



Board Meeting

Thursday, September 11, 2025

9:00 am – 11:00 am

**Benton County Kalapuya Meeting Room
4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis OR 97330**

or

Join Virtually via Teams

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Meeting ID: 291 224 730 274

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AGENDA

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|----|-------|--|---|
| 1. | 9:00 | Call to Order & Agenda Review
<i>Welcome to Benton County!</i> | Chair, Paul Schuytema |
| 2. | 9:05 | Roll Call | Staff, Justin Peterson |
| 3. | 9:10 | Public Comment | Chair |
| 4. | 9:18 | Minutes of March 06, 2025, Meeting (Attachment A)

ACTION: Approval of Minutes | Chair |
| 5. | 9:20 | CEDS Approval and Public Comment Review
Staff will provide a brief presentation on the public comments received and the work to date before recommending adoption. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Draft 2025-2030 CEDS - avail. on CEDS Webpage (Link)</i>• <i>Public Comments Memo (Attachment B)</i>
ACTION: Approval to adopt 2025-2030 CEDS | Staff, Corum Ketchum and Justin Peterson |
| 6. | 9:50 | CEDS Marketing Video Proposal (Attachment C)
Discussion about the proposed CEDS/regional marketing video.

ACTION: Approval to move forward | Staff, Justin Peterson |
| 7. | 10:00 | CWEDD Board Membership Discussion
Discussion about the CWEDD Membership and future updates to the membership (Attachment D)

ACTION: Approval for Staff to start drafting Membership updates | Staff, Justin Peterson |

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|-----|-------|--|-------------------------------|
| 8. | 10:15 | Linn Benton Brownfields Grant
<i>Update on the progress of the Linn Benton EPA Brownfields Coalition Grant. Linn Benton Brownfields Coalition OCWCOG</i> | Staff, Justin Peterson |
| | | ACTION: Discussion | |
| 9. | 10:35 | Discussion: CEDS Working Groups (Open time for any updates) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Innovation Hubs</i> • <i>Broadband Action Team (BAT)</i> • <i>Blue Economy Update from EDALC</i> • <i>Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC)</i> • <i>Early Childhood Education (new appointee needed)</i> • <i>Rural Economic Alliance (REAL)</i> • <i>Lane Economic Committee (LEC)</i> • <i>Other workgroup updates?</i> | Chair/ Staff, Justin Peterson |
| 10. | 10:45 | Other Business (if time allows) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mass Timber Webinar 2-3:30PM on September 11, 2025</i> • <i>Regionally Significant Updates (Example – a large manufacturing company announced a new site)</i> • <i>Executive Committee Updates</i> • <i>Topics for the December meeting?</i> | Chair/Staff |
| 11. | 11:00 | Adjournment
<i>Next Meeting: December 11, 2025, and will be at the Oregon Cascades West Council of Government's Albany Office.</i> | Chair |

CWEDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**Thursday, March 06, 2025****9:00 am – 11:00 am****In Person at Lane Council of Governments****Virtual Via Microsoft Teams Technologies**

OCWCOG Members	Title	Jurisdiction	Attendance
Nancy Wyse	Commissioner	Benton County	No
Claire Hall	Commissioner	Lincoln County	Yes
Charles Maughn	Mayor	Corvallis	Christopher Jacobs
Alex Johnson II	Mayor	City of Albany	No
Sherrie Sprenger	Commissioner	Linn County	No
Rick Booth	City Councilor	City of Waldport	No
Paul Shuytema	Executive Director	EDALC	Yes
Chris Workman	City Manager	City of Philomath	Yes
Kelly Hart	Director	City of Lebanon	Yes
John Pascone	President	LEDG	Yes
Pam Barlow-Lind	Tribal Planner	CTSI	Yes
Sophie Adams	Economic Development Manager	City of Albany	Yes
Lane Members	Title	Jurisdiction	Attendance
Greg James	Board Member	WillamaLane	Yes
Shery Duerst-Higgins	Board Member	Land ESD & S. Lane SD	No
Bryan Cutchen	Mayor	Oakridge	Yes
Rob Ward	Mayor	City of Florence	Chantelle Meyer
Steve Recca	Board Member	Fern Ridge Library District	Yes
Pete Knox	Board Member	Lane Transit District	Yes
Greg Ervin	City Councilor	City of Cottage Grove	Yes
Matt Michael	City Manager	City of Veneta	Yes

Staff: Community and Economic Development Supervisor (CED) Justin Peterson, CED Planning Manager Matt Lehman, LCOG Loan Manager Sandra Easdale, Brenda Moore LCOG Executive Director, Jaclyn Disney CED Director, Ashlyn Muzechenko Executive Assistant.

