



Board Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2026

9:00 am – 11:00 am

IN PERSON LOCATION:

**LCOG Buford Conference Room (5th floor)
859 Willamette St.
Eugene OR 97401
Lane County**

or

Join Virtually via Teams

TEAMS Meeting by clicking [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 254 291 114 930 4

Passcode: GL2NZ34k

Mobile 1 Click Number:

[+ 1 872-242-8088](tel:+18722428088)

Phone Conference ID: 572 135 787#

Contact: Justin Peterson (jpeterson@ocwcog.org)

AGENDA

- | | | | |
|----|------|---|------------------------------|
| 1. | 9:00 | Call to Order & Agenda Review
<i>Welcome to Lane County!</i> | Chair, Paul Schuytema |
| 2. | 9:05 | Roll Call | Staff |
| 3. | 9:10 | Public Comment | Chair |
| 4. | 9:12 | CWEDD Board Membership (Handout) & Election of Officers
(Attachment A pg. 04 and Attachment B pg. 08)
See attached bylaws for discussion of membership and election of officers.

ACTION: Election of Chair and Vice Chair | Staff |
| 5. | 9:15 | CWEDD Executive Committee Appointment(s)
(Attachment C pg. 10)
New CWEDD Executive Appointments may be required based on the Officer appointments.

ACTION: Election of Executive Committee | Staff |
| 6. | 9:18 | Minutes of December 11, 2025, Meeting
(Attachment D pg. 11)

ACTION: Approval of Minutes | Chair |

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Sign language, interpreter services or other accommodations can also be provided by contacting Ashlyn Muzechenko at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Ashlyn can be reached at 541-812-2002 (TTY/TTD 711) or amuzechenko@ocwcog.org.

7. 9:20 **Strategic Discussion about Priority Area 2 and CWEDD Board Goals** ([Attachment E-1 pg. 35](#) and [Attachment E-2 pg. 50](#)) Staff
- Discussion around Priority Area 2 - Call to Action – *please review attachment prior to the meeting*
 - Regional Meeting – Fall – Location? Goals?
- ACTION:** Discussion
8. 9:50 **Prosperity Roadmap Presentation** ([Attachment F pg. 57](#)) Courtney Flathers, Regional Solutions
Presentation regarding the Prosperity Roadmap.
- ACTION:** Discussion
9. 10:20 **LCOG Broadband** Staff, Jacob Callister
Update on Lane County Broadband projects.
- ACTION:** Discussion
10. 10:45 **Discussion: CEDS Working Groups (Open time for any questions)** ([Attachment G pg. 65](#)) Chair/ Staff, Justin Peterson
- *Innovation Hubs*
 - *Broadband Action Team (BAT)*
 - *Blue Economy Update from EDALC*
 - *Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC)*
 - *Early Childhood Education (new appointee needed)*
 - *Rural Economic Alliance (REAL)*
 - *Lane Economic Committee (LEC)*
 - *Other workgroup updates?*
11. 10:50 **Other Business (if time allows)** Chair/Staff
- *CEDS/CWEDD Marketing Video [Link](#)*
 - *Regionally Significant Updates – by County (Examples –a large manufacturing company announced a new site, other board meetings you attend)*
 - *EDA Planning Grant Update*
 - *2026 Meeting Schedule ([Attachment H pg. 68](#))*
 - *Topics for 2026 meetings?*
12. 11:00 **Adjournment** Chair
Next Meeting: June 11, 2026, in Lincoln County. See you all on the coast!

OCWCOG Members	Title	Jurisdiction	Attendance
Nancy Wyse	Commissioner	Benton County	
Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	
Alex Johnson II	Mayor	City of Albany	
Sherrie Sprenger	Commissioner	Linn County	
Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	
Rick Booth	Mayor	City of Waldport	
Paul Schuytema	Executive Director	EDALC	
Pam Barlow-Lind	Planning Director	CTSI	
Ron Whitlatch	City Manager	City of Lebanon	
John Pascone	President	LEDG	
Chris Workman	City Manager	City of Philomath	
Chris Jacobs	ED Manager	City of Corvallis	
Lane Members	Title	Jurisdiction	Attendance
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.

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 below.
- 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 each from Benton, Lincoln, and Linn counties.
 - Six (6) members shall be representatives of a city, county, or tribal government with two (2) each from Benton, Lincoln, and Linn counties.
 - 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 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

Paul Egbert
Paul Egbert (Mar 3, 2026 08:35:07 PST)


Brenda Lee Moore (Mar 2, 2026 13:28:28 PST)

03/03/2026
Date

03/02/2026
Date

ATTEST:

CWEDD Board Chairmanship History

**No noted Chair and Vice Chair prior to 2016.*

2016 Chair – Mayor Sharon Konopa Vice Chair – Susy Lacer	2017 Chair – Mayor Sharon Konopa Vice Chair – Susy Lacer
2018 Chair – Councilor Dann Cutter Vice Chair – Rob Scoggin	2019 Chair – Mayor Dann Cutter Vice Chair – Rob Scoggin
2020 Chair – Commissioner Pat Malone Vice Chair – Greg James	2021 Chair – Heather Buch Vice Chair – Jim Lepin
2022 Chair – Heather Buch Vice Chair – Paul Schuytema/ Jim Lepin	2023 Chair – Heather Buch Vice Chair - Paul Schuytema
2024 Chair – Paul Schuytema Vice Chair – Councilor Greg Ervin	2025 Chair – Paul Schuytema Vice Chair – Councilor Greg Ervin
2026 Chair – Pending Vice Chair – Pending	2027

II. OFFICERS

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

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- (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.

2025 CWEDD Executive Committee

First	Last	Title	Representing
Greg	Ervin	Councilor	Cottage Grove
Ron	Whitlatch	City Manager	Lebanon
Paul	Schuytema	Executive Director	EDALC
Nancy	Wyse	Commissioner	Benton County
Bryan	Cutchen	Mayor	Oakridge

CWEDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Hybrid Meeting: IN PERSON at Albany OCWCOG Conference Room

1400 Queen Ave SE, Albany, Oregon 97322 or Virtual Via Microsoft Teams Technologies

OCWCOG Members	Title	Jurisdiction	Attendance
Nancy Wyse	Commissioner	Benton County	No
Claire Hall	Commissioner	Lincoln County	No
PENDING	PENDING	Benton County At Large	VACANT
Alex Johnson II	Mayor	City of Albany	Sophie Adams
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
Ron Whitlatch	City Councilor	City of Lebanon	Yes
John Pascone	President	LEDG	Yes
Pam Barlow-Lind	Tribal Planner	CTSI	Ann Lewis
Christopher Jacobs	Economic Development Manager	Corvallis/Benton County Economic Development	Yes
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	No
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 Director Matt Lehman, LCOG Loan Manager Sandra Easdale, Brenda Moore LCOG Executive Director, OCWCOG Lead Planner Corum Ketchum, OCWCOG CED Executive Assistant Ashlyn Muzechenko.

