



Board Meeting

December 11, 2025

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Albany ABC (Downstairs) Meeting Room
1400 Queen Ave., Albany OR 97322

or

Join Virtually via Teams

TEAMS Meeting by clicking [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 291 224 730 274

Passcode: wwGdy8

Mobile 1 Click Number:

[+ 1 872-242-8088](#)

Phone Conference ID: 347 254 52#

AGENDA

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| 1. | 9:00 | Call to Order & Agenda Review
<i>Welcome to Albany!</i> | Chair, Paul Schuytema |
| 2. | 9:05 | Roll Call | Staff, Justin Peterson |
| 3. | 9:10 | Public Comment | Chair |
| 4. | 9:12 | Minutes of September 11, 2025, Meeting (Attachment A)

ACTION: Approval of Minutes | Chair |
| 5. | 9:15 | CWEDD Board Membership Discussion Continued
Discussion about the CWEDD Membership and updates to the membership (Attachments B 1-3)

ACTION: Approval of proposed membership updates (LCOG and OCWCOG Board Approval required) | Staff, Justin Peterson |
| 6. | 9:30 | Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE)
Presentation on the Benton County CPACE program. CPACE - Corvallis Economic Development Office

ACTION: Discussion | Board Member, Christopher Jacobs |
| 7. | 9:45 | Northwest Oregon Works – Youth Programs
Overview of Northwest Oregon Works Youth Programs. Funding streams we have and what they are supporting.

ACTION: Discussion | Guest, Logan Garner |

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| 8. | 10:00 | LBCC Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
<i>Overview of SBDC business development programs and services in Linn and Benton counties</i> | Guest, Britt Hoskins - Director |
| | | ACTION: Discussion | |
| 8. | 10:15 | CWEDD Annual Report and Priorities Conversation (Attachment C)
<i>Update on the CWEDD Annual Report and discussion about CEDS Priority areas implementation.</i> | Staff, Justin Peterson and Corum Ketchum |
| | | ACTION: Discussion | |
| 9. | 10:45 | Discussion: CEDS Working Groups (Open time for any questions) (Attachment D) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Blue Economy Update from EDALC</i> • <i>Broadband Action Team (BAT)</i> • <i>Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC)</i> • <i>Early Childhood Education (new appointee needed)</i> • <i>Innovation Hubs</i> • <i>Lane Economic Committee (LEC)</i> • <i>Rural Economic Alliance (REAL)</i> • <i>Other workgroup updates?</i> | Chair/ Staff, Justin Peterson |
| 10. | 10:50 | Other Business (if time allows) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>CEDS/CWEDD Marketing Video Update</i> • <i>Next regional meeting discussion (Spring 2026 or Fall 2026?)</i> • <i>Regionally Significant Updates – by County (Examples – a large manufacturing company announced a new site, other board meetings you attend)</i> • <i>2026 Meeting Schedule (Attachment E)</i> • <i>Topics for 2026 meetings? Innovation Hubs? Broadband? LCOG/OCWCOG Lending Programs?</i> | Chair/Staff |
| 11. | 11:00 | Adjournment
<i>Next Meeting: March 12, 2026, in Lane County.</i> | Chair |

OCWCOG Members	Title	Jurisdiction
Nancy Wyse	Commissioner	Benton County
Claire Hall	Commissioner	Lincoln County
Alex Johnson II	Mayor	City of Albany
Sherrie Sprenger	Commissioner	Linn County
<i>PENDING</i>	<i>PENDING</i>	<i>Benton County At Large</i>
Rick Booth	City Councilor	City of Waldport
Paul Schuytema	Executive Director	EDALC
Chris Workman	City Manager	City of Philomath
Ron Whitlatch	City Manager	City of Lebanon
John Pascone	President	LEDG
Pam Barlow-Lind	Planning Director	CTSI
Sophie Adams	ED Manager	City of Albany
Lane Members	Title	Jurisdiction
Bryan Cutchen	Mayor	City of Oakridge
Sherry Duerst-Higgins	Board Member	Lane ESD/South Land SD
Randy Groves	City Councilor	City of Eugene
Ashley Espinoza	Board Member	Bethel School District Board Member
Steve Racca	Board Member	Fern Ridge Library District
Pete Knox	Board Member	Lane Transit District
Greg Ervin	Council Member	City of Cottage Grove
Matt Michel	City Manager	City of Veneta

Quorum Requirement: CWEDD business may be conducted provided a quorum of members attends. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the membership of the District Board. The CWEDD members may participate by telephone or other means of electronic communication, provided the meeting is called to order at a meeting place where the public can attend, hear, understand and/or read the comments of the members participating by telephone or electronic means and the members so participating can fully hear, understand, and/or read the comments of the other members participating in the meeting.

CWEDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**Thursday, September 11, 2025****9:00 am – 11:00 am****Hybrid Meeting: IN PERSON at Benton County Kalapuya Meeting Room****4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis OR 97330****or Virtual Via Microsoft Teams Technologies**

OCWCOG Members	Title	Jurisdiction	Attendance
Nancy Wyse	Commissioner	Benton County	Yes
Claire Hall	Commissioner	Lincoln County	Yes
Charles Maughn	Mayor	Corvallis	Yes
Alex Johnson II	Mayor	City of Albany	Jennifer Wehr
Sherrie Sprenger	Commissioner	Linn County	Yes
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	No
Christopher Jacobs	Economic Development Manager	Corvallis/Benton County Economic Development	Lily Bender
Lane Members	Title	Jurisdiction	Attendance
Randy Groves	City Councilor	City of Eugene	Yes
Shery Duerst-Higgins	Board Member	Land ESD & S. Lane SD	No
Bryan Cutchen	Mayor	Oakridge	Yes
Ashley Espinoza	Board Member	Bethel SD Board Member	Yes
Steve Recca	Board Member	Fern Ridge Library District	Yes
Pete Knox	Board Member	Lane Transit District	No
Greg Ervin	City Councilor	City of Cottage Grove	Yes
Matt Michael	City Manager	City of Veneta	Yes

Staff: OCWCOG Community and Economic Development Supervisor (CED) Justin Peterson, OCWCOG CED Planning Manager Matt Lehman, LCOG Loan Manager Sandra Easdale, LCOG Executive Director Brenda Moore, OCWCOG Agency Director Paul Egbert, OCWCOG Lead Planner Corum Ketchum, OCWCOG Executive Assistant Ashlyn Muzechenko.