Guests: Jason Harris, Courtney Flathers, Daniel Collins, Samantha Roberts

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION / CONCLUSION
1. Call to Order & Agenda Review	<p>The Chair, Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County Director, Pual Schuytema, called the March 06, 2025, CWEDD Board meeting to order at 9:05 am.</p> <p>Chair Schuytema welcomed all in attendance to Lane County.</p> <p>There were no changes to the agenda.</p>	The Meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by the Chair, EDALC Director Paul Schuytema.
2. Welcome and Roll Call	CED Supervisor Justin Peterson conducted a roll call of the CWEDD Board members and guests in attendance.	Roll call was conducted by Justin Peterson
3. Public Comment	There were no public comments made to the CWEDD Board of Directors.	There were no public comments.
4. CWEDD Board Membership and Election of Officers	<p>Peterson shared staff will share out the new full board membership list as each year both COG's (Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) and Lane Council of Governments (LCOG)) appoint new members, but this meeting had been moved up, so the COGs hadn't had the chance to send their new full board appointees yet.</p> <p>For current officers, Paul Schuytema serves as chair and Greg Ervin serves as Vice-Chair.</p> <p>Pete Knox moved to approve the re-election of chair Paul Schuytema and Vice Chair Greg Ervin. Bryan Cutchen seconded the motion. The motion carries successfully.</p>	Pete Knox moved to approve the re-election of chair Paul Schuytema and Vice Chair Greg Ervin. Bryan Cutchen seconded the motion. The motion carries successfully.
5. CWEDD Executive Committee Appointments	<p>Chair Schuytema shared insight into the CWEDD Executive Committee and its membership.</p> <p>Bryan Cutchen, Mayor of Oakridge, noted he would be willing to serve on the CWEDD Executive Committee.</p>	Steve Recca moved to approve the CWEDD Executive Committee membership as presented with the addition of Mayor Cutchen to fill the

	Steve Recca moved to approve the CWEDD Executive Committee membership as presented with the addition of Mayor Cutchen to fill the vacancy. Pete Knox seconded. The motion carried successfully.	vacancy. Pete Knox seconded. The motion carried successfully.
6. Minutes of January 09, 2025, Meeting (Attachment A) Action: Approval of Minutes	Councilor Greg Ervin moved to approve the minutes for the January 09, 2025, CWEDD Board Meeting. Steve Recca seconded. The motion carried unanimously.	Councilor Greg Ervin moved to approve the minutes for the January 09, 2025, CWEDD Board Meeting. Steve Recca seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
7. CEDS Update	<p>Peterson shared and update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This is a 5-year economic development plan, there is a process to re-evaluate the region based on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and then the action items on how the region will implement the CEDS.</p> <p>The first step was to establish the strategy Committee which was done during the January CWEDD Board Special Meeting. This strategy committee has representation from both COG regions and some members of the board are also on the strategy committee. The goal is to look at and make sure there is representation across economic development sectors too. There have been 3 meetings in the last two months, and it isn't just limited to the members, but interested partners can also attend to provide comments and ideas on building the next CEDS.</p> <p>The CEDS are a locally based and regionally driven planning process document. The CEDS allow for our economic development district to engage with the EDA and access the funds as they are a prerequisite for federal designation. Additionally, the CEDS are the scaffolding for regional collaboration.</p> <p>The updated SWOT analysis was included in today's meeting agenda packet. The process for updating the SWOT includes a survey and</p>	


Reviews at the regional meeting and with the CEDS strategy committee meetings. At this time, there are only minor edits expected.

