

**Adams County Development Council
Regular Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, July 9, 2020
Zoom Virtual/Conference Call Meeting (due to COVID-19)**

1. **Call to Order** – David Baumann called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm
2. **Establish Quorum** – Janis Rountree confirmed quorum with **11 of 20** members in attendance.
 - a. Present: David Baumann, Chad Hoeft, Ken Caylor, PJ Jacobsen, Dan Hille, John Marshall, Lloyd Stoess, Chris Faix, Deena Vietzke, Mike Schrag, Ian Eccles.
Advisory: Stephen McFadden, Bryce Humphreys, Janis Rountree.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – David Baumann presented the agenda, PJ Jacobsen made motion to approve the agenda, Dan Hille provided the second, all approved, motion carried.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – David Baumann presented the minutes from May 14, 2020. Ken Caylor made the motion to approve the minutes from May, John Marshall provided the second, all approved, motion carried.
5. **Treasurer's Report** – Chad Hoeft provided the treasurer's reports.
 - a. John Marshall made the motion to approve the financial reports, Ken Caylor provided the second, all approved, motion carried.
 - b. Dan Hille made the motion to approve paying the July bills, PJ Jacobsen provided the second, all approved, motion carried.
6. **Old Business**
 - a. Janis Rountree – Business outreach due to COVID-19
 - i. Since March, we've been reaching out and contacting all local businesses and accessing their needs. Offering assistance when needed.
7. **New Business**
 - a. State & Local Grant updates – ACDC Grant funding is closed now. State grant has about 6 businesses still working on their contracts.
 - b. State funding announcement – Dept of Commerce announced more funding is coming our way. Details to be forthcoming, but to be prepared to do more small business support.
 - c. Annual banquet discussion – putting off decision until the county fully reopens.
 - d. WEDA virtual conference – first event of the year since COVID started. Janis will attend 3-day virtual conference on Economic Recovery.
8. **ACDC Activity** – Janis Rountree
 - a. Disaster recovery and business outreach is main focus. Processing State grants as well as ACDC grants, in constant contact with all applicants.

9. **Adams Co Activity** – Stephen McFadden.
- a. Public Information officer for Adams County. 29 new cases of COVID-19 today, worst day of reporting since it started. Community Health Nurse says there is mass spreading across Othello, not just isolated in one area.
 - b. Phase movement has been frozen. 25 per week or less/100,000 = 5 cases or less for Adams County.
 - c. Limited Economic Development in recruitment.
 - i. Site visit & Port of Othello to ag related facility interested in Bruce
 - ii. 2 new renewable energy projects
 - iii. Wind Farm is moving along. Towers and blades are being moved into place currently.
 - iv. McCain Foods shut down construction due to COVID – plan to restart around November. With expected completion of Nov 2021.
 - d. CARES ACT funding – county and cities all received funding. Other counties have earmarked a portion for small business support / training. We should do something similar.
 - i. Need to do another business survey to check on who is still closed, struggling or in need of funding.

10. **Community Updates**

- a. **Port of Othello** – Deena Vietzke, getting ready for the new hanger. Plans are ready. Couple spots in building to rent are now available.
- b. **Ritzville** – Mike Schrag. Normal business.
- c. **Lind** – PJ Jacobsen. Community Yard Sale in October is planned by Chamber. Business is back open. Haase's have new night spot, burger shack expected to open by this weekend.
- d. **Washtucna** – Lloyd Stoess. Early stages of talking to a man who wants to move an observatory to town, due to low light levels.
- e. **Adams County** – John Marshall. County is working through COVID, operating from home and courthouse. Making plans to reopen courthouse with health screenings. Michelle Kiesz – gathered Lincoln, Franklin, Grant and Adams Counties Commissioners to sign on a letter to request funding for the Columbia Basin Project.
- f. **Avista** – Ian Eccles. Busy as usual. First positive cases within the company in last couple of weeks, effecting work and causing delays. Othello development going, transmission crews between Lind, Warden & Othello. Pole replacement going on now in Lind. Substation is now energized on Hwy 21.
- g. **Columbia Basin Railroad** – no report.
- h. **Coulee Corridor** – Ken Caylor. Been on hold but try to do a few projects. Kiosk ribbon cuttings will push out to next Spring due to COVID. Othello loop to Mar Don to Warden, got funding from Grant Co tourism to hopefully finish up the project. Scenic Byways have

not had federal funding since 2012. New infrastructure bill might possibly release some money to help with that.

- i. **Ice Age Floods** – Lloyd Stoess. Last November hosted fall meeting in Ritzville. This year's has been cancelled due to COVID. National board is doing zoom meetings now. Bus tour this fall has been cancelled. Considering a caravan tour last week of September.
- j. **BGCC** – Bryce Humphreys. Dealing with effects of COVID. Summer term started this week. Workforce programs suffered lab classes in the spring, trying to get caught up this summer. Completing Workforce Center Building and Aviation Building. Fall quarter is expected to be mostly online, other than specialty lab classes that need to be done in person. Having discussions on what services and activities will be allowed, childcare, athletics, etc.
 - i. **Stephen** – Adams County in support of Workforce Ed Center, agreed to contribute due to the amount of workers in Adams County. BGCC has contributed \$600,000 in training grants over the last 5 years.

11. Discussion closed

12. David adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm

Approved on August 12, 2021

Signed Paula Bell

Paula Bell, Secretary

Signed David Baumann

David Baumann, Chairman

Prepared by Janis Rountree

Janis Rountree, Manager