Guests: Jason Harris, Courtney Flathers, Susan Patterson, Chantelle Meyer, Rob Ward, TJ Fierelli, Wesly J. Cochran

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION / CONCLUSION
1. Call to Order & Agenda Review	The Chair, Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC) Director, Paul Schuytema, called the September 11, 2025, CWEDD Board meeting to order at 9:02 am. Chair Schuytema welcomed all in attendance to Benton County. There were no changes to the agenda. Chair Schuytema asked the group to host a moment of silence to pay respect to those who lost their lives on 9/11/2001.	The Meeting was called to order at 9:02 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. Minutes of March 06, 2025, Meeting (Attachment A) Action: Approval of Minutes	Councilor Greg Ervin moved to approve the minutes for the March 06, 2025, CWEDD Board Meeting. Kelly Hart seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Paul Schuytema voted in favor. Commissioner Nancy Wyse voted in favor. Commissioner Claire Hall voted in favor. Mayor Charles Maughn voted in favor. Jennifer Wehr alternate for Mayor Alex Johnson voted in favor. Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger voted in favor. Chris Workman voted in favor. Kelly Hart voted in favor. John Pascone voted in favor. Lily Bender alternate for Christopher Jacobs voted in favor.	Councilor Greg Ervin moved to approve the minutes for the January 09, 2025, CWEDD Board Meeting. Steve Recca seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

	Councilor Randy Groves voted in favor. Mayor Bryan Cutchen voted in favor. Ashley Espinoza voted in favor. Steve Recca voted in favor. Councilor Greg Ervin voted in favor. Matt Michael voted in favor. There were no votes against.	
5. CEDS Approval and Public Comment Review	Staff Peterson and Lead Transportation Planner Corum Ketchum provided a presentation on the public comments received and the work to date before recommending adoption of the 2025-2030 CEDS. The two documents mentioned during the update from staff can be found on the CEDS Webpage here: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) OCWCOG. Ashley Espinoza inquired about the projects described, for the goals should workforce and business development be listed together instead of just business development. Additionally, beyond the projects, what are the key KPI's and how is our region measuring the projects and initiatives are moving forward. Chair Schuytema noted in the past CEDS there was a priority focused only on workforce development. However, during this CEDS the priority area was expanded to include business development to bring in childcare and other factors. Additionally, the tracking and measuring can be updated with the working groups and presentations that come before the CWEDD Board and Executive Committee. Councilor Ervin moved to approve the 2025-30 CEDS. Mayor Bryan Cutchen seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the 25-30 CEDS stand adopted. Chair Paul Schuytema voted in favor. Commissioner Nancy Wyse voted in favor.	Councilor Ervin moved to approve the 2025-230 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Mayor Bryan Cutchen seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the 25-30 CEDS stand adopted.

	Commissioner Claire Hall voted in favor. Mayor Charles Maughn voted in favor. Jennifer Wehr alternate for Mayor Alex Johnson voted in favor. Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger voted in favor. Chris Workman voted in favor. Kelly Hart voted in favor. John Pascone voted in favor. Lily Bender alternate for Christopher Jacobs voted in favor. Councilor Randy Groves voted in favor. Mayor Bryan Cutchen voted in favor. Ashley Espinoza voted in favor. Steve Recca voted in favor. Councilor Greg Ervin voted in favor. Matt Michael voted in favor. There were no votes against.	
6. CEDS Marketing Video proposal	Peterson presented the agenda topic of the CEDS Marketing Video proposal submitted by the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC). Paul Schuytema noted he would be abstaining from discussion and not voting, however he would be available if CWEDD Board members had questions on EDALC's proposal. Chris Workman moved to approve the CWEDD CEDS Marketing Video proposal. Commissioner Nancy Wyse seconded. The motion carried with The Chair, Paul Schuytema abstaining from vote. Chair Paul Schuytema abstained. Commissioner Nancy Wyse voted in favor. Commissioner Claire Hall voted in favor. Mayor Charles Maughn voted in favor. Jennifer Wehr alternate for Mayor Alex Johnson voted in favor. Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger voted in favor. Chris Workman voted in favor.	Chris Workman moved to approve the CWEDD CEDS Marketing Video proposal. Commissioner Nancy Wyse seconded. The motion carried with The Chair, Paul Schuytema abstaining from vote.

	Kelly Hart voted in favor. John Pascone voted in favor. Lily Bender alternate for Christopher Jacobs voted in favor. Councilor Randy Groves voted in favor. Mayor Bryan Cutchen voted in favor. Ashley Espinoza voted in favor. Steve Recca voted in favor. Councilor Greg Ervin voted in favor. Matt Michael voted in favor. There were no votes against.	
7. CWEDD Board Membership Discussion	Peterson shared background on the CWEDD Board membership and opened the floor to members to discuss future updates to the membership make up and criteria. The group discussed membership commentment check ins and reviewing who is on the Board and who is interesrested in staying on the board There was consensus from all members and staff to not expand the membership as the CWEDD Board is already 20 members. The group noted they could likely have Small Business Development centers (SBDC's) and community college's as ex-officio members and ask for quarterly updates to be shared like working group updates, and twice a year a larger presentation to the CWEDD Board from these groups would be a great path to explore. Follow up and further investigation will be done on the staff side and this agenda item will come back to the board at the December meeting after more information can be gathered.	
8. Linn Benton Brownfields Grant	Peterson shared and update on the progress of the Linn Benton Envrionrmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Coalition Grant. Peterson shared an overview of what Brownfield is and what the goals	

	of the grant program are. Peterson also shared the current sites in the Linn and Benton region that are covered under the Coalition Grant. These sites are: • Albany Downtown Parking lots • Corvallis Auction yard • Lebanon Champion Mill • Tangent Quonset Hut • Lebanon Old Safeway and Dry Cleaner Interested Party TJ Fierelli shared feedback and ideas on Brownfield's discussion. Fierelli encouraged the group to look into the clean up grants. The big issue that comes up with these grants is property owners have concerns with being a part of this program. Once solution is the land banks which are commonly used at this current time. Further information on this grant can be found at the webpage here: Linn Benton Brownfields Coalition OCWCOG.	
9. Discussion: CEDS Working Groups (Open time for any updates)	<i>Innovation Hubs –</i> Chair Schuytema shared the next round of funding from Business Oregon, has been awarded and is in the contract stage. Cascades West Innovation Hub received \$400,000 for the next two years. The Fiscal Agent is Rain Catalysts. The first event will be on October 3rd at the Linn-Benton Community College. <i>Blue Economy –</i> Chair Schuytema noted at the end of August they wrapped up the congressional directed spending award. The report is still in the works with a few projects still coming out of it. There are a few more grants in the work as well. Last Saturday Senator Wyden's staff were on the coast talking to the group about the impacts of Tariffs and Federal funding cuts.	