The following are the new proposed CEDS Priority Areas based on the recommendations from the CEDS Strategy Committee:

CEDS PROPOSED PRIORITY AREAS		
	Priority Area 1	Regional Collaboration and Partnerships
	Priority Area 2	Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development
	Priority Area 3	Infrastructure Resilience
	Priority Area 4	Foundations for Economic Wellbeing
	Priority Area 5	Rural Vitality

Another way to connect the CEDS priorities with the Federal and regional partner priorities is as follows:

KEY: FEDERAL AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES

		Regional Solutions Priorities February 2025		EDA Priorities February 2025	
	Regional Collaboration and Partnerships	Infrastructure		Critical Infrastructure	
	Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development	Community Resilience		Economic Recovery and Resilience	
	Infrastructure Resilience	A Thriving Business Environment		Innovation and Entrepreneurship	
	Foundations for Economic Wellbeing	Accessible and Affordable Child Care		Workforce	
	Rural Vitality	Housing Production		Manufacturing	

The goal with the action items was to make a connection where the action items meets the EDA and Regional Solutions priorities. This is currently a work in progress. The first goal is the structure of the action items. The indicators of success was where the main change is proposed. In the previous ceds there were buckets aournd the items, but it was difficult to track the lanague or economic metric. For this new CEDS, the goal is to create inidicators on the action items, this will allow for clear metrics identified which makes it easier to track and measure.

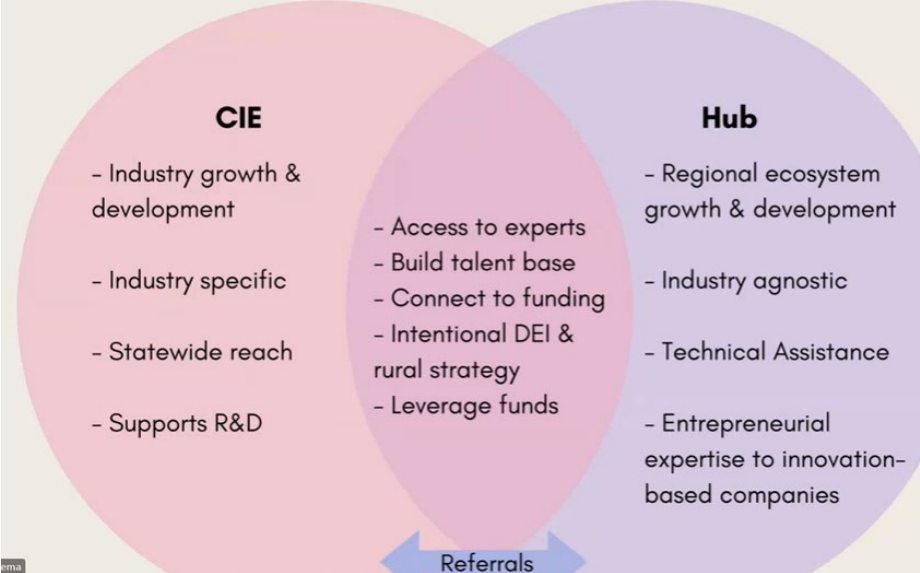
The current CEDS Implemntnation Strtucture is as follows, the CWEDD Board, CWEDDD Staff and Reginal and ICoal Economic Development stakeholders participate in the eimplentnation of the CEDS.

Then there are working groups identified that share updates from their working groups at our larger board meetings and also take discussion topics back from the larger board meetings to their work group meetings. Our current workign groups are: Childcare, Broadband, Cascades West Regional Consoritum (wetlands), Rural Economic Alliance (REAL), Lane Economic Committee, and Blue Economy.

	<p>The CEDS are on a 5-year implementation schedule and includes implementation ideas for each priority area. The CEDS also includes three indicators: Collaboration, Equity & Inclusion, and Resilience for each priority area.</p> <p>The proposed CEDS update scope of work was identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Kick Off – Completed (Regional Meeting October 2024) • Stakeholder Engagement – Ongoing • Review and Update the District Profile – Ongoing • Review and Update SWOT Analysis – 95% Draft • Update Action Plan – Ongoing • Implementation and evaluation framework – Ongoing • Draft and Final CEDS – Draft June 2025 for public comment and final September 2025 for approval at the CWEDD Board meeting. <p>Next Steps will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Item Survey • Tentatively one additional CEDS Strategy Committee Meeting • June 2025 CWEDD Board meeting – Approve draft for public comment • September 2025 CWEDD Board meeting – Approve the final CEDS 	
8. HB3395 Housing Infrastructure Funds	<p>CED Director Jaclyn Disney shared a presentation regarding the HB3395 Housing Infrastructure Funding.</p> <p>HB3395 funding was stated with the creation of the rural capacity fund HB 2345 in 2021, but didn't pass until added to the HB3395 bill included with the housing omnibus package.</p> <p>CWEDD is the only district which includes two Councils of</p>	