Guests: Jason Harris, Courtney Flathers, Susan Patterson, Lily Bender, Logan Garner, Britt Hoskins.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION / CONCLUSION
<p>1. Call to Order & Agenda Review</p>	<p>The Chair, Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County Director, Paul Schuytema, called the December 11, 2025, CWEDD Board meeting to order at 9:03 am.</p> <p>Chair Schuytema welcomed all in attendance to Linn County.</p> <p>There were no changes to the agenda.</p>	<p>The Meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by the Chair, EDALC Director Paul Schuytema.</p>
<p>2. Welcome and Roll Call</p>	<p>CED Supervisor Justin Peterson conducted a rollcall of the CWEDD Board members and guests in attendance.</p>	<p>Roll call was conducted by Justin Peterson</p>
<p>3. Public Comment</p>	<p>There were no public comments made to the CWEDD Board of Directors.</p>	<p>There were no public comments.</p>
<p>4. Minutes of September 11, 2025, Meeting (Attachment A)</p> <p>Action: Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>Councilor Greg Ervin moved to approve the minutes for the September 11, 2025, CWEDD Board Meeting. Christopher Jacobs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Sophie Adams voted in favor. Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger voted in favor. Paul Schuytema voted in favor. Chris Workman voted in favor. Councilor Ron Whitlatch voted in favor. John Pascone voted in favor. Mayor Bryan Cutchen voted in favor. Council Randy Groves voted in favor. Steve Recca voted in favor.</p>	<p>Councilor Greg Ervin moved to approve the minutes for the September 11, 2025, CWEDD Board Meeting. Christopher Jacobs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.</p>

	<p>Pete Knox voted in favor. Councilor Greg Ervin voted in favor. Matt Michel voted in favor. Christopher Jacobs voted in favor. There were no votes against.</p>	
<p>5. CWEDD Board Membership Discussion Continued</p>	<p>Peterson shared an update on the CWEDD Board Membership Discussion and CWEDD Bylaws. There were initial proposed updates at the last CWEDD Board Meeting. The highlights of the updates include the following:</p> <div data-bbox="548 548 1593 620" style="background-color: #1a3d54; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>BYLAW UPDATES</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) membership shall include twelve (12) members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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). <p>Peterson spoke to provide background on the request for membership changes and the changes to the CWEDD Bylaws and Articles of Agreement.</p> <p>This year has been one with strong attendance, and these changes will be a step to increase regional engagement throughout the CWEDD Service Area.</p>	<p>Christopher Jacobs moved to approve the proposed membership updates to the bylaws and articles of agreement. Randy Groves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>The CWEDD Board approved of the membership changes. Now, The Articles of Agreement and Bylaws will be reviewed by the LCOG and OCWCOG Boards in 2026 for final approval.</p>

	<p>Christopher Jacobs moved to approve the proposed membership updates to the bylaws and articles of agreement. Randy Groves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Sophie Adams voted in favor. Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger voted in favor. Paul Schuytema voted in favor. Chris Workman voted in favor. Councilor Ron Whitlatch voted in favor. John Pascone voted in favor. Mayor Bryan Cutchen voted in favor. Council Randy Groves voted in favor. Steve Recca voted in favor. Pete Knox voted in favor. Councilor Greg Ervin voted in favor. Matt Michel voted in favor. Christopher Jacobs voted in favor. There were no votes against.</p> <p>The CWEDD Board approved of the membership changes. Now, The Articles of Agreement and Bylaws will be reviewed by the LCOG and OCWCOG Boards in 2026 for final approval.</p>	
<p>6. Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE)</p>	<p>Christopher Jacobs shared the Benton County Board of Commissioners approved their CPACE program in May 2025. This was 6 months of collaboration between multiple agencies in the county.</p> <p>This is a model program that has been used in many counties in Oregon and Washington. CPACE is a real estate finance program that incentives clean energy, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and seismic systems.</p> <p>The primary goal is to promote resilience and sustainability of the building</p>	

environment. It acts like an assessment. A property lien is recorded, and a loan is paid back to a lender overtime.

All types of for-profit and non-profit commercial properties are eligible including office, industrial, agriculture, hotels, multi-family housing, affordable housing, and mixed use developments.

Jacobs shared the following as the process for how CPACE Works:

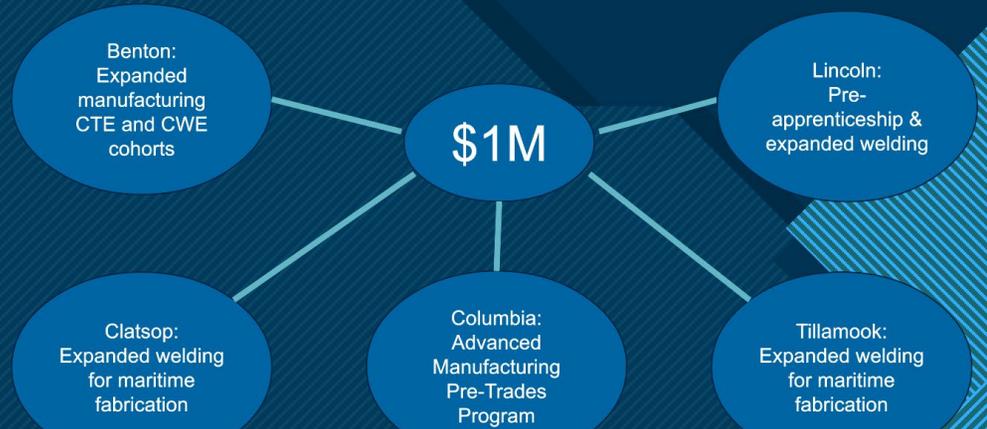
How does it work?

1. The Property Owner and the Capital Provider prepare the Project Application, consisting of Project Application, Project Application Checklist, and all supporting documents
2. The County Administrator's Office or designee will have 10 business days (not including the day the application was submitted) to review and approve, conditionally approval, or disapprove of the Project Application.
3. The County application review process is confined to confirming that the Project Application is complete, and all attachments conform to these guidelines. All risk and liability is borne by the property owner and capital provider. The County Administrator's Office or designee will review the Project Application for proof of compliance with the requirements of the CPACE Act and CPACE Ordinance that are necessary for the County to approve the Project Application and execute the applicable documents for the proposed CPACE transaction.
4. Upon receipt of approval, the Capital Provider will pay the CPACE program fee equal to 1% of the amount financed by the Property Owner, or a minimum of \$2,500 and capped at a total of no more than \$15,000 to the County Administrative Services department. At closing, the County will record the Notice of Benefit and CPACE Lien document in the Office of the Recorder for the County.

	<p>The benefits of the CPACE program include up to 100% long-term finance. Many owners lack the capital to complete efficiency and seismic improvements. All Direct and indirect costs incidental to the qualified improvements can be wrapped into CPACE funding.</p> <p>CPACE programs are transferrable upon sale, and include cash benefits.</p> <p>Qualified improvements means a permanent improvement affixed to the real property that must meet at least one of these criteria.</p> <p>There are two applications in the works for Benton County, and it's been a pain-free process working with folks who are interested in the program.</p> <p>Jacobs added this is eligible for anyone in Benton County .</p> <p>Matt Lehman inquired as to where the funding is coming from.</p> <p>Jacobs answered the funding is from any lender.</p> <p>Ann Lewis noted passing these costs onto a tenant may not be a positive as it's already hard enough to get tenants into properties as it is.</p> <p>Jacobs noted insurance could have potential points of success to this point. The county does not get involved on the agreements between property owners and their tenants as no one is obligated to be involved in this program.</p> <p>Chair Schuytema noted he may circle back off line to discuss this program in Lincoln County and what the possibility looks like.</p>	
<p>7. Northwest Oregon Works – Youth</p>	<p>Logan Garner shared his presentation on the Northwest Oregon Works Youth Programs which is the local workforce development board for</p>	

<p>Programs</p>	<p>Clatsop, Columbia, Benton, Lincoln, and Tillamook.</p> <p>The group is focused on teens and young adults who are entering the workforce or soon to be entering the workforce.</p> <p>The Oregon Youth employment Program (2025-2027) covers Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Lincoln, and Benton Counties. It looks at college and career readiness training, internships and Cooperative Work Experience wages, individual education/wrap around, and CTE Tuition Supports.</p> <p>Most of these funds are direct service funds directly to the youth. There are a few grants from youth development Oregon which supports operation costs. Such as CED Program/Operations, ED. Supports and Incentives, and Wraparound/Basic needs support.</p> <p>The Reengagement Collaborative grant is geared just towards Lincoln County in partnership with Oregon Coast Community College. This program is on their second cohort. The pre apprenticeship program was starting up, and were looking to hire a coordinator who would finish building the curriculum and be the advisor for these students. This was done using the grant funds and this budget cycle was renewed to cover this position for another two years.</p> <p>The Future Ready Oregon Grant is the largest in NorthWest Oregon works and covers the following in all five counties:</p>	
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Future Ready Oregon Manufacturing Grant(2024-2026)



Garner noted some of this funding was held back to support the counties and their unforeseen needs. The NW Regional education services district. They wanted to do an industry alignment survey to look at the CTE option and compare to local employers and align to see where the gaps are in terms of service and employer need and do a train the trainer model for the CTE instructors across the region to better meet employer needs.