	<i>Broadband Action Team (BAT) –</i> Chair Schuytema shared the BEAD funding pot is a federal program. The Feds made substantial changes to the program taking away emphasis on fiber and removing obligation to have low-cost option available. ISPs has to pre-qualify in Oregon. The applications for the funds have been submitted however the applicants have not been made public by the Oregon broadband office. Oregon is trying to prioritize fiber over lower orbital satellites <i>Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC) –</i> Peterson shared this group is focused on wetlands, in Linn and Benton Counties and the city of Toledo. The group put in an application for the DLCD housing money for a business plan for a wetland mitigation bank. <i>Early Childhood Education –</i> Currently there is no lead on this working group. If there are members who would like to volunteer, please reach out to Justin at jpeterson@ocwcoq.org. <i>Rural Economic Alliance (REAL) –</i> Chris Workman shared they formatted and adopted a strategic marketing plan. The group is meeting next week with a contractor to focus on highlighting the priorities of the plan. They also renewed the agreement with Oregon Rain to put on events and partnerships with Rural Communities. <i>Lane Economic Committee (LEC) –</i> NO- JULY MEETING and NO-SEPTEMBER MEETING <u>August 11, 2025, LEC meeting</u> Chantelle Meyer (City of Florence Economic Development) announced that an exciting Planned Unit Development for housing in Florence was funded through a \$1.9M appropriation under Senate Bill 1520.	
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	She said it was breaking ground this summer and would provide infrastructure such as streets, sidewalks, wastewater, stormwater, and other utilities to roughly six blocks in the city. She said the project would connect neighborhoods with better access for housing and businesses near Peace Health in the transportation corridor. Samatha Roberts (Lane County Community and Economic Development) announced that the next round of Lane County economic development grants would go live at the end of the week or early week with an online application. She said \$200,000 was set aside for grants for projects initiated by either nonprofit providers or municipalities. She said the application process would be open until Noon on October 8. Matt Michel (City of Veneta Government) announced the City of Veneta was breaking ground on the Bolton Hill Sports Complex upgrade to improve the fields for baseball, soccer, and T-ball. He said Urban Renewal funds were available, and the complex may be a draw for tournament activity. He said in addition to small, medium, and large playing fields, there would be expanded parking, a playground, and a walking path around the complex. He added that the project moved forward after a focused conversation with the Territorial Sports Program about their business plan since the city did not have a Parks and Recreation Department, and as a result, the Territorial Sports Program rose to the challenge that made this current effort possible. Presenter Clint Riley, Captain of Lane County Sheriff Office, did a follow up regarding Lane County Deflection Program At our June meeting we heard from Damon Runyon about their study which developed a “push, pull, and anchor” framework to represent how different factors affect business investment decisions. The study identifies homelessness and drug use as social factors pushing businesses from Oregon.	
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	Lane County's Deflection Program began serving people in October 2024. Lane County's model is the LEAD model, Law Enforcement Assisted Deflection. Deflection is connecting with people encountering law enforcement personnel for low level quality of life crimes and deflecting them away from the criminal legal system to substance use, mental health, and/or whatever other wrap around services might be required to support behavior change and change in circumstances. The program relies on an exceptional group of peer navigators who walk step in step with program participants to help them meet their goals. The Deflection Program has a data dashboard reflecting program statistics with about a one day lag to real time numbers. Presenter: James Cleavenger, Oakridge City Administer Spoke about Oakridge's – Kitson Hot Springs Community Forest Project Oakridge is working on a project at the 157-acre Kitson Hot Springs site to prevent private development, promote conservation, and restore the site for public use, including trails and a community forest to enhance tourism. The site could eventually feature biking or hiking trails, a small hotel and a community forest that is thinned out but not clear-cut — to generate revenue to sustain the property. The site is currently owned by Boy Scouts of America. <i>Other Work Group Updates –</i> There were no other working group updates to share at this time.	
10. Other Business: • Jurisdictional Updates • Mass Timber Webinar • Topics for	Jurisdictional Updates: Chantelle Meyer with Florence noted the city did a groundbreaking for the direct appropriation project near the harbor. The city put in streets, sidewalks, water, wastewater, and storm water. Brenda Moore shared LCOG secured an \$8.5 million dollar grant for broadband points. LCOG also prequalified as a Broadband Equity,	

December CWEDD Board Meeting Executive Committee Updates	Access, and Deployment (BEAD) applicant. LCOG also completed a large project that was started in 2017, that was the Middle Mile Project. This helped private ISPs connect with highspeed internet/broadband. Additionally, late last year a coalition formed in Lane County for recreation arts and athletics. This was private fundraising for seven projects. Recently there was a fundraiser for one which was to build a 24 court pickleball facility in Lane County which will qualify Lane Community College for National Tournaments. This coalition is county wide and working together united to bring these projects to Lane County. At LCOG, there are a lot of calls from member agencies that are concerned about the loss of federal funds. One of the agencies lost funding for an impactful program for Lane County seniors. LCOG will now partner with the program in LCC to continue to fund this crucial program. LCOG is hosting a regional resiliency evaluation event on November 6th at Lane Community College. This event is only for Lane County, but the goal would be for other jurisdictions and counties look into doing something similar for their regions as well to continue to serve the area with their essential services. John Pascone provided an update on several projects that are happening now in Millersburg. There are two over \$200 million each, with an expectation to bring in at least 100 jobs each. Councilor Greg Ervin, who shared the city of Cottage Grove, would like to invite everyone to do a Guinness Book of World Records attempt, for the most simultaneous gold panning this Saturday at 4pm. Ashley Espinoza shared an update from Bethel School Board and their project at Clear Lake Community center. The program did lose \$4 million with funding cuts so there are questions on how to continue maintenance and overall operations of the new community center. There will be a conference focused on Working Together for workforce boards. It will be in Salem this year on October 15th and 16th. Mass Timber Webinar	
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	Susan Patterson, grant writer at OCWCOG, shared there will be a Mass Timber Webinar later today at 2:30pm. Topics for December CWEDD Board Meeting: Peterson asked members to send any topic ideas for the December or Future CWEDD Board meetings to him at jpeter@ocwcog.org. One of those topics will be an update from LCOG regarding their event. One topic idea shared by Councilor Ervin was regarding the conditions in which new development wants to exist and how it relates to law enforcement. Additionally, what is the state of availability of jail beds to hold those who are pre-trial and repeat offenders. Executive Committee Updates: Chair Schuytema shared there were no further executive committee updates than those shared during regular agenda items for today's board meeting.	
11. Adjournment	<i>Next Meeting: Thursday, December 11, 2025, with the in-person location being the Albany OCWCOG Office.</i>	The meeting was adjourned by Chair Paul Schuytema at 11:00 am



Cascades West Economic Development District

Counties of Benton • Lane • Lincoln • Linn



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 03, 2025
To: CWEDD Board
From: Justin Peterson, 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.

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.

Staff have found that the current membership structure lacks representation from some economic interests in the region. For example, the current structure does not explicitly 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?

Based on the discussion at the September CWEDD Board meeting, discussion at the November CWEDD Executive Committee meeting, and discussion with partners the proposed membership updates are attached.

- Board Membership is not proposed to increase.
- Board Membership for OCWCOG is proposed to reduce the number of COG Executive Committee members and increase other economic interests from the region.
- Board Membership for LCOG is proposed to be expanded to include any LCOG Board Member rather than only Executive Committee members

Staff believe that the proposed minor amendments will increase regional economic interests on the CWEDD board.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

CASCADES WEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be Cascades West Economic Development District, hereinafter referred to as the District.

