

# Minutes

## Mt Baker Foothills Economic Development Association

November 14, 2007

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Present: Russ Angus, Adrian Bonapart, Rebecca Boonstra, Phil Cloward, Carole MacDonald, Vel Massie, Norm Otto, Norma Otto, Gary Gehling, Sean Wilson, Richard Banel, Rob Staveland, Linda Dorsett

### **Open Public Comments**

- Gary Gehling reported that the Planning Department will receive the final draft of our Sub-area Plan in a working session (no public comment) on November 29<sup>th</sup> at eh PDS annex. Ken Mann is the Chair of the Planning Commission and it has seven members.
- Sean Wilson reported that the Citizens of Columbia Valley is undergoing a restructuring process. They will be "offline" until the first of the year when this process is complete.

**East County Update** – No report

### **Standing Committee Reports**

- Marketing – No report
- Infrastructure – No report
- Recreation and Trails – Update on Whatcom Parks and Recreation Foundation County Trails Group  
There will be a countywide meeting of all related organizations - date to be announced later.  
Russ has taken trails representatives Janet and Bud for a walk on the potential trail area from Glacier to Horseshoe Bend to look at the feasibility of developing these trails for general use.
- Steering –  
The Bylaws require an annual planning meeting and Carole will call the meeting in the near future.  
Carole will find out if we will be getting staff support from the Planning Department for these meetings. If no, we will need to make alternate plans.

### **Ad-hoc Committee Reports**

Rob Staveland has information about a new cell tower technology that is combined with a windmill and solar panel.

### **WBEDC Partnership Project Report**

Linda Dorsett reported on recent funding from CTED, Whatcom County and the Port to be used in assisting Economic Development efforts in the Foothills. Three consulting groups are being hired to complete a piece of work by the end of the year. The Economic Development group (Northern Economics) will focus on assessing current progress with economic development plans, taking them a step further and determining how the work will continue to move forward. The Communications and Technology group, (Not yet formed but hoped to be a group of specialists coordinated by EnVision Consulting) will build on the work of the Cell Phone/Tower committee to determine current options and drive us closer to implementation. The Coordinating Group, EnVision Consulting, will connect the other two groups with needed resources and help them efficiently connect to key people and documents. They will also develop a webpage that centralizes local information about economic development activities.

Linda was asked to bring the final reports from these groups to the Jan meeting.

**Next Meeting – Dec 19, 7PM at Kendall School Library**