Councilor Ervin asked for trends in hiring folks who have gone through this program.

Garner answered, the sectors that are a priority for this region are transportation, healthcare, maritime, and lesiure and hospitality which focused on ruraul costal communities. Maritime is mostly related with manufacturing as it relates most of the time with welding.

8. LBCC Small Business

Britt Hoskins shared her presentation on the Small Business Development Center at Linn-Benton Community College.

Development Center (SDBC)

The SDBC helps small businesses start, learn, grow, and thrive. There are 17 SDBC's in Oregon.

Hoskins noted they meet with people across the two counties and are in the process of accreditation.

The SDBC does a variety of items including no cost small business advising. Which is individualized, strategic, and confidential. They also provided small business classes, workshops, panels, events, and training.

They help businesses across the business stages from ideas, launch, expansion, renewal, and exit.

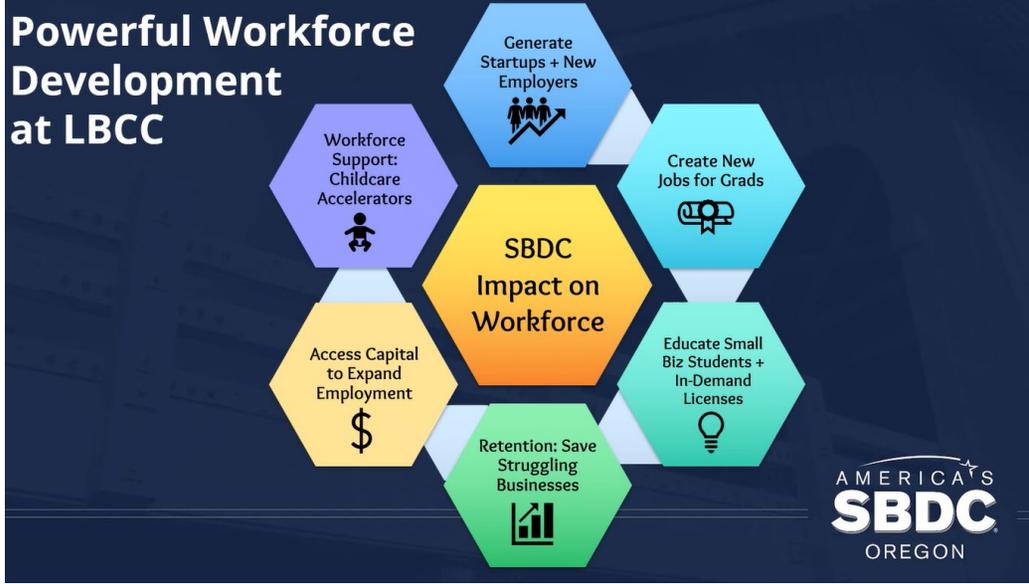
Specialized Services & Certificates

- 2025 Certificates**
 - AI for Business
 - Business Sale/Succession
 - Cybersecurity
- State-Wide Services**
 - Capital Access Team
 - Manufacturing Advising Team
 - Market Research Institute
 - Global Trade Center
- Pre-Licensure**
 - Childcare Biz Accelerators
 - Real Estate Broker
 - Property Manager
 - CCB: Construction/Contractor

AMERICA'S
SBDC
OREGON

The following shows how the SDBC fits into the broader business environment:

Powerful Workforce Development at LBCC



The SBDC partners with multiple partners which a few are shown below:
Some Example SBDC Partners...

We are a vibrant and active community partner, amplifying the economic priorities of the region!



Chambers of Commerce	City/State/County/Federal Government
Rural Economic Alliance (REAL)	Cascade West Council of Governments/CWEDD
Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network (RAIN)	Willamette Innovators Network (WIN)
Spanish Organizations: ANDARES, Casa Latinos Unidos, Juntos	Business Oregon, Small Business Administration, DAS, Health Department, ODA & Others
Oregon Employment Dept/WorkSource	School Systems, Libraries
Oregon State University/OSU Advantage Accelerator	Referral Partners: Bookkeepers, Lawyers, CPAs
Downtown Associations, Farmers Markets	LBCC Programs: Family Connections, Adult Basic Skills, Business, GED, etc.
Banks, Credit Unions, Financial Partners	Workforce Boards, Economic Dev Agencies



Across English and Spanish services, from the past year:

- **685 total small businesses students** served through 88 classes, workshops, panels, and SBDC talks.
- **257 advising clients served** through 528 hours of individual advising.
- **11 businesses started**, 21 jobs created, 224 jobs retained/supported.
- **\$220,603 in capital** obtained by local small businesses.

However, these numbers are underreported, as the SBDC must have all those who received service sign a form noting they did in order to be counted in their number. SBDC Staff noted it has been difficult to catch people to sign the form on the way out.

For Spanish advising in 2025:

- 6 new Latine businesses started!
- 98 attendees at Spanish classes and events.
- 66 Spanish-speaking small businesses advised.
- \$132,049 new capital obtained by Latine businesses.

One of the main goals for 2026 will be attaining funding to continue to support the different programs especially for Spanish advising and support.

How can we support the SBDC:

How We Can Support Each Other

- ✓ Refer small businesses and community partners to us.
- ✓ We can share data/numbers on small businesses served if helpful.
- ✓ Connect us to grants/funding opportunities.
- ✓ Factor us into workforce strategies in the region.
- ✓ Invite us to speak at events or teach as appropriate.
- ✓ Keep us informed of programs, grants, small business regulations, and other announcements so we can share them with small businesses.
- ✓ Partner with us on lending/funding (Didi has been a speaker for us)!



April Cutting, Wild Yeast Bakery, Corvallis



Chair Schuytema noted in this EDD, there are strong SDBC. One question is it seems like across the state the SDBC's are at different levels of being resourced, what is the difference between all different branches?

Hoskins answered the closures of a couple have been circumstantial. These haven't been funding, but sometimes it is the host institution. All of the centers have to scarp for funding as they are not funded to a full extent.

Lewis inquired how can someone get a list of other SDBC's around the state as there are tribal members that live all across oregon.

Hoskins answered the Oregon SDBC wesbite will have a map [Home - Oregon Small Business Development Center Network](#). And <https://oregonsbdc.org/find-your-center/>.

<p>9. CWEDD Annual Report Priorities Conversation</p>	<p>Peterson shared a presentation covering the full annual report and regional priorities. The CWEDD Board adopted the 2025-2030 CEDS at the September 11th Board Meeting. The next step will be to focus on implementation. Staff will also continue to work with the CWEDD Board to Develop work groups.</p> <p>Staff will also be working on creating additional CEDS-related documents to improve communication and add clarity such as the executive summary and two-page summary.</p> <p>Work is ongoing with partners and practitioners across the district to implement strategies. Many of these goals and activities identified in the CEDS are implemented at the local level. Staff will work to communicate with economic development practitioners in the region and support local economic development work.</p> <p>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 those.</p> <p>Ketchum shared specifically on the CEDS priority areas and the work that was identified in the CEDS.</p>	
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KEY LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND FEDERAL PRIORITIES

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

Ketchum shared a focus on the priority area number one – Regional Collaboration and Partnerships. Ketchum also shared a key on how to understand the approach, description, and CWEDD’s role vs. partner’s roles.

Priority Area 1 Regional Collaboration & Partnerships

#	Approach	Recommended Lead	Key Partners
1	Build relationships and collaboration through project-based regional initiatives.	CWEDD	Leaders in the private, public, education, healthcare, and nonprofit sectors
2	Integrate the priorities captured in the CEDS into existing local- and regional-scale initiatives.	CWEDD	City and County administrators
3	Support the economic recovery of communities impacted by wildfires or other natural disasters.	CWEDD	Private industry, housing non-profits/developers

Description: A regional economic development strategy is most effective when it considers and incorporates the interests and strengths of all actors in the region. By leveraging the strengths and capabilities of each county and aligning district members towards a singular economic vision, the region can become more prosperous, resilient, and cohesive.