ARTICLE II. AUTHORIZATION

The authorization for the establishment of this agreement is set forth in state enabling legislation (ORS 190.003 to 190.110) and by agreement between its parties.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

(A) Purpose

This agreement is entered into by Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, hereinafter “OCWCOG,” and Lane Council of Governments, hereinafter “LCOG,” for the purpose of allowing Benton, Linn, Lincoln, and Lane Counties to benefit from the services of an Economic Development District Organization recognized by the federal Economic Development Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

(B) Duties

1. To assist in the preparation and adoption of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the District and expand upon and update the Strategy document thereafter.
2. To prepare and execute such programs of research and services as may be necessary and advisable to carrying out its purposes.
3. To contract with persons or firms or other units and levels of government to carry out the purposes of the Economic Development District.
4. To prepare periodic reports as may be required by the bylaws of the Economic Development District or federal or State legislation or regulations pertaining thereto.
5. To purchase, receive, lease, take by gift or bequest, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, improve, and use real or personal property, or any interest therein, wherever situated within the District.
6. To incur expenses as necessary and permitted by law to carry out its functions.

7. To receive grants, gifts, contributions, and donations which may be made to it for its use and purposes.
8. To publish reports and studies in connection with its work which may be of benefit to its members or other agencies or programs within or outside the District.
9. To prepare an annual report on the economic development activities of the District since its previous report.

ARTICLE IV. DISTRICT BOARD AND STRATEGIC COMMITTEES

- ~~(A) 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.~~
- (B) Economic Committees on the Board shall be appointed to the Board by the Councils of Governments which are parties to this agreement in any manner which those Councils may provide. It is the intent that the appointee represents the economic interest of the county.
- (C) The members of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee for the District shall be appointed by the Councils of Governments which are parties to this agreement in any manner which those Councils may provide. Federal requirements and an equal membership between the two Council of Governments areas will be considered in making appointments to this Committee.

ARTICLE V. STAFF

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments provides the primary staff to the District Board, and serves as the lead administrative unit of the District.

ARTICLE VI. BYLAWS

Bylaws for the Economic Development District Governing Board shall be adopted by the Councils of Governments which are parties to this agreement. The Economic Development District shall not prescribe its own bylaws.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this agreement may be made by agreement of the parties.

ARTICLE VIII. TERMINATION

This agreement may be terminated upon mutual agreement at any time by either party provided that a 30-day written notice has been given to the other party and at least 30 days before the next District Board meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed in the 17

names of the respective agencies by resolution adopted by the governing bodies, signed by the Chief Executive, as appropriate, duly attested to by the respective clerk, recorder, or secretary.

OREGON CASCADES WEST
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Date: _____

LANE COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS

Date: _____

CASCADES WEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

BYLAWS

I. PURPOSE AND DUTIES

The purpose of the Cascades West Economic Development District Governing Board (District Board) is to serve as the governing body of the Cascades West Economic Development District (District), which is an Economic Development District Organization recognized by the federal U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. Purpose and duties of the District are enumerated in its Articles of Agreement.

II. MEMBERSHIP, TERMS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVAL

(A) The District shall be governed by a District Board of twenty (20) members, appointed as specified in the District's Articles of Agreement.

- Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) membership shall include twelve (12) members.
 - Three (3) members shall be on the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments Executive Board with one from each county.
 - Six (6) members shall be representatives of a city, county, or tribal government with two (2) from each county.
 - Three (3) members shall be representatives of an economic interest group in the OCWCOG region (e.g. University, Community College, Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Board, Small Business Development Center, Business Representative, etc.)
- Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) membership shall include eight (8) members.
 - Six (6) members shall be members of the Lane Council of Governments Board of Directors.

Two (2) members shall be members of the Lane Economic Committee (LEC).

- (B) Each District Board member serving as a representative of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Executive Committee or the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Executive Board shall serve on the Cascades West Economic Development District Governing Board as long as their Council of Governments term lasts. Each District Board member who is a ~~county~~ representative shall be reaffirmed or reappointed, annually.
- (C) County District Board Members are subject to removal if they miss two (2) consecutive District Board meetings. In such an event, the Council of Governments which originally appointed the representative may remove that member from the District Board. The district Governing Board may request the removal, but shall not have the power of removal.
- (D) In order to be eligible for various types of federal Economic Development Administration assistance, including public works and loan guarantee programs, areas must actively participate in the Economic Development District's planning process. County government participation provides for inclusion of its incorporated area. Active participation is defined as being a member of the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Lane Council of Governments, or an Economic Development Professional in either Benton, Lane, Lincoln, or Linn Counties.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES

- (A) The District Board shall meet at least once a year. At least one (1) month notice shall be given to the membership for a regular meeting. Regular meetings shall be held in Benton, Lincoln, Lane, or Linn Counties.
- (B) Additional meetings in person, or electronically, may be called by the Chair with the concurrence of two (2) additional members, or by a majority of the full membership of the District Board.
- (C) Meetings may be held by telephone or other means of electronic communication, and the District Board members may participate in any meeting by telephone or other means of electronic communication with advance notice of 48 hours given to staff. Such telephonic or electronic participation may only occur if the meeting is called to order at a location where all District Board members and any member of the general public can attend, understand, and either hear or read the comments of all members participating in the meeting.
- (D) Each member shall be entitled to one vote on matters before the District Board.
- (E) A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the membership of the District Board.
- (F) Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, a simple majority of the members present and voting shall be sufficient to decide a question before the District Board.
- (G) Unless otherwise specified, Roberts Rules of Order Revised shall govern the proceedings of the meetings of the Board.

IV. OFFICERS

- (A) The officers of the District Board shall consist of a Chair and Vice-Chair elected from among the representatives and by the duly appointed representatives on the District Board for one-year terms after March 1st. Officers may be re-elected for up to three consecutive terms.
- (B) A vacancy in the office of Chair of the District shall be filled by the Vice-Chair for the unexpired term. In such an event, a new Vice-Chair shall be elected, at the next regular or special meeting of the District Board and they shall serve the balance of their term of that office.
- (C) Duties of the Chair: The Chair shall have general supervisory and direction powers of the District, shall preside at all District meetings, and shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of all committees of the District. The Chair is the sole official spokesperson of the governing body on all matters of policy and position, unless this responsibility is delegated in writing or electronically, to another member of the governing body, or a member of a board or committee appointed by the governing body.
- (D) Duties of the Vice-Chair: In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall execute all the powers of the Chair.

The Chair and Vice-Chair shall not be residents of the same Council of Governments Region.

V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- (A) An annual organizational meeting shall be held by the District Board no later than June 30th of each year during which officers for the coming year will be elected at

that meeting

- (B) Nominations may be made from the floor and candidates receiving a simple majority vote of those members present at the annual organizational meeting shall be declared elected.