	<p>governemnts. Disney added that oregon is one of the few states that has the wall to wall coverage of economic development districts.</p> <p>There are two legislative requiremnets incorporated into the scope of work, the first is to support housing and community deveopment and the other is to consult with local governemnts and agencies.</p> <p>The statewide housing goals are the rulings that the projects funded by the housebill need to tie back into. Those goals are: Equity and Racial Justice, Homelessness, OErmanenet supportive hosuing, affordable rental housing, homeownership, and rural communities.</p> <p>So far for the OCWCOG side of things, there has been a needs assessment condiction to indeifty project amnagements, grant writing, and grant prospecting needs. Staf have coordniated with the governor's regional solutions team to connect with communities to indeifty resources.</p> <p>LCOG recently executed their agreendment in January 2025 to admister their funding to the Lane County acitivities.</p> <p>Both COGs attend mothly meetings with other EDD's and address the specturem of needs throughoput the region with repsect to readiness for infratturcture and hosing projects.</p> <p>OCWCOG was able to leverage over \$1.4 million in grant applications for cities to address infrasturcture and community development needs.</p> <p>Disney provided a summary of leveraged funds in the CWEDD region that was made possible because of the HB3395 funding.</p>	
9. Abilities Diner & Bakery Presentation	<p>Sandra Easdale introduced our presenter from Abilities, Julie Fitzgerald.</p> <p>Easdale shared Abilities offer jobs to those who have disabilities and</p>	

	<p>have encountered difficulty finding work elsewhere. They try to focus on their abilities, not their disabilities, hence the name. They are a family-friendly Diner that offer options for the young and old including a child's menu as well as a full bar. A variety of vegetarian options on the menu including salads, veggie burgers, and omelets are also offered. Today's catering was provided by Abilities Diner and Bakery.</p> <p>Fitzgerald shared her background with working and helping those with disabilities and what inspired her to start this small business.</p> <p>Currently there are 11 employees and are looking to hire a few more. All employees who work at Abilites are those who work with their own disabilities. Abilties is a profit organization, but are working on the process to become a non-profit organization.</p>	
10. Cascade West Innovation Hub Update	<p>Chair Schuytema shared an update covering the Cascades West Innovation Hub.</p> <p>Chair Schuytema provided background on the Innovation Hub in addition to a compare of the Centers of Innovations and Excellence and the Regional Innovations Hubs.</p>	

	<p>Centers of Innovation Excellence & Regional Innovation Hubs</p>  <p>Both are tools in the state’s “swiss army knife” to facilitate innovation as a pathway. There is a mandate coming from business oregon that the innovation hubs will focus mainly on traded sector businesses.</p>	
<p>11. Discussion: CEDS Working Groups (Open time for any updates)</p>	<p><i>Broadband Action Team (BAT)</i> – Chair Schuytema shared that the state of Oregon doesn’t have their check from the federal government. Odds are BEAD will likely be put on pause pending federal funding updates.</p> <p><i>Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC)</i> – Peterson shared this group is focused on wetlands. The group recently submitted a letter of support on a couple of proposals.</p> <p><i>Early Childhood Education</i> – Currently there is no lead on this working group so finding someone who is attending those meetings to report back would be helpful.</p>	