CWEDD's Role: As a regional coordinating body, the District is committed to advancing sustainable economic growth across Linn, Benton, Lane, and Lincoln Counties. Over the next five years, the District will actively support and provide guidance to cross-regional/cross-functional teams working on CEDS projects, promote initiatives that foster innovation and job creation, and strengthen the region's economic resilience. Through strategic partnerships, stakeholder engagement, measurable goal-setting, and structured guidance, the District will enhance the region's competitiveness and long-term economic vitality.



Regional Collaboration & Partnerships Approach 1

Build relationships and collaboration through project-based regional initiatives that leverage strengths into economic growth for the region.

Implementation Strategies

- Convene economic development practitioners from across the region quarterly or semi-annually to brainstorm, revise, and prioritize a list of regionally significant projects to leverage with EDA-based opportunities for successful individual and multijurisdictional projects.
- Catalog and promote successful economic development projects and/or projects that were rewarded with federal funding.
- Align economic development initiatives with the region's economic comparative advantages (which are the unique aspects of this region compared to other places in the country). These include livability and quality of life, university centers, fertile agricultural lands, timber, and maritime economies.
- Link similar projects in the region when forming proposals for state and federal funding to more efficiently fund and spend economic development dollars.
- Leverage state and federal programs by utilizing funding and technical assistance from organizations like Business Oregon, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), and the Regional Solutions Team to support multi-jurisdictional projects.
- Support business networks by encouraging partnerships between Small Business Development Centers, chambers of commerce, small businesses, and government.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Number of participating organizations, project lists that come out of these conversations, and amount of funding leveraged.	Yearly	CWEDD	CWEDD

Jacobs inquired if thought was given towards relationships with state

	<p>elected officials and political appropriation and how to manage relationships with legislatures and lobbying to help communities and their funding priorities.</p> <p>Lehman answered because we are hosted in the COG, staff have strict rules in regards to Lobbying and efforts around those lines. It needs to be explored of what we can and cannot do as we are supposed to be neutral on these types of programs.</p> <p>Jacobs noted that maintaining the legislative relationships is an important part of supporting the communities.</p> <p>Chair Schuytema noted one of the things as an economic development district is to share information and knowledge of what is going on and what the plan is. Being more intentional for sharing materials and having conversations with invitations to these and regional meetings so those who can lobby for the funding are armed with the tools needed to be more effective.</p>	
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Regional Collaboration & Partnerships Approach 2

Integrate the priorities captured in the CEDS into existing local- and regional-scale initiatives.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Economic development practitioners who are familiar with the CEDS should engage colleagues who are new to the region or the CEDS in a CEDS overview/onboarding process.
- b) City and County economic development staff should deliver an annual CEDS overview and update to elected officials.
- c) Connect the CEDS with local and regional initiatives or projects by working with membership to link their projects to the approaches and priorities listed in this document.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Number of local CEDS presentations given and number of successful EDA grant applications.	Yearly	CWEDD	CWEDD

Ketchum noted this communication piece follows closely to approach two in the regional collaboration and partnerships.

The group discussed setting up a working group to take advantage of the communication channel and share further information about the CEDS.



Regional Collaboration & Partnerships Approach 3

Support the economic recovery of communities impacted by wildfires or other natural disasters.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Proactively identify and apply for federal, state, and philanthropic recovery funding that supports both immediate relief and long-term redevelopment.
- b) Partner with grassroots community recovery teams and local governments to identify evolving needs, coordinate recovery planning, and implement localized solutions.
- c) Catalog and promote vacant, underutilized, or disaster-impacted properties for redevelopment, working with public and private partners to reduce barriers to reuse.
- d) Assist housing efforts for displaced or affected residents, including support for transitional housing, modular or manufactured housing options, and the rehabilitation of salvageable structures.
- e) Prioritize business retention and expansion services in disaster-impacted communities, including access to capital, technical assistance, and succession planning.
- f) Support the assessment and improvement of local infrastructure resilience to reduce vulnerability to future disasters.
- g) Collaborate with workforce boards and training institutions to provide re-skilling, credentialing, and job placement programs aligned with recovery-related industries.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Employment levels in affected areas, and money allocated to affected communities.	Yearly	CWEDD	CWEDD

Jason Harris offered perspective touching upon approaches one and two. There is an initiative to cover our region that isn't in the CEDS, but it addresses multiple approaches and implementation strategies. The Southern Willamette Valley Innovation Corridor (SWVIC) is being started up by both Universities in the CWEDD Region. This new initiative is rolling out now and is in alignment with the CEDS's priorities.

Follow up on these approaches can be sent via email to Corum cketchum@ocwcoq.org and Justin jpeterson@ocwcoq.org.

10. Discussion: CEDS Working Groups (Open time for any updates)

Innovation Hubs –
 Chair Schuytema shared the innovation hub update is listed in the meeting agenda packet as follows: Contracts are all signed and money is flowing between Business Oregon and fiscal agent RAIN Catalysts.

 County lead organizations:
 Benton & Linn counties: RAIN Catalysts

	<p>Lane County: Collaborative EDO Lincoln County: Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC)</p> <p>Other lead partner: Latino Founders</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Blue Economy –</i> Chair Schuytema noted the Blue Economy update is in the meeting packet and can be read as follows: 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 commercial vessels and licenses.</p> <p><i>Broadband Action Team (BAT) –</i> Chair Schuytema shared one thing to bring into focus, the federal agency that is currently reviewing Oregon's BEADS application is thinking how to implement low earth orbit satellites specifically satellite into this equation. 46% of broadband serviceable locations will be slated to be served by Starlink. The rest of the update in the meeting agenda packet states as</p>	
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follows: 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) –

Peterson shared the update in the meeting packet; The focus is on wetlands and how to lower wetland cost and streamline the permitting process. The rest of the update from the meeting agenda packet reads as follows: 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 –

Currently there is no lead on this working group. If there are members who would like to volunteer, please reach out to Justin at jpeter@ocwcog.org.

Rural Economic Alliance (REAL) –

There were no updates provided during the meeting or prior to the meeting on this working group.

Lane Economic Committee (LEC) –

The following was provided in the meeting agenda packet as the Lane Economic Committee's updates: 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 Wisht, 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.

	<p>-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.</p> <p>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 setting 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.</p> <p><i>Other Regionally Significant Updates –</i> John Pascone in Millersburg shared Timber lab will be employing 75 jobs, Ball manufacturing also in Millersburg will be bringing on around 100 jobs as well.</p> <p>Sophie Adams shared for Albany, Valliscor is a chemical manufacturing company that spun out of Corvallis in OSU has been developing technology for the semiconductor industry. They purchased property in Albany for a factory with 40 initial family wage jobs and expanding in</p>	
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	<p>phases to hire up to 150. The city provided 500,000 worth of infrastructure funding to help keep them in Linn County.</p> <p>Chair Schuytema shared Rouge Brewing shut their doors which was unfortunately a long time coming and EDALC is working with business Oregon and port of Newport to assist and move forward. Additionally, Newport is struggling with a potential ICE detention facility coming to Newport. The coast guard helicopter was relocated without due process and was since ordered back. The next big update will come from the city of Newport next Monday.</p> <p>Jason Harris for Lane County OEN held their annual gathering and awards celebration recently and there were two Eugene medical device start-ups. One received the statewide award and the other was one of four finalists. Secondly, the county had the second annual grant program close out, 7 grants were awarded to 6 non-profits, one of which was awarded to the city of Creswell.</p> <p>Courtney Flathers shared: Governor announced the Oregon Prosperity Roadmap last week. I anticipate the Prosperity Officer and Prosperity Council membership will be announced before the end of the year. Governor's office will have a bill in the 2026 session as well. More here: https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/Oregon's Prosperity Roadmap December 2025.pdf</p> <p>Councilor Ervin shared that Cottage Grove invites all to their ribbon cutting ceremony for two-way Mainstreet.</p> <p>The Lane County meeting will be next in March 2026; the rest of the 2026 meeting schedules were listed in the packet as well.</p>	
11. Other Business:	CEDS/CWEDD Marketing Video Update	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jurisdictional Updates • Mass Timber Webinar • Topics for December CWEDD Board Meeting • Executive Committee Updates 	<p>The CWEDD Board approved of the marketing video and felt it is a great step forward to share the message out. The EDALC Team put this video together with Sarah Buddingh logging well over 1,000 miles to travel around the region to capture videos and host interviews.</p> <p>Next Regional Meeting Discussion Peterson noted a regional meeting is being looked at by staff for fall of 2025. More to come will be available. If there is someone who wants to host, or join events – please reach out to Jpeterson@ocwcog.org and amuzechenko@ocwcog.org.</p> <p>2026 Meeting Schedules Peterson shared the 2026 meeting schedules were in the meeting packet and the first meeting of 2026 will be in March and hosted in Lane County with the location still to be determined.</p> <p>Topics for 2026 Meetings Members were asked to send topics for the 2026 calendar year to jpeterson@ocwcog.org.</p>	
<p>12. Adjournment</p>	<p><i>Next Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2026, in Lane County. The in-person meeting location is still being determined.</i></p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned by Chair Paul Schuytema at 11:03 am</p>