VI. COMMITTEES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD

- (A) A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee for the District will be appointed by the Boards of the Councils of Governments. Federal requirements and balancing membership between the two Council of Governments areas will be considered in appointing the Strategy Committee.
- (8) Executive Committee
 - 1. Composition: An executive committee shall consist of one representative from each County, and one at large member for a total of five. The board chair, and board vice chair, shall serve as the chair and vice chair respectively, of the executive committee. The representatives of each County shall be selected annually by the CWEDD board.
 - 2. Duties: The duties of the executive committee will include, but will not be limited to, acting on behalf of the CWEDD board between meetings. Taking action in situations determined by the Chair to be urgent. Be responsible for routine housekeeping duties, such as determining the content of agendas. Taking needed timely action on issues within the context of decisions or positions previously taken by the CWEDD board. However, the executive committee shall refrain from action on items that can wait for a regular CWEDD board meeting, and refrain from making decisions regarding project priorities.
 - 3. Chair and Vice-Chair: The chair and vice-chair of the board shall serve as the chair and vice chair of the executive committee and will have similar roles and authority as the chair and vice-chair of the board.
 - 4. Meeting and Quorum: A quorum shall be three of five members present. Alternates may serve on the executive committee if the representative is not able to attend a meeting and if the representative so decides. The Executive Committee shall meet as called by the Chair or CWEDD Staff. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be conducted in compliance with the Oregon Public Meetings Law as described in ORS 192.610 through ORS 192.690.
 - 5. Decisions and Recommendations: Decisions and recommendations of the Executive Committee will be communicated to the CWEDD board. When possible that communication shall be in writing via a memorandum.
- (C) In order to carry out work of the District Board, committees may be created by a majority vote of the District Board. The purpose and scope of activity of each committee shall be outlined in writing.
- (D) The Chair may appoint committee chairs and members.

VII. STAFF AND FINANCES

- (A) The OCWCOG shall provide staff and administrative services for the Cascades West Economic Development District. The Executive Director of OCWCOG shall be the Executive Director of the Cascades West Economic Development District.
- (B) At the direction of the District Board, the Executive Director is empowered to pursue and enter into such contracts, grants, and agreements as to carry out the planning functions of the district consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).
- (C) The District shall be funded by grants, gifts, contracts, and contributions. All revenue shall be deposited with the OCWCOG for use in conducting the Cascades West Economic Development District work program. Cascades West Economic Development District funds so deposited shall be accounted for in a manner that maintains this identity separate from other revenues of OCWCOG; however, they shall be integrated into the OCWCOG normal accounting system and audited as a part of the OCWCOG's annual audit. OCWCOG will provide an annual account summary at the same meeting in which the Chair and Vice Chair will be elected.
- (D) Expenditures shall be authorized, approved and completed as if they were OCWCOG expenditures. The Cascades West Economic Development District shall be assessed its share of OCWCOG indirect costs in the same manner as other programs of OCWCOG.

VIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Bylaws shall be adopted by the Councils of Governments which are parties to the Articles of Agreement establishing the Cascades West Economic Development District. The District Board shall not amend its own bylaws, but may propose amendments for the consideration of the Councils of Governments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these Bylaws to be adopted by motion of their respective governing bodies, signed by the Chief Executive Officer and duly attested to by the respective clerk, recorder, or secretary.

OREGON CASCADES WEST
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

LANE COUNCIL OF COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS

Date

Date

ATTEST:



CWEDD | **ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT**
CASCADES WEST

Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD)

Annual Performance Progress Report

October 2024 – September 2025

ED23SEA3020007

The annual update is provided below with a list of accomplishments. The annual report is organized based on the submitted work plan with the CEDS priority areas identified in parentheses.

Evaluation of Progress on Action Plan and Goals

- ♦ The CWEDD Board adopted the 2025-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy at the September 11th, 2025, Board meeting.
- ♦ Staff continued to work with the CWEDD Board to develop work groups. Progress on work groups was discussed below. This work is ongoing.
- ♦ Staff created additional CEDS-related documents to better communicate and add clarity to the priority areas of the CEDS. This includes an Executive Summary. Staff plans to update the CEDS Executive Summary to reflect the 2025-2030 CEDS.
- ♦ Staff continued to work with the CWEDD Executive Committee and CWEDD Board to write letters of support for projects in alignment with the CEDS. Staff worked with the Executive Committee and Board to create letter of support request guidelines. This work is ongoing and staff wrote several letters of support in 2024 and 2025.
- ♦ Work is ongoing with partners and practitioners across the district to implement strategies. Many of the goals and activities identified in the CEDS are implemented at the local level. Staff continue to communicate with economic development practitioners in the region and support local economic development work. Implementation activities are listed above; however, staff recognize that other economic development work is ongoing throughout the region.
- ♦ Additional funding through HB3395 was secured to continue grant support to our communities. Staff worked with several communities to move housing related infrastructure projects forward.
- ♦ Each of the Five CEDS priority areas included performance indicators to measure implementation activities. Staff updated the indicators in the 2025-2030 CEDS and will continue to work on tracking indicators.

Schedule of Goals for the Next Year

- ♦ Staff will work with the CWEDD Board to refine working groups



- ◆ Staff will continue to use CEDS marketing materials to increase awareness of regional priorities. This will include the completion of a CEDS/CWEDD marketing video and an updated CEDS Executive Summary.
- ◆ Staff will work with the CWEDD Board to update the membership list to improve broad representation of the region.
- ◆ Staff will continue to work with the CWEDD Executive Committee and CWEDD Board to write letters of support for projects that are in alignment with the CEDS.
- ◆ Throughout the five years of the new 2025-2030 CEDS, economic development practitioners in the region will be asked to participate in the CWEDD work with the CEDS and report on their progress on the collaborative priority area work. Staff will work with partners to report regional economic development projects on annual reports.
- ◆ Staff will implement HB3395 funding to support grant writing and administration to our communities. Staff will continue to advocate for continued funding for this work.
- ◆ Each of the Five CEDS priority areas included performance indicators to measure implementation activities. The indicators were updated to be more concrete and easier to track. Staff will work on efforts to better track implementation efforts related to the performance indicators. Staff previously created a “Project Tracker” and shares the project list at every CWEDD Board meeting. The Project Tracker will be used to better track economic development efforts funded throughout the region. This is intended to be an informational tool and an inspirational tool to encourage jurisdictions to explore grant opportunities. Staff will explore additional indicators to track during the CEDS update process.

October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025 update

Tasks 1-3: Quarterly CWEDD Board Meetings and Quarterly CWEDD Executive Meetings, Annual CEDS Update, and Attend a minimum of one training event per year – Ongoing

- The CWEDD Board adopted the 2025-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy at the September 11th, 2025 Board meeting. The CEDS was submitted and approved by the EDA in the online EDGE portal. Major updates included updated priority areas, connecting the CEDS to state and federal priorities, and more concrete metrics for tracking progress.