	<p>Daniel Collins noted the Lane SDBC is working with Holly Mar-Conte to help serve Lane County. Onward Eugene and Lane Small business owners were working to fill 254 childcare spots out of the 1,200+ missing slots.</p> <p><i>Rural Economic Alliance (REAL)</i> – There were no current updates for this meeting.</p> <p><i>Lane Economic Committee (LEC)</i> – January 13, 2025 LEC held a discussion reminding LEC members who are representing local jurisdictions to please check in with their appointing authority and confirm who will serve on the LEC members for 2025. Discussion and motions for appointment and vote for LEC Chair and Vice Chair. Current Chair Greg Ervin and Vice Chair Anne Fifield were appointed to serve another term.</p> <p>LEC held a discussion regarding the CWEDD Strategic Sub-Committee, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee Recommended for the subcommittee members for Lane County: Greg Ervin; Matt Michel; Nicole Desch Matthews; Allie Camp; Tina Guldborg; Jason Harris.</p> <p>HB 3395 Discussion regarding funds available for Lane County – Information Only. Ms. Easdale stated that 15% of the total funding is to be dedicated to administration. She invited LEC members to recommend projects for the \$169,000 grant for Lane County, for individual or partnered projects. Recommendations could be made to Brenda Moore and Denise Walters.</p> <p>Update on Regional Meeting and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Justin Peterson shared a slide presentation from the CWEDD meeting and focused on the Strategy Subcommittee. He said that LCOG had a long list of interested</p>	
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	<p>parties, and he wanted to narrow it down to a core group from around the region. He said the UO would help to facilitate discussions with the subcommittee to add new or refreshed CEDS work items. He also referred to the survey link that Chair Ervin placed in the chat box. He noted the meetings would take place in February and March. He added that the agendas were not finalized but they would focus on refining the action items. He emphasized they do want a UO representative on the Strategy Subcommittee.</p> <p>Mr. Peterson stated that the CEDS regional meeting in October went well, with many partners present, and there was final feedback on the SWOT analysis. He added he would share the results this week, and that minor tweaks could be made to the SWOT, and new data may be collected, but the structure of concentrating on action items is not likely to change.</p> <p>February 10, 2025</p> <p>Nancy Pance, Executive Director of Opportunity Oregon, Ms. Pance of Opportunity Oregon spoke about the non-profit organization with the mission: to find employment for justice-involved individuals through prison outreach, employer education, and business development services. Opportunity Oregon's overall vision is employers and justice-involved individuals are united in breaking the cycle of recidivism. All formerly incarcerated people find quality and sustainable careers. Realization of the vision is achieved through centering the values of partnership, perseverance, integrity, inclusion, and transparency.</p> <p>Shareen Vogel, Specialist of Lane County Career Technical Education (CTE) Programming, Ms. Vogel spoke about CTE, which is an essential component of workforce development infrastructure. Lane County currently has 113 approved programs in Lane County high schools and has just received funding to stand up a Behavioral Health Pathway to address critical workforce needs. She gave us an update on programming successes, challenges, and opportunities.</p>	
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	<p><i>Blue Economy Update (EDALC) –</i> Federal Cuts have hit NOAA and Hatfield hard. There could be over 100 jobs lost. The UBDG has new grants that the blue economy is working on applying for as well. With NOAA and the Mach-P fleet, NOAA has lost 50% of its mariners. They currently cannot launch their boats, so all are grounded.</p> <p><i>Other Work Group Updates –</i> There were no other working group updates to share at this time.</p>	
<p>12. Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jurisdictional Updates • CEDS Annual Report • CWEDD Regional Project List • Executive Committee Updates 	<p>Jurisdictional Updates: There were no regionally specific jurisdictional updates shared with the group.</p> <p>CEDS Annual Report: Peterson shared a background on the CEDS report which was attached in the meeting agenda packet for today's meeting.</p> <p>CWEDD Regional Project List: This list has a goal to show what EDA, and other grants have been applied for in our region. This list is also attached to today's meeting agenda packet. This is a working list, please send any updates or addition to Justin at jpetereson@ocwcog.org.</p> <p>Executive Committee Updates: Chair Schuytema shared an update regarding the fact that the Executive Committee is looking at how to be aware of the federal funding changes without causing a negative impact or outlook for the meetings. The committee doesn't want to turn away from the challenges but rather lean into what we can control.</p>	
13. Adjournment	<i>Next Meeting: Thursday, June 12, 2025, in Lincoln County.</i>	The meeting was adjourned by Chair Paul Schuytema at 11:15 am



Community and Economic Development

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Background

The 2025 – 2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan is due for adoption in September 2025, after a full year of deliberation and revision. A key step in this process is public review, which has occurred both at the quarterly meetings of the CWEDD Board and Executive Committee, and importantly, within the designated 30-day public comment period of the document, held between July 10th and August 11th, 2025.