Priority Area 2 Implementation

Corum Ketchum, CWEDD
3.19.26

Our Goals Today



CWEDD CEDS Update 2025 – 2030

Priority Areas and Implementation Strategies



Priority Area 1

Regional Collaboration and Partnerships



Priority Area 2

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development



Priority Area 3

Infrastructure Resilience



Priority Area 4

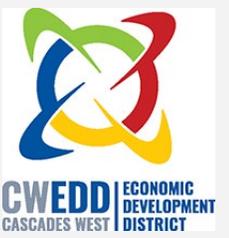
Foundations for Economic Wellbeing



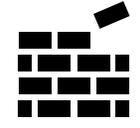
Priority Area 5

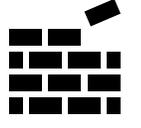
Rural Vitality

Key: Federal and Regional Priorities



CWEDD 2025 – 2030 CEDS Priority Areas	
	Regional Collaboration and Partnerships
	Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development
	Infrastructure Resilience
	Foundations for Economic Wellbeing
	Rural Vitality

EDA Priorities February 2025	
Critical Infrastructure	
Economic Recovery and Resilience	
Innovation and Entrepreneurship	
Workforce	
Manufacturing	

Regional Solutions Priorities February 2025	
Infrastructure	
Community Resilience	
A Thriving Business Environment	
Accessible and Affordable Child Care	
Housing Production	

See the next page for a key on how to understand the Approaches³⁸

Priority Area 1 *Regional Collaboration & Partnerships*

#	Approach	Recommended Lead	Key Partners
1	Build relationships and collaboration through project-based regional initiatives.	CWEDD	Leaders in the private, public, education, healthcare, and nonprofit sectors
2	Integrate the priorities captured in the CEDS into existing local- and regional-scale initiatives.	CWEDD	City and County administrators
3	Increase CWEDD's staff capacity so CWEDD can provide more support to regional initiatives.	CWEDD	Private industry
4	Increase representation of business, workforce, and education interests on the CWEDD Board and CEDS project working groups by including more perspectives from Tribes, Latino/a/x communities, Black communities, immigrant communities, rural communities, and low-income communities.	CWEDD	CEDS Working group leaders

Broad steps to achieve better outcomes

Description: A regional economic development strategy is most effective when it considers and incorporates the interests and strengths of the region. By leveraging the strengths of each county towards a wider economic strategy, the region can become more prosperous, resilient, and cohesive.

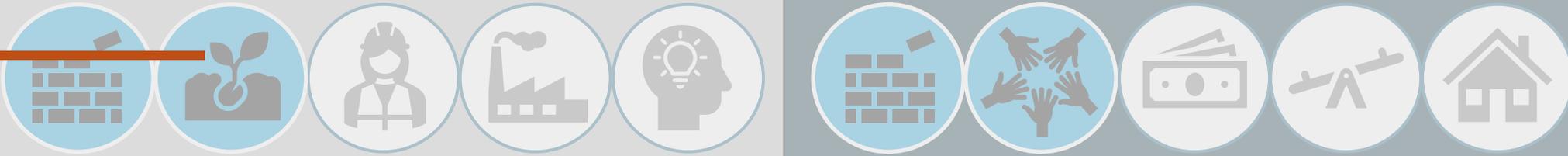
Description of activities

CWEDD's Role: As a regional coordinating body, the District is well positioned to facilitate collaboration. **Over the next five years,** the District will build regional relationships and seek to

What CWEDD can do as a regional convener and through its work as an economic development district



Alignment



Economic Development Admin

Regional Solutions

Highlighted icons indicate which priorities this approach supports or is in alignment with

Collaboration & Partnerships Approach 1

Data Relationships and collaboration through project-based regional initiatives.

Implementation Strategies

Specific actions actors within the region can take to further the priority area

a) Convene economic development practitioners from across the region quarterly or semi-annually to discuss regional priorities and prioritize a list of regionally significant projects.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics

Collection Frequency

Data Lead

Sources

Number of meetings, number of participating organizations and their representative sectors, project lists that come out of these conversations

Yearly

CWEDD

CWEDD

Data CWEDD or its partners can collect to determine how well the approach is working

For each Priority Area...

- Identify 1 to 3 starting Approaches
- Select 1 to 3 Strategies of interest
- Determine roles
- Plan for next steps





6 Questions to Guide Action Planning:

- ❑ Where do we have relationships in place?
- ❑ What assets can members contribute or access?
- ❑ Where do we have autonomy or control in policy or decision making?
- ❑ How much capacity do we have to implement change?
- ❑ What existing efforts can the CEDS strengthen?
- ❑ How timely is the issue that this Approach is solving?

Priority Area 2

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development

#	Approach	Recommended Lead	Key Partners
1	Provide support to entrepreneurship, industrial innovation, business retention and business expansion efforts combined with workforce development efforts to create a thriving business environment.	CWEDD	Workforce dev agencies, SBDCs, entrepreneurship leads.
2	Facilitate connections between business development centers, economic development organizations, business incubators and accelerators to create a clear and obvious bridge of support between the start-up and growth phases of new businesses.	Workforce dev agencies	CWEDD, workforce investment boards, incubators, accelerators, SBDCs, state and federal regulatory agencies
3	Facilitate collaboration between educational institutions (both higher education and community colleges), economic support organizations and regional businesses to continue to grow our regional entrepreneurial ecosystem supporting innovative businesses region-wide.	School districts, community colleges, and universities	Workforce dev agencies
4	Develop a future-ready workforce pipeline by coordinating current & future business needs with higher education training, from STEM disciplines to career technical education.	WIBS and community colleges	Workforce dev agencies
5	Provide start-ups and existing businesses with technical assistance, resources and incentives to help them better thrive in our region.	SBDCs	Accelerators
6	Identify resources and develop relationships before shocks so that businesses can immediately access financial assistance post-shock.	Government loan officers, Business Oregon	CWEDD, EDA, Small Business Administration, community banks
7	Support discussions for regulatory changes at the local, state, and federal level to facilitate business growth and health.	CWEDD	Business Oregon, RST, city and county partners

Description: In order to thrive, the region must foster entrepreneurship, innovation, and workforce development through collaboration with educators, business support organizations, and economic development partners. Key initiatives include expanding technical assistance, bridging gaps between business incubation and growth, aligning workforce training with industry needs, and advocating for regulatory improvements. This approach ensures businesses at all stages and of all sizes have the resources, talent, and supportive policies needed to thrive and drive long-term economic prosperity

CWEDD's Role: As the designated economic development district of the region, CWEDD provides access to unique sources of Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding and programming. The District has an opportunity to offer resources and coordination that will support local-level business retention and expansion efforts and entrepreneurial ecosystems builders. **Over the next five years**, the District will provide research capacity, serve as an information hub, and facilitate important connections between business support providers, members, and federal programming.