	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



- The CWEDD Board held meetings on November 14th, 2024, January 9th, 2024, March 6th, 2025, June 12th, 2025, and September 11th, 2025 during this planning period. Board meeting topics included working groups, a Comprehensive Economic Development (CEDS) update, the Regional Innovation Engine at Oregon State University (OSU), HB3395 Housing Infrastructure Funding, an Introduction to AI in Regional Economic Development, the Central Coast Food Web, Childcare, appointment of a CEDS Strategy Committee, the Cascades West Innovation Hub, Abilities Diner and Bakery in Eugene, the Oregon Coast Advanced Technology and Trades Center and New Curriculum Development, the Linn Benton Brownfields Grant, and Board Membership.
- CWEDD Staff started discussions on Board membership updates to better reflect the region and improve board member attendance.
- The Executive Committee meets before each CWEDD Board Meeting. The CWEDD Executive Committee helped establish agendas, approved letters of support, and helped CWEDD stay agile to meet the needs of the region.
- CWEDD Staff continued to evaluate the best way to monitor CEDS metrics.
- CWEDD Staff continued to participate with the OEDD group with representatives from all of Oregon's Economic Development Districts. OEDD Directors meet monthly. OEDD also includes a Loan Staff subcommittee and a monthly Housing Capacity check-in.
- CWEDD Staff hosts a quarterly Economic Development Practitioners luncheon, rotating locations throughout the region.
- CWEDD Staff also staff the Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC) to address Wetlands issues around the region. CWRC meets quarterly.
- CWEDD Staff attended the Business Oregon Incentives Regional Workshop in Albany on September 23rd.
- CWEDD Staff hosted a Mass Timber in Housing webinar on September 11th. Presenters included Industry practitioners, DLCD staff and OSU staff.
- CWEDD Staff attended the Knife River/Willamette Workforce Listening Session on April 7th.
- CWEDD Staff attended the OAPA Conference in Portland on October 17th and 18th.
- CWEDD Staff attended the Oregon Coast Economic Summit in Coos Bay on September 25th and 26th.
- CWEDD Staff attended the Oregon Infrastructure Summit in Seaside Oregon on September 8th and 9th.

Task 4: Build Partnerships and Collaboration (Priority Area 1: Regional Collaboration and Partnerships, and Priority Area 4: Foundations for Economic Well-being) – Ongoing



- Staff established a regional network of CWEDD stakeholders. A list of county level staff that can support more localized CWEDD efforts has been completed and will be periodically updated.
- Staff continued to maintain the OCWCOG website with current CWEDD information.
- Staff continued to serve our rural communities.
- Staff participated in the Regional Solutions Team (RST) meetings and visited our rural communities to hear their pressing infrastructure needs. We work with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Business Oregon on the best way to address these needs. The RST visited Newport, Albany, Yachats, Corvallis and Sweet Home during this planning period.
- Staff regularly attended events targeted at start-up and emerging businesses and support the retention and expansion of existing businesses.
- Staff continued regular meetings and relationships with key regional partners to include Ports, economic development leaders, state officials and business incubators.
- Staff updated the Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Business Referral Network Document in 2025 and will continue to maintain the document.
- Staff have remained active with the Oregon Economic Development Districts (OEDD) organization.
- Staff attend the monthly Benton County EDO meeting.
- Staff maintained the Economic Districts member binders. Member binders included a handbook, acronyms and glossary, board of directors list, board schedule, CEDS handout, bylaws and articles of agreement.
- CWEDD/OCWCOG completed work on a grant for Groundwork for the Innovation Hubs work. The Innovation Hub work is being continued by RAIN and Collaborative EDO.
- Staff provided support to member communities to evaluate opportunities for EDA funding and other state/federal grants and programs.
- Staff implemented a Transit Workforce Enhancement project in conjunction with Benton County and LBCC to increase the pool of drivers available to Transit Providers in the Benton County service area.
- LCOG continued to provide Technology Support Services to Curry County who experienced a cyberattack in 2022 and was invited to participate in the Curry County Cyber Security Summit in May. They shared their knowledge by giving presentations and talking with government and public agency workers about how to keep their information safe. This partnership is expanding community service reach and partnership beyond the EDD. This activity also addresses Rural Vitality.



- LCOG migrated to .GOV, which provides protection for the services LCOG provides to other agencies. Earlier this year, LCOG assisted four member sites with migration to .GOV for email and web hosting, resulting in substantial cybersecurity benefits.
- Continued to develop clear and objective code amendments for housing in Residential Areas of Lane County in response to HB 3197.
- LCOG continued to serve as consultant to update the City of Creswell's Economic Opportunities Analysis Plan with partial funding secured from the State Department of State Lands.
- Staff continued to assist the City of Springfield with its Local Wetland and Riparian Area Inventory and protection program(s), including for commercial and industrial area of North Gateway.
- Continued to fill a critical need in Junction City to provide on-site Planning Services two days a week.
- The Economic Development Practitioners lunch has been updated to better meet the needs of our regional partners. The meetings will be quarterly with additional meetings as needed.
- LCOG continued to staff the Lane Economic Committee (LEC). OCWCOG Staff are now actively attending the LEC meetings. The LEC is an advisory committee to the LCOG Board. The goal is for greater collaboration between the LEC and CWEDD Board. Two LEC Members are CWEDD Board members.
- The CWEDD Region has two Early Learning Hubs: The Lane Early Learning Alliance and the Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties. Onward Eugene hired a Childcare Sector Strategist for the Lane County area. The role is focused on finding solutions to the childcare crisis in Lane County and is funded in part by United Way of Lane County.
- Staff participate in a Childcare working group for Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties focused on economic development and workforce. Goals include Regional Collaboration, Childcare Needs Messaging, Affordable Care, and Recruitment/Retention of Workforce. The group continues to monitor available grants in which to apply. Childcare affordability and availability continue to impact economic development in our region and are key components of workforce support.
- CWEDD is unique, in that it is comprised of three different Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), which are: Willamette Workforce Partnership (Linn County), Northwest Oregon Works (Benton and Lincoln Counties), and Lane Workforce Partnership (Lane County). Staff continue to engage with the WIBs in our region to discuss and support workforce efforts.
- Staff provided ongoing support to member communities to evaluate opportunities for EDA funding. Several grants for the Build Back Better (BBB) grant opportunity included our region. The Mass Timber project was awarded Phase II funding. The University of



Oregon and Oregon State University are in our region and are key stakeholders in the effort. Staff will continue to inform the region about the Mass Timber effort and attend stakeholder meetings. This also addresses regional collaboration and sector diversification through business development.