To facilitate speedy and actionable public comment, staff prepared a short survey under the advisement of the CWEDD Board, which focused the public to provide their feedback on the individual chapters of the plan, as well as soliciting their broad opinions on the readability and usability of the document. Staff, with the assistance of a working group made up of CWEDD Board members, identified rural and urban news outlets to promote the opportunity to comment, as well as a social media engagement strategy that CWEDD and its members could follow to drive further outreach.

Survey Results

The survey received eight (8) responses from the public, which while small, marks substantial progress in public engagement, as previous plans have received almost no interest from the public. Seven out of the eight respondents were from rural communities, and most were from Lane County. They identified as public sector workers, business owners, retirees, and members of the nonprofit sector. Feedback was generally positive, and respondents broadly agreed that the draft is easy to understand and logically structured. In alignment with Federal best practices, the respondents appreciated the number of graphics and data visualizations.

Respondents found that the Priority Areas identified by the CWEDD Board were well targeted to the goals of the region, with one writing *"Business Development and regional collaboration are absolutely key to long-term success"*. The highest-ranking priority areas in terms of relevance and impact for respondents' communities were "Foundations for Economic Wellbeing" and "Grow Economic Vitality through Business Development". Which is notable as these two Areas received the most attention from the Board and staff during this plan revision (as compared to the Priority Areas of the previous plan).

Implementation, Accountability and Metrics

Many respondents indicated a desire for CWEDD to more clearly track and communicate progress during plan implementation. Suggestions included using a public dashboard/scorecard (or similar) to share progress. A common refrain was a call for CWEDD to make a concerted effort to engage stakeholders within the business community and the public, traditionally underrepresented rural views. As one commentor put it:

"Communicate, communicate, communicate with the public"



CWEDD/CEDS Awareness Video Proposal

This project proposal, submitted by the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County, is to create a three to five minute professional marketing video to create awareness about the strengths of our Economic Development District region, the role of the Cascades West Economic Development District and the latest update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Why EDALC?

The Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC) is a solid choice for this work. EDALC has served as Lincoln County's sole Economic Development Organization for over 31 years. Over the last four years, EDALC has become engaged at the regional level (starting with the last CEDS update process), and has a deep desire to promote cross-regional coordination and collaboration aimed at enhancing our collective economic vitality.

EDALC also has the experience to do this video production work cost effectively. Our organization has created numerous economic development and marketing videos over the past five years, including entrepreneurial founder videos (in support of Lincoln County's Youth Entrepreneurship Program), a series of Drinking Water Protection videos in partnership with DEQ, a series of videos showcasing the "Pillars of Our Local Economy" as well as a video in support of a grant application for the Cascades West Innovation Hub.

We have the necessary equipment (4K video camera, remote microphone, stabilization gimbal, tripod, mobile lighting setup, teleprompter, access to Envato assets and Adobe Premier professional video editing software) and multiple team members familiar with video shooting, production, editing and post-production.

Aspects of the Video Project

The video should help to address the following questions (subject to revision after initial planning meetings):

- What/where is the Cascades West Economic Development District?
- Who runs and governs this EDD?
- What does being part of this EDD mean?
- What are the economic strengths of our region?
- What projects has the EDD helped move forward in our region in the past?
- What is a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy?
- What is in the newly updated CEDS for our region? Where do I find it? How do I use it as a tool?
- How is the current CEDS aligned with the EDA and Governor's Office priorities?
- How to get involved, get support and reach out?