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 1

Provide support to entrepreneurship, industrial innovation, business retention and business expansion efforts combined with workforce development efforts to create a thriving business environment through regional coordination.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Create and promote a database of incubators, accelerators, capital sources, and business support services available in the region.
- b) Assist with identifying and pursuing funding that would increase capacity of Small Business Development Centers, business incubators and accelerators.
- c) Help counties and cities establish their own business registration or tracking systems that will allow the collection of more and better data about business' needs in order to facilitate responsive government.
- d) Establish a network of local and regional staff who can help businesses navigate through permitting and other processes.
- e) Develop and publicize educational opportunities about the advantages of international trade for regional businesses that are interested in expanding into new markets.
- f) Coordinate workforce and entrepreneurship efforts through the CEDS working group process. Including integrating the Innovation Hub work as a working group.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
The databases as described in strategies (a), (b) and (c), number of businesses engaged as described in strategies (d) and (e).	Every plan update	CWEDD, member cities	CWEDD, regulatory partners, and its membership



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approaches 2 and 3

- 2) Facilitate connections between business development centers, economic development organizations, business incubators and accelerators to create a clear and obvious bridge of support between the start-up and growth phases of new businesses.
- 3) Facilitate collaboration between educational institutions (both higher education and community colleges), economic support organizations and regional businesses to continue to grow our regional entrepreneurial ecosystem supporting innovative businesses region-wide.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Facilitate annual meetings with representatives from business development centers and incubators/accelerators to discuss the process referrals between support providers.
- b) Facilitate annual meetings with representatives from educational institutions to build connections between regional needs and academic course offerings.
- c) Organize a forum on regional innovation networking to facilitate the exchange of ideas and talent across sectors and geography.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Number of events held, number of attendees, and organizations/sectors represented at each event	Every plan update	CWEDD, SBDCs	CWEDD 45



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 4

Develop a future-ready workforce pipeline by coordinating current & future business needs with higher education training, from STEM disciplines to career technical education.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Support the development of a STEM and career and technical education (CTE) workforce pipeline by coordinating programming between employers and educational institutions, including high schools, community colleges, and universities.
- b) Identify key industries and employers based on local comparative advantages and national trends. Industries could include: mass timber, computer chip manufacturing, engineering, oceanics, software, and more.
- c) Connect local workforce initiatives with EDA investment strategies to increase the capacity of the pipeline

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
STEM job growth rate and regional STEM cluster investments	Every plan update	CWEDD	Census, Oregon by the Numbers



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 5

Provide start-ups and existing businesses with technical assistance, resources and incentives to help them better thrive in our region.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Support Small Development Centers (SBDCs), incubators, and accelerators in developing resources to help operators develop and manage their business plans.
- b) Discuss potential shocks, threats, disasters and risk reduction strategies at local chamber or business association “Lunch and Learn” events to encourage businesses to create continuity of operations plans.
- c) Incentivize investments in business resilience for businesses that have business continuity plans (e.g. reduce business license fees; expedite plan review for retrofit/mitigation projects).

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Number of events held, number of attendees, and organizations/sectors represented at each event	Every plan update	Workforce agencies, SBDCs	Membership



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 6

Identify resources and develop relationships before shocks so that businesses can immediately access financial assistance post-shock.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Identify external funding (particularly federal programs) to leverage local funds for business-related mitigation and recovery activities.
- b) Coordinate financial recovery programs with other recovery programs and efforts as described in Priority Area 1 Approach 3.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Dollars dispersed, programs created, applications received	Every plan update	CWEDD	SBA, EDA, CWEDD membership



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 7

Support discussions for regulatory changes at the local, state, and federal level to facilitate business growth and health.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Convene policy discussions between governments, economic development agencies, business interests, labor groups, and workforce development entities in alignment with other economic development organizations, like the Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA).
- b) Provide business owner/operators with consistent opportunities to regularly provide feedback to CWEDD membership about the current business climate.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Number of convenings with State and Federal partners	Every plan update	CWEDD	SBA, EDA, CWEDD membership

Priority Area 2

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development

#	Approach	Recommended Lead	Key Partners
1	Provide support to entrepreneurship, industrial innovation, business retention and business expansion efforts combined with workforce development efforts to create a thriving business environment.	CWEDD	Workforce dev agencies, SBDCs, entrepreneurship leads.
2	Facilitate connections between business development centers, economic development organizations, business incubators and accelerators to create a clear and obvious bridge of support between the start-up and growth phases of new businesses.	Workforce dev agencies	CWEDD, workforce investment boards, incubators, accelerators, SBDCs, state and federal regulatory agencies
3	Facilitate collaboration between educational institutions (both higher education and community colleges), economic support organizations and regional businesses to continue to grow our regional entrepreneurial ecosystem supporting innovative businesses region-wide.	School districts, community colleges, and universities	Workforce dev agencies
4	Develop a future-ready workforce pipeline by coordinating current & future business needs with higher education training, from STEM disciplines to career technical education.	WIBS and community colleges	Workforce dev agencies
5	Provide start-ups and existing businesses with technical assistance, resources and incentives to help them better thrive in our region.	SBDCs	Accelerators
6	Identify resources and develop relationships before shocks so that businesses can immediately access financial assistance post-shock.	Government loan officers, Business Oregon	CWEDD, EDA, Small Business Administration, community banks
7	Support discussions for regulatory changes at the local, state, and federal level to facilitate business growth and health.	CWEDD	Business Oregon, RST, city and county partners

Description: In order to thrive, the region must foster entrepreneurship, innovation, and workforce development through collaboration with educators, business support organizations, and economic development partners. Key initiatives include expanding technical assistance, bridging gaps between business incubation and growth, aligning workforce training with industry needs, and advocating for regulatory improvements. This approach ensures businesses at all stages and of all sizes have the resources, talent, and supportive policies needed to thrive and drive long-term economic prosperity

CWEDD's Role: As the designated economic development district of the region, CWEDD provides access to unique sources of Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding and programming. The District has an opportunity to offer resources and coordination that will support local-level business retention and expansion efforts and entrepreneurial ecosystems builders. **Over the next five years**, the District will provide research capacity, serve as an information hub, and facilitate important connections between business support providers, members, and federal programming.



Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 1

Provide support to entrepreneurship, industrial innovation, business retention and business expansion efforts combined with workforce development efforts to create a thriving business environment through regional coordination.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Create and promote a database of incubators, accelerators, capital sources, and business support services available in the region.
- b) Assist with identifying and pursuing funding that would increase capacity of Small Business Development Centers, business incubators and accelerators.
- c) Help counties and cities establish their own business registration or tracking systems that will allow the collection of more and better data about business' needs in order to facilitate responsive government.
- d) Establish a network of local and regional staff who can help businesses navigate through permitting and other processes.
- e) Develop and publicize educational opportunities about the advantages of international trade for regional businesses that are interested in expanding into new markets.
- f) Coordinate workforce and entrepreneurship efforts through the CEDS working group process. Including integrating the Innovation Hub work as a working group.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
The databases as described in strategies (a), (b) and (c), number of businesses engaged as described in strategies (d) and (e).	Every plan update	CWEDD, member cities	CWEDD, regulatory partners, and its membership



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approaches 2 and 3

- 2) Facilitate connections between business development centers, economic development organizations, business incubators and accelerators to create a clear and obvious bridge of support between the start-up and growth phases of new businesses.
- 3) Facilitate collaboration between educational institutions (both higher education and community colleges), economic support organizations and regional businesses to continue to grow our regional entrepreneurial ecosystem supporting innovative businesses region-wide.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Facilitate annual meetings with representatives from business development centers and incubators/accelerators to discuss the process referrals between support providers.
- b) Facilitate annual meetings with representatives from educational institutions to build connections between regional needs and academic course offerings.
- c) Organize a forum on regional innovation networking to facilitate the exchange of ideas and talent across sectors and geography.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Number of events held, number of attendees, and organizations/sectors represented at each event	Every plan update	CWEDD, SBDCs	CWEDD



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 4

Develop a future-ready workforce pipeline by coordinating current & future business needs with higher education training, from STEM disciplines to career technical education.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Support the development of a STEM and career and technical education (CTE) workforce pipeline by coordinating programming between employers and educational institutions, including high schools, community colleges, and universities.
- b) Identify key industries and employers based on local comparative advantages and national trends. Industries could include: mass timber, computer chip manufacturing, engineering, oceanics, software, and more.
- c) Connect local workforce initiatives with EDA investment strategies to increase the capacity of the pipeline

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
STEM job growth rate and regional STEM cluster investments	Every plan update	CWEDD	Census, Oregon by the Numbers



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 5

Provide start-ups and existing businesses with technical assistance, resources and incentives to help them better thrive in our region.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Support Small Development Centers (SBDCs), incubators, and accelerators in developing resources to help operators develop and manage their business plans.
- b) Discuss potential shocks, threats, disasters and risk reduction strategies at local chamber or business association “Lunch and Learn” events to encourage businesses to create continuity of operations plans.
- c) Incentivize investments in business resilience for businesses that have business continuity plans (e.g. reduce business license fees; expedite plan review for retrofit/mitigation projects).