- Began work under the \$8.5 million for broadband deployment to Lane County residents through the Oregon Broadband Office's first of two major deployment programs, the Broadband Deployment Program. This project will bring affordable and reliable, high-speed internet access to more than 1,900 homes across rural Lane County and parts of rural Douglas County. A total of 11 project sub-areas are slated for funding across both counties. Of the locations, 1,485 are currently unserved by "broadband" (i.e. they have no service, or service below 25 Mbps upload and 3 Mbps download).

Task 5: Expand Strategic Cross Sector Partnerships – Ongoing

- Staff continued to provide administrative support for the Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC). Staff invited Regional Solutions Staff to present about potential legislative updates related to wetlands. Staff submitted a Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) grant for Phase II of a business plan to create a public wetlands bank. Unfortunately, the grant was not awarded.
- Staff are discussing the impact of upcoming transportation projects with Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO), Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), and Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation (CWACT) on economic development in the region.
- The Mass Timber project was awarded Phase II Build Back Better (BBB) funding. The University of Oregon and Oregon State University are in our region and are key stakeholders in the effort. Staff will continue to inform the region about the Mass Timber effort and attend stakeholder meetings. Staff hosted a Mass Timber Webinar on September 11, 2025 that included Timberlab and Frerres Timber from industry, Oregon State University from academia and DLCD to discuss code language.
- Oregon Economic Development Association Professional Development Presentation for New Practitioners, Grants 101 on April 2, 2025.

Task 6: Update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – Ongoing

- Staff actively worked on the CEDS update and the CWEDD Board adopted the 2025-2030 CEDS at the September 11, 2025 meeting. This work included a background data update working with the Oregon Employment Department (OED), a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) chapter update, three Strategy Committee meetings, review at multiple board meetings, and a 30-day public comment period.



- Staff hosted a regional economic development meeting on October 29th at the Benton County Fairgrounds. This included presentations on EDA grants, childcare, an economic state of the region, Regional Solutions Teams (RST), and workforce partners. This event officially kicked off the CEDS update process.

Task 7: Enhance Regional Visibility – Ongoing

- The conversations around enhancing regional visibility are ongoing.
- Regular monthly or bi-monthly emails have been sent to District partner agencies and interested parties containing economic development news updates, events, and funding opportunities.
- Staff continued to write letters of support for regional projects. In addition, Staff created and the CWEDD Board approved letter of support guidelines to develop a process for approving letters.
- Staff are working with the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County to complete a CEDS and CWEDD video. This will help bring visibility to the region and the importance of the CEDS.

Task 8: Maintain Partnerships (See Task 4 Build Partnerships)

- See Task 4 Above.

Task 9: Identify and Leverage Funding Sources to Increase Resiliency (Priority Area 3: Infrastructure Resiliency)

- Staff are starting discussions on developing a prioritized list of regional needs.
- Continued to support large infrastructure projects, particularly those of regional significance.
- The Grant Administration Specialist continues to help identify and leverage funding sources. The position provides capacity support to cities in our region to apply for grant funding opportunities. For smaller jurisdiction, CWEDD staff can also provide grant administration and project management services.
- Staff worked with the Institute for Policy Research and Engagement (IPRE) to develop metrics research. Staff continues to discuss how to evaluate resiliency in the region.
- The conversations around identifying and leveraging funding sources to increase resiliency are ongoing.
- Staff continues to work on implementing the 2022 EPA Brownfields Coalition grant for Linn and Benton counties. The focus sites include a downtown Albany site, a mill site in Lebanon, a commercial site in Tangent, and a site in South Corvallis. A site in Sweet Home's downtown was recently added. Staff continued outreach to find additional sites in the region.



- Staff supported the City of Lebanon with Grant Prospecting and a Grant Street Waterline Replacement Abstract. Staff meet monthly with the city.
- Staff supported the City of Lebanon with a Housing Support Infrastructure Fund (HISF) grant that was awarded to complete a transportation and sewer infrastructure analysis for future housing on a 50 acre property in the city.
- Staff supported the City of Philomath with an Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (EITPP) Energy Resiliency Grant Application.
- Continued to work with the SVMC RS Team to assist the City of Sodaville to improve access to clean drinking water. Assisted the city and secured an OHA Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Project grant of \$50,000 to conduct a water rate study.
- Supported the City of Toledo with a HISF grant to complete an infrastructure analysis on a property currently owned by ODF that may be donated to the city for housing.
- LCOG migrated to .GOV which helps protect the data and services LCOG provides to other agencies. Earlier this year, LCOG also assisted four member sites with migration to .GOV for email and web hosting, resulting in substantial cybersecurity benefits. Also Regional Collaboration and Partnerships and Infrastructure Resilience.
- Began work under the \$8.5 million for broadband deployment to Lane County residents through the Oregon Broadband Office's first of two major deployment programs, the Broadband Deployment Program. This project will bring affordable and reliable, high-speed internet access to more than 1,900 homes across rural Lane County and parts of rural Douglas County. A total of 11 project sub-areas are slated for funding across both counties. Of the locations, 1,485 are currently unserved by "broadband" (i.e. they have no service, or service below 25 Mbps upload and 3 Mbps download). Also Regional Collaboration and Partnerships and Infrastructure Resilience.
- Continued to develop clear and objective code amendments for housing in Residential Areas of Lane County in response to HB 3197.
- The LCOG Board approved the Revolving Loan Workplan for LCOG was awarded funds from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) and as a condition of the award, the LCOG board must authorize approval of the administration workplan.

Task 10: Rural Development (Priority Area 5: Rural Vitality)

- Rural Development conversations and meetings are ongoing.
- CWEDD started the implementation of HB3395 Housing Infrastructure funding. The intent of the work is to support housing development in the region.
- Staff maintains a rural partner's email list. The email list will be used to share rural updates with communities in the region.



- Staff from LCOG and OCWCOG continue to coordinate. Regional broadband and telecommunications continue to be an area of interest and concern for partners exacerbated by the pandemic and the significantly increased need for virtual communications in professional, governmental and educational sectors. The goal is to ascertain the needs, challenges, and barriers associated with rural broadband development and service within the District and secure funding for implementation of increased access.
- Staff supported the City of Philomath with a DLCD housing TA grant application that was awarded to update their housing codes in compliance with state law.
- Staff supported the City of Tangent with a Parks Planning Grant and a Parks infrastructure grant. Both grants were recently awarded.
- Began work under the \$8.5 million for broadband deployment to Lane County residents through the Oregon Broadband Office's first of two major deployment programs, the Broadband Deployment Program. This project will bring affordable and reliable, high-speed internet access to more than 1,900 homes across rural Lane County and parts of rural Douglas County. A total of 11 project sub-areas are slated for funding across both counties. Of the locations, 1,485 are currently unserved by "broadband" (i.e. they have no service, or service below 25 Mbps upload and 3 Mbps download).
- Staff continued to attend the Broadband Action Team (BAT) meetings. Currently focused on educating our counties on how to utilize the broadband maps that provide unserved/underserved areas along with cost plans for wireless, fiber, and hybrid models.
- Staff continued to coordinate with the USDA local branch on grant opportunities.
- Staff continued to work with the City of Toledo on Planning Projects through an Intergovernmental Agreement.
- Staff continued to coordinate with the Rural Economic Alliance (REAL), a rural economic partnership that includes nine cities in Linn and Benton Counties.
- Staff completed work on a Mass Timber grant from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development to conduct a professional development workshop for the construction industry that was held on September 11, 2025. The professional development workshop covered topics related to the Mass Timber manufacturing process, uses for Mass Timber in construction, building code updates and project examples from around the State of Oregon..
- Met monthly with the City of Lebanon to discuss funding needs for their wastewater treatment plant, library expansion, housing capacity and economic development.
- LCOG worked with Creswell and Emerald PUD, a primarily rural utility, to provide GIS and mapping support.