Below, we outline the various aspects of this video project, from planning, to production to post-production:

Planning

- Kick off meeting with CWEDD and COG (CW and Lane) staff to determine primary and secondary audiences for the video as well as desired results and actionable “next steps” for an engaged viewer.
- Meeting with Justin Peterson (CWEDD/CWCOG) to discuss completed projects that the video should highlight
- Identify potential on-camera and voice over talent for the video
- Identify regionally significant b-roll to capture in each county

Production

- Site travel to each county for key b-roll filming
- Conduct needed video and voice over interviews
- Creation of any needed infographics

Post-Production

- Preliminary editing of video
- Select background music and any additional regional b-roll (Envato)
- Creation of video titles, insertion of logos, etc.
- Draft video delivered to CWEDD team for review and comment
- Revise and re-edit
- Collaboratively develop awareness marketing plan to share out video

Cost and Timeline

We are respectfully requesting \$5,000 for this video project, to be invoiced at 50% at project start and 50% at project completion and approval. This cost includes staff time and travel.

We estimate a turnaround timetable of four to five weeks from inception to finished product - pending scheduling and coordinating of talent schedules for field interviews and b-roll travel.

EDALC Contact Information

Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County

Physical Location: 3120 Crestline Drive, Waldport, OR 97394

Mail: P.O. Box 716, Newport, OR. 97365

BusinessLincolnCounty.com

Paul Schuytema, Executive Director

paul@businesslincolncounty.com

O: 541.867.8579 | C: 541.961.8800

The Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC) is an independent Oregon 501(c)(6) nonprofit economic development organization. EDALC staff members work every day to attract, support and grow businesses in Lincoln County to ensure community-wide economic well-being and an improved quality of life. EDALC has served Lincoln County for over 31 years and is governed by a passionate local board of directors. We receive our funding from local governmental units, public sector organizations, our local business community and grant dollars.



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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 20, 2025
To: CWEDD Executive Committee
From: Justin Peterson, OCWCOG CED Supervisor
Re: CWEDD Membership Discussion

The Cascades West Economic Development District (District) is governed by a board of twenty (20) members, appointed as specified by the Articles of Agreement. Per Article IV of the Articles of Agreement "The District shall be governed by a Board of twenty (20) members. Six (6) members shall be the members of the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments Executive Board, six (6) members shall be members of the Lane Council of Governments Executive Committee, and eight (8) members shall be representatives of economic interests. These eight (8) representatives shall be representatives of each District County who are not elected officials."

In Summary, the District Board is made up of Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) and Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) members. LCOG and OCWCOG each have 6 members appointed from their respective Boards. Then the other representatives have an economic interest in the region.

The current membership list is below.

OCWCOG Members	Title	Agency
Nancy Wyse	Commissioner	Benton County
Claire Hall	County Commissioner	Lincoln County
Alex Johnson II	Mayor	City of Albany
Sherrie Sprenger	Commissioner	Linn County
Charles Maughan	Mayor	City of Corvallis
Rick Booth	City Councilor	City of Waldport
Paul Schuytema	Executive Director	Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County
Chris Workman	City Manager	City of Philomath
Kelly Hart	Community Dev. Director	City of Lebanon
John Pascone	President	Linn Economic Development Group (LEDG)
Pam Barlow-Lind	Tribal Planning Director	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Christopher Jacobs	Economic Development Manager	City of Corvallis
Lane Members	Title	Agency
Greg James	Director	WillamaLane Parks and Recreation District
Shery Durest-Higgins	Board Member	Lane ESD and South Lane School District
Bryan Cutchen	Mayor	City of Oakridge
Steve Recca	Board Member	Fern Ridge Libradry District Board Member
Ashley Espinoza	Board Member	Bethel School District Board Member
Pete Knox	Board Member	Lane Transit District
Greg Ervin	City Councilor	City of Cottage Grove
Matt Michel	City Manager	City of Veneta

Staff have found that the current membership structure lacks representation from some economic interests in the region. For example, the current structure does not include Community Colleges, Small Business Development Centers, Chambers, or Universities. Who should be represented on the Board? How can we restructure the current membership to better reflect the region and to facilitate better attendance?

The Board membership could include replacing existing membership (e.g. less directly appointed COG Board members). For example, six (6) OCWCOG Board members are appointed to the CWEDD Board. Historically, not all six OCWCOG Board members have attended the CWEDD meetings. This can make meeting quorum requirements a challenge. The Board size could be increased; however, twenty (20) is a large Board membership.

Staff recommend that the current structure is reviewed by the Executive Committee and then by the Board. After the discussions Staff will work on updated bylaws and Articles of Agreement.