

A motion was made to support, partner and act in an as-needed administrative role in partnership with the Oregon Ocean Innovation Hub. Moved by Miranda, seconded by Lewis. Motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Directors Report:**

Schuytema indicated that EDALC is losing Cindy Bruckart as our Project Associate. She and her husband are moving to Salem for healthcare access issues. He indicated that he doesn’t feel we should hire a

replacement yet until we have a better sense of upcoming funding, and he urged some extra patience as he is working as an office of one for the time being.

Schuytema indicated that he was close to wrapping up a write up for the County Commissioners on the change in the Community and Economic Development grant program that was recommended by the commissioner and EDALC's board (pulling out \$60K of funding for a single focused grant in the areas of housing, childcare or broadband). He also indicated that a developer is working with the county to improve the online application process.

Schuytema indicated that he's working with property owners and potential developers on industrial properties at the north edge of Newport and near the airport – trying to determine potential opportunities for those parcels.

Bailey agreed that hiring support staff right now is not a good idea. Bailey asked Cowen if there might be some internship support from OSU. Cowen will investigate.

#### **Board of Directors Updates:**

Ogden provided an update on local COVID cases. She indicated an explosion of cases, locally and across state – and bed capacity has been exceeded. We have not seen the peak yet. Our local hospitals have seen patient counts go down. Also an influx of mental health patients. Staffing issues are dicey and going into a vaccine mandate, which worries here – how many people will they lose? The hospital is doing mono-clonal antibody treatments who have COVID and additional risk factors. They are watching the new variants closely (lambda, mu). The original hope to eradicate the virus – now it looks like it will be more like influenza – manageable and regular variant vaccines developed. There is no shortage of vaccines at all.

Lewis mentioned that they had very successful a mobile vaccination clinic at the aquarium, giving away free admission for getting inoculated. Hunt suggested to reach out to the county if anyone wants to host a vaccination clinic.

Smith said that US Bank is seeing more folks getting back to work in their current hiring.

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.