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Number of events held, number of attendees, and organizations/sectors represented at each event	Every plan update	Workforce agencies, SBDCs	Membership



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 6

Identify resources and develop relationships before shocks so that businesses can immediately access financial assistance post-shock.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Identify external funding (particularly federal programs) to leverage local funds for business-related mitigation and recovery activities.
- b) Coordinate financial recovery programs with other recovery programs and efforts as described in Priority Area 1 Approach 3.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Dollars dispersed, programs created, applications received	Every plan update	CWEDD	SBA, EDA, CWEDD membership



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 7

Support discussions for regulatory changes at the local, state, and federal level to facilitate business growth and health.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Convene policy discussions between governments, economic development agencies, business interests, labor groups, and workforce development entities in alignment with other economic development organizations, like the Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA).
- b) Provide business owner/operators with consistent opportunities to regularly provide feedback to CWEDD membership about the current business climate.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Number of convenings with State and Federal partners	Every plan update	CWEDD	SBA, EDA, CWEDD membership

OREGON'S PROSPERITY ROADMAP





OREGON'S PROSPERITY ROADMAP

Dear Fellow Oregonians,

Oregon is on the brink of a decade of extraordinary economic growth and greater affordability—if we put the right partnerships, policies, and strategies in place now.

We face the same headwinds that many other states face today: sluggish job growth, elevated unemployment, and declining population trends. These challenges, compounded by business outmigration and underutilized state resources, require more than observation – they demand coordinated and strategic action. Long-term prosperity won't happen by chance. It will happen because we choose to act together, with purpose, to create good jobs and build a stronger, more resilient economy for every community.

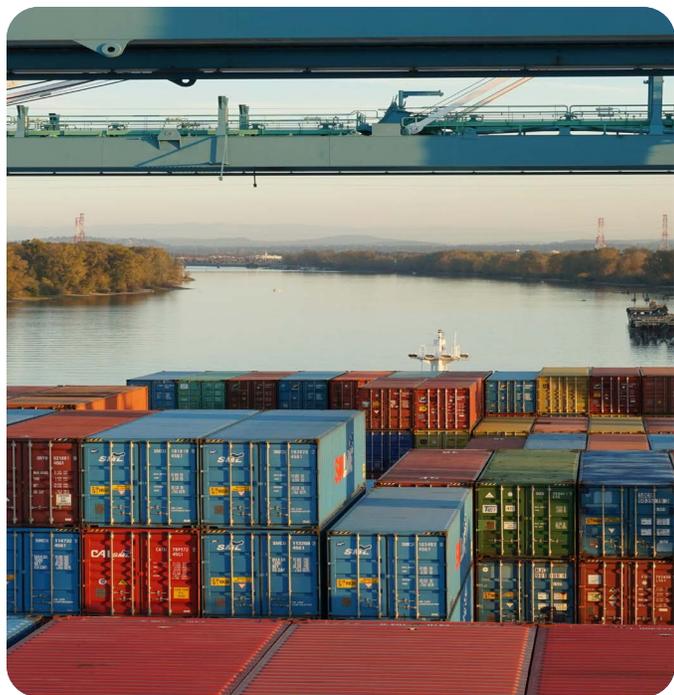
That's why I have been reaching out to business, labor, and community stakeholders as continued federal uncertainty and projected budget cuts have come to the forefront in recent months. I directed Business Oregon and my Regional Solutions team to do the same. This roadmap reflects the collective wisdom from hundreds of businesses and business organizations, data and research, and our current state revenue picture. It also builds on my work to combat homelessness, increase housing supply, improve public education, and expand access to mental health and addiction treatment – all of which are critical factors that will continue to improve the livability and welfare of our state.

One thing is immediately clear: we already have a strong foundation. Oregon is known for innovation, entrepreneurship, diverse industries, and thriving businesses of every size. With a highly skilled workforce, a world-class research university network, established industry clusters, and a collaborative business culture, Oregon is uniquely equipped to achieve sustainable growth.

Oregon's lower-cost West Coast location, offering direct access to the Pacific Rim, further strengthens its appeal as a hub for advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and global trade. Our exceptional quality of life, marked by clean air, abundant fresh water, and a stunning natural environment, makes it not only a smart place to do business but also a desirable place to live, work, and raise a family.

Now we must bring our full potential to bear. By uniting around a statewide vision and coordinating our talents and assets, we can ensure Oregon doesn't just keep up but leads in sustained economic growth.

As we put this roadmap into action, we must lead with data to inform our approach and reality test our overall goals.



The most recent Economic and Revenue Forecast provides three key areas of focus for our work:

- **Hiring:** Projected job creation has been revised downward over the medium term.
- **Unemployment:** Oregon's unemployment rate is expected to remain elevated through 2026, given moderate GDP growth and cooling labor market conditions.
- **Population:** Oregon's population growth is projected to average just 0.5% annually, with recent estimates showing a downward revision in migration and retention.

Two recent studies by the University of Oregon and ECONorthwest echo these concerns and shed light on the factors driving people and businesses to leave the state:

- [External Business Recruitment: Why are businesses leaving Oregon—and what can we do to keep them?](#)
- [2025 State of the Economy: The Value of Jobs: What kinds of jobs are we creating, and for whom?](#)

In response to this data and research, I directed my office to develop a statewide economic strategy built around three overarching goals and a set of strategic initiatives designed to achieve those goals.

These strategies are just the beginning. Just as we relied on creative, ambitious leaders and everyday Oregonians to craft this roadmap, I'm counting on Oregonians across the state to help make it real. We are all partners in building an Oregon where entrepreneurs are eager to start businesses - where economic opportunity and good-paying jobs are within reach for every Oregonian, in every corner of our state. Together, we can and will create an economy that works for everyone. An economy where innovation thrives, families prosper, and no one gets left behind. So let's get to work!

STRATEGIC GOALS FOR OREGON'S ECONOMY



1. Accelerate Oregon's Economic Growth: Achieve a sustained state Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate – meaning an increase in the state's economic output – that outpaces the national average. A real-world example of this would be a business expanding its operations, e.g., manufacturing more products, hiring additional workers to meet increased demand, and ultimately generating more revenue from higher sales. This goal reflects Oregon's commitment to building a dynamic, resilient, and inclusive economy, one that drives innovation, supports high-quality living-wage jobs, and delivers long-term prosperity for all Oregonians.

- **Goal:** Grow Oregon's GDP in alignment with our historical pattern of outpacing national activity. To facilitate this outcome, the roadmap establishes a near-term target of growing GDP from 1.7 to 2.2 which could increase general fund resources by more than \$4 billion through the 2029-31 biennium.



2. More living wage jobs, now: Catalyze job growth by investing in high-opportunity sectors, expanding workforce development programs, strengthening regional economic ecosystems, and leveraging public-private partnerships. A real-world example of this kind of strategy is a coordinated, two-pronged approach. First, a post-secondary education institution partners with local businesses and the state to create a new training or certificate program tailored to emerging industry needs. Second, once the program is in place, employers launch a hiring process for newly created positions that specifically require the training, ensuring a direct pipeline from education to employment. This approach not only addresses current labor market demands but also prepares Oregon's workforce for the jobs of the future, equipping Oregonians with the skills and credentials needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving economy. Oregon will foster the conditions necessary to generate meaningful employment across all communities – urban, rural, and underserved.