- LCOG migrated to .GOV which helps protect the data and services LCOG provides to other agencies. Earlier this year, LCOG also assisted four member sites with migration to .GOV for email and web hosting, resulting in substantial cybersecurity benefits. Also Regional Collaboration and Partnerships and Infrastructure Resilience.
- LCOG continued to develop clear and objective code amendments for housing in Residential Areas of Lane County in response to HB 3197.
- LCOG is preparing to release a new version of RLID (Regional Land Information Database – www.rlid.org). Built on a modern low-code platform, the upcoming RLID will be fully compliant with current web accessibility requirements and will deliver a streamlined, tablet-friendly interface designed for ease of use. These upgrades represent a major step forward in providing the RLID community with faster, more intuitive access to property, economic, land use and other information needed for economic development.
- In an effort to better serve seniors and adults with physical disabilities in rural Lane County, we have deployed a Mobile Outreach Services Vehicle to designated sites in rural Lane County to bring essential services directly to community members who may face challenges traveling to a S&DS's full-service location in Eugene, Cottage Grove, or Florence.



Cascades West Economic Development District

Counties of Benton • Lane • Lincoln • Linn



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 4, 2025
To: CWEDD Board
From: Justin Peterson, CED Supervisor
Re: Working Group Updates

Blue Economy Update from EDALC

Business Oregon has named RDO Christopher Frazier as the Blue Economy sector strategist. Local coastal workforce boards have re-engaged their convening around maritime blue career pathways work utilizing funding from the legislature. EDALC is a few weeks away from completion of a fishing vessel summary business plan and financial spreadsheet to aid in the decision-making process of purchasing a commercial vessel and licenses.

Broadband Action Team (BAT)

So far, 18 states have had their BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment) funding approved by the Feds (the NTIA) - Oregon's request (consisting of 27 ISP applicants) has not yet been approved. It also looks like funding for digital equity work (the funding that was on the other side of BEAD infrastructure work) is now gone at the federal level, switching the funding burden to local and statewide efforts.

BEAD award levels per CWEDD county:

Benton: \$11,388,518
 Lane: \$22,167,962
 Lincoln: \$15,525,607
 Linn: \$33,710,458

Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC)

-The CWRC recently applied for a Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) grant to fund the business plan for a regional bank. The grant was not funded. The group continues to look towards next steps to support lower wetland credit costs and streamlined permitting processes. The group next meets in January 2026.

Early Childhood Education (new appointee needed)

- No updates, new appointee needed.

Innovation Hubs

Contracts are all signed and money is flowing between Business Oregon and fiscal agent RAIN Catalysts.

County lead organizations:

Benton & Linn counties: RAIN Catalysts

Lane County: Collaborative EDO

Lincoln County: Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC)

Other lead partner: Latino Founders

On October 3rd, CWIH held an informational event in Benton County for "front door" economic support organizations entitled "Fueling Growth: How Service Providers Can Support Innovation-Based Business." EDALC will be hosting a similar event on January 27th in Lincoln County - Lane County will also host an event early in 2026.

The CW Innovation Hub hired Dr. Mary Phillips as the Hub's Partnership Manager, who started on December 1. Mary previously served as the Director for Research Development for OSU as well as working on IP licensing for both OSU and OHSU.

Lane Economic Committee (LEC)

October 13, 2025

-Sandra Easdale, Loan Program Manager presented the 2025-2026 Loan Advisory Committee (LAC) nominees for membership. The LCOG Board approved the slate of nominees and the new Chair at their September 25, 2025, meeting based on the assumption that the nominations are approved by Lane Economic Committee (LEC). Motion was made, seconded and approved by LEC members for new LAC membership and Chair.

LAC Members:

- Patty Schulz, Banner Bank-Banking
- Eric Lind, SBDC-At Large-Lane County
- Jason Harris (Chair), Lane County, Lane County Representative
- Troy Reichenberger, Oregon Pacific Bank-Banking
- Kevin Riley, First Interstate Bank-Banking
- Steve Recca, Fern Ridge Library Board Member-Elected Official/At Large
- Michael Wisth, LCOG-LCOG Employee

-Sandra Easdale, Loan Program Manager presented the EDA Revolving Loan Fund Work Plan. The LCOG Board approved the Work Plan at their September 25, 2025, meeting based on the assumption that the nominations are approved by Lane Economic Committee (LEC). Motion was made, seconded and approved by LEC members for new EDA Revolving Loan Fund Work Plan.

Major Updates to Plan

- Updated the Economic Adjustment Program Overview with current information.
- Updated the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) dates to 2025-2030 (which was recently adopted).
- Updated language, where required, for any new Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) rules per EDA.
- Servicing will be managed in conjunction with Third Party Entity, CCD Business Development Corp.
- Added a monthly collection fee per payment processing.
- Increased the Cost Per Job.

-Sandra Easdale, Loan Program Manager updated members regarding the 2025-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).

-On September 11, 2025, the Board for the Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) adopted the 2025 – 2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CWEDD consists of Benton, Lane, Linn, Lincoln Counties. The CWEDD Board and our economic development partners play lead roles in defining regional community and economic development issues, opportunities, vision, goals, and work programs through the creation of the CEDS.

-The purpose of a CEDS is to serve as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, identifying investment priorities, and funding sources and sets the vision and strategy for the next five-year implementation cycle. The CEDS provides a vehicle for individuals, organizations, local governments, institutes of learning, and private industry to engage in a meaningful conversation and debate about what capacity building efforts would best serve economic development in the region.

Rural Economic Alliance (REAL)

No updates provided before meeting.



Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) Board 2026 Meeting Dates

Microsoft Teams Information:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 254 291 114 930 4

Passcode: GL2NZ34k

Dial in by phone

[+1 872-242-8088,,572135787#](#)

Phone conference ID: 572 135 787#

Meets quarterly on the
2nd Thursday of the Month
9:00 – 11:00 am

March 12 - Lane
June 11 - Lincoln
September 10 – Benton
December 10 - Linn

(Dates may be cancelled and/or rescheduled
based on agenda content and holidays)