- **Goal:** Move from #23 in the CNBC Workforce Rank into the top 10 states in the country. America's Top States for Business Workforce category measures the availability, quality, and productivity of the state's labor pool. It evaluates several metrics, including worker availability/shortages, education levels, worker training and development, net migration, labor force participation rate, productivity, and health.



3. Retain and Grow Oregon Businesses: Set up Oregon businesses to thrive by expanding access to capital, technical assistance, and critical infrastructure. A real-world example of this is establishing a pool of public funds that businesses can apply for, paired with technical assistance and accelerated permitting. This support allows companies to expand their operations here at home – online through streamlined approvals and on the ground through growth that spans city blocks or even acres. Through targeted support and strategic investment, the state will help to empower businesses to scale, innovate, and deepen their roots in Oregon’s economy.

- **Goal:** Move from #39 in the CNBC Top States for Business Overall Rank into the top 10 states in the country. America’s Top States for Business is an annual, data-driven analysis that ranks all states on the factors that matter most to companies when making site selection decisions. The study is designed to identify which states are best at creating a competitive and prosperous environment for business and economic growth.

NEXT STEPS

1. Recruit Additional Leadership and Expertise to Grow and Drive this Roadmap

- Establish in my office the position of Chief Prosperity Officer to refine and expand on the above strategic goals, such as establishing clear timelines and deliverables, coordinating cross-agency efforts, and serving as a central point of contact for business and community stakeholders.
- Establish the Governor’s Prosperity Council to provide guidance to my office and the Chief Prosperity Officer. The Council will be a nimble, diverse group of experts representing every corner of the state, critical sectors, and labor and will be responsible for supporting economic and workforce initiatives and advising on additional or enhanced recommendations in alignment with the strategic goals.

2. Establish a new FastTrack Program

- My office will introduce legislation in 2026 to remove barriers to growth and incentivize investment. This bill will establish a new FastTrack Program tasked with supporting large projects that have the potential to create jobs and grow Oregon’s GDP. The FastTrack program will be modeled after “FAST 41” at the federal level and similar programs in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Michigan.



3. Reduce Barriers to Investment and Growth

- Direct relevant state agencies to submit permit inventories and identify opportunities to streamline and/or accelerate existing permitting, licensing, or certification processes.
- Invest in and expedite critical infrastructure like energy, broadband, transportation, and water and wastewater systems so business and industry can expand and break ground faster. Specifically, the roadmap seeks to increase investment in the industrial site readiness fund.
- Amplify regional economic development strategies and support local efforts to utilize unique regional resources, talent pools, and market opportunities to build economic strength around the state.

4. Modernize and Strengthen Oregon's Economic Development Tools

- Review and update existing tools, such as enterprise zones and the Strategic Investment Program, to improve flexibility, transparency, and administrative functionality.
- Direct Business Oregon to complete a state economic development strategy to address key topic areas such as Capital Access and Entrepreneurship, Business Retention and Expansion, Business Recruitment, Workforce Development, Sector Alignment, Infrastructure, and Incentive Modernization.

5. Explore Targeted Tax Changes to Spur Living Wage Job Creation, Increase GDP

- Direct the Chief Prosperity Officer and Governor's Prosperity Council to develop recommendations for consideration in the 2027 legislative session in alignment with strategic goals.

6. Partner with Businesses and Communities for Results

- Create a Global Trade Desk to expand opportunities for global commerce, deliver better customer service, and actively promote Oregon as a premier destination for foreign investment and long-term trade partnerships.
- Enhance business outreach with major employers to gather ongoing feedback and stay ahead of emerging challenges and opportunities.
- Direct state agencies to prioritize economic development and support key projects through the Governor's Office Regional Solutions Program.





Office of Oregon Governor
TINA KOTEK


MEMORANDUM

Date: March 12, 2026
To: CWEDD Board
From: Justin Peterson, CED Supervisor
Re: Working Group Updates

Blue Economy Update from EDALC

On February 7th, as part of the Winter Waters event, Discover Newport and the Central Coast Food Web (based in Newport) hosted the Blue Line event, a tour of Blue Economy stops in the Newport area - the Oregon Coast Aquarium, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Pacific Maritime Heritage Center, Newport Port Dock 7 and the Central Coast Food Web/Yaquina Lab. The event showcased seafood-based Blue Economy efforts in Newport. Just over 200 people attended the event.

On May 8th, the Hatfield Marine Science Center will host the Blue Economy Workforce Development Workshop. The Workshop will bring together leaders from academia, government agencies, and industry to strengthen the network of partnerships serving Oregon and southern Washington's coastal and maritime sectors. The goal is to help academic institutions become more responsive to the evolving needs of Blue Economy employers, ensuring the region's students are well prepared for meaningful and skilled careers in this growing field.

Broadband Action Team (BAT)

(note - most will be covered more in-depth in Jacob's presentation)

In early February the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) approved Oregon's Final Proposal for the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, authorizing the state to move forward implementing the largest broadband infrastructure investment in Oregon's history. Through this approval, Oregon will invest \$689 million to expand affordable, high-speed, and reliable internet service across the state. The initiative is expected to connect 104,654 unserved and underserved households, healthcare facilities, and businesses, with a strong focus on rural communities, tribal lands, and other historically underserved areas.

Slight disclaimer on this optimistic news: 46% of the new connections in Oregon will be via Low Earth Orbit satellites from Starlink (most on the eastern side of the state) - it's still unclear if that tech can provide true broadband at that scale. There are limitations on connections per square mile to maintain approved broadband speeds, plus Starlink remains

expensive (per month - the equipment will be free) and requires a cell phone and cell connection to set up.

The Oregon Broadband Office (OBO) has just launched the ARPA Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Digital Connectivity Technology Program, making \$6.8 million available to expand access to internet-enabled devices and public Wi-Fi infrastructure across the state.

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

Our regional Innovation Hub is firing on all cylinders with defined regional lead organizations (CEDO for Lane, EDALC for Lincoln, RAIN for Linn and Benton and Latino Founders) and a regional advisory board.

On January 27th, EDALC hosted an event: Fueling Growth: How Lincoln County Service Providers Can Support Innovation. Today there is an event in Albany: How Valliscor & The Ecosystem Built a Future Together in Albany. In Friday in Corvallis, there is an event called The Start Up Engine Workshop. The workshop is designed for early-stage, innovation-driven founders who are working to refine problem-solution fit, clarify product-market fit, and strengthen the foundations of a scalable venture.

Lane Economic Committee (LEC)

December 9, 2025 – no meeting

January 12, 2026

- 2026-2027 Planning Session with LEC Group.
 - With a new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) and ever-changing landscape, discussion was held to converse economic development partners' needs and priorities, alignments with the new CEDS and Regional Solutions.
 - The meeting had a round robin on what each member are individually prioritizing to better understand each other's needs and identify any regional priorities or opportunities for combined efforts.

- With needs and priorities on the table, a closer look at the CEDS to identify alignments (and potential gaps) as well as take some time with CEDS identified Approaches that LEC can advance.
- Discussions today are intended to identify some clear actionable items for the LEC as well as identify other ways to make time together more meaningful to your daily pursuits.
- 2026 Chair and Vice Chair nominations
 - Committee appointed Greg Erivin as 2026 LEC Chair and Anne Fifield as 2026 LEC Vice Chair.

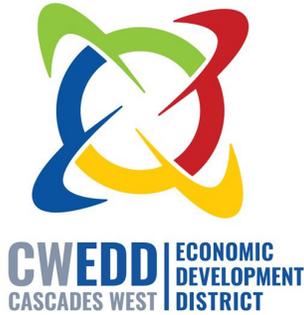
February 12, 2026 – no meeting

March 9, 2026

- Loan Advisory Committee (LAC) Bylaws
 - The Lane Economic Committee for LCOG is in charge of reviewing LAC materials and making recommendations to the LCOG Board for approval. Formal Bylaws were reviewed and discussed. Recommendation for LAC Bylaws was passed on to LCOG Board for approval.
- Industry and Employment Trends
 - Henry Fields Workforce Analyst with the Oregon Employment Office provided an overview of trends in Oregon, Lane County, along with some reflection points to comparator communities.

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 19 - Lane

June 11 - Lincoln

September 10 – Benton

December 10 - Linn

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