



## Board Meeting

Thursday, May 09, 2024

9:00 am – 11:00 am

**LCOG Camas Conference Room**  
859 Willamette St.  
Eugene OR 97401  
Lane County  
OR

Join Virtually via Teams

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Meeting ID: 267 001 785 157

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Phone Conference ID: 149 601 420#

### AGENDA

- |    |      |   |                               |
|----|------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. | 9:00 | <b>Call to Order &amp; Agenda Review</b>  | <b>Chair, Paul Schuytema</b>  |
| 2. | 9:05 | <b>Roll Call</b>  | <b>Staff, Justin Peterson</b> |
| 3. | 9:10 | <b>Public Comment</b>   | <b>Chair</b>                  |
| 4. | 9:15 | <b>CWEDD Board Membership (Handout) &amp; Election of Officers (Attachments A and B)</b><br>See attached bylaws for discussion of membership and election of officers.<br><br><b>ACTION:</b> Election of Vice Chair | <b>Staff, Justin Peterson</b> |
| 5. | 9:20 | <b>CWEDD Executive Committee Appointment(s)</b><br>New CWEDD Executive Appointments may be required based on the Officer appointments.  | <b>Staff, Justin Peterson</b> |
| 6. | 9:25 | <b>Minutes of February 08, 2024, Meeting (Attachment C)</b><br><br><b>ACTION:</b> Approval of Minutes   | <b>Chair</b>                  |
| 7. | 9:30 | <b>Deputy’s Story: The Holiday Farm Fire</b>  | <b>Video</b>                  |

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| 8.  | 9:40  | <b>Broadband work after the Holiday Farm Fire</b><br><i>-Update on the broadband work after the Holiday Farm Fire and Resiliency efforts.</i><br><i>-Ways to support or get involved</i>  | <b>LCOG,<br/>Keith Testerman</b>         |
| 9.  | 10:20 | <b>CEDS 2025-2030 Update Conversation (Attachment D)</b><br><i>Strategic Conversation about the CEDS update. Process and focus. Organization and the implementation of the CEDS.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CWEDD CEDS Scope of Work</li> <li>• CWEDD Annual Report</li> <li>• Draft CEDS Strategy Committee</li> </ul>   | <b>Staff, Justin<br/>Peterson</b>        |
| 10. | 10:45 | <b>Discussion: CEDS Working Groups (Open time for any updates)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Broadband Action Team (BAT)</i></li> <li>• <i>Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC)</i></li> <li>• <i>Early Childhood Education</i></li> <li>• <i>Rural Economic Alliance (REAL)</i></li> <li>• <i>Lane Economic Committee (LEC)</i></li> <li>• <i>Blue Economy Update from EDALC</i></li> <li>• <i>Other workgroup updates?</i></li> </ul> | <b>Chair/ Staff,<br/>Justin Peterson</b> |
| 11. | 10:50 | <b>Other Business (if time allows)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reschedule August meeting to September 12th?</i></li> <li>• <i>Future Bylaw update – CWEDD Executive Committee Quorum Requirements.</i></li> <li>• <i>CWEDD Regional Project list (Attachment E)</i></li> <li>• <i>Regionally Significant Updates</i></li> <li>• <i>Executive Committee Updates</i></li> </ul>   | <b>Chair/Staff</b>                       |
| 12. | 11:00 | <b>Adjournment</b><br><i>Next Meeting: Scheduled for August 08, 2024 (pending discussion above).</i>  | <b>Chair</b>                             |

## Attendance (For Quorum Purposes)

<b>OCWCOG Members</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Nancy Wyse	Commissioner	Benton County	
Claire Hall	Commissioner	Lincoln County	
Alex Johnson II	Mayor	City of Albany	
Sherrie Sprenger	Commissioner	Linn County	
Chas Jones	Mayor	City of Philomath	
Rick Booth	Mayor	City of Waldport	
Paul Schuytema	Executive Director	EDALC	
Chris Workman	City Manager	City of Philomath	
Kelly Hart	CED Director	City of Lebanon	
John Pascone	President	LEDG	
Pam Barlow-Lind	Planning Director	CTSI	
Sophie Adams	ED Manager	City of Albany	
<b>Lane Members</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Greg James	Board Member	WillamaLane Parks and Rec	
Sherry Duerst-Higgins	Board Member	Lane ESD/South Land SD	
Randy Groves	City Councilor	City of Eugene	
Rob Ward	Mayor	City of Florence	
Patti Chappel	President	Emerald People’s Utility Dist.	
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 in the District's Articles of Agreement.
- (B) Each District Board member serving as a representative of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Executive Committee or the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Executive Board shall serve on the Cascades West Economic Development District Governing Board as long as their Council of Governments term lasts. Each District Board member who is a county representative shall be reaffirmed or reappointed, annually.
- (C) County District Board Members are subject to removal if they miss two (2) consecutive District Board meetings. In such an event, the Council of Governments which originally appointed the representative may remove that member from the District Board. The district Governing Board may request the removal, but shall not have the power of removal.
- (D) In order to be eligible for various types of federal Economic Development Administration assistance, including public works and loan guarantee programs, areas must actively participate in the Economic Development District's planning process. County government participation provides for inclusion of its incorporated area. Active participation is defined as being a member of the Council of Governments:

**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 Bnton, 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.
- (B) 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. Meetings and Quorum: A quorum shall be four 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



01/25/22

Date

LANE COUNCIL OF COUNCIL OF  
GOVERNMENTS



November 10, 2021

Date

ATTEST:

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## CWEDD Board Chairmanship History

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

<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Chair – Mayor Sharon Konopa Vice Chair – Susy Lacer	Chair – Mayor Sharon Konopa Vice Chair – Susy Lacer
<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Chair – Councilor Dann Cutter Vice Chair – Rob Scoggin	Chair – Mayor Dann Cutter Vice Chair – Rob Scoggin
<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Chair – Commissioner Pat Malone Vice Chair – Greg James	Chair – Heather Buch Vice Chair – Jim Lepin
<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Chair – Heather Buch Vice Chair – Paul Schuytema/ Jim Lepin	Chair – Heather Buch Vice Chair - Paul Schuytema

### II. 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.
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- (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.**

### III. 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.



**CWEDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES****Thursday, February 08, 2024****9:00 am – 11:00 am****Hybrid at Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) OR****Virtual Via Microsoft Teams Technologies**

<b>OCWCOG Members</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Nancy Wyse	Commissioner	Benton County	Yes
Claire Hall	Commissioner	Lincoln County	Yes
Alex Johnson II	Mayor	City of Albany	Yes
Sherrie Sprenger	Commissioner	Linn County	No
Rick Booth	City Councilor	City of Waldport	No
Paul Shuytema	Executive Director	EDALC	Yes
Chris Workman	City Manager	City of Philomath	Yes
Kelly Hart	Director	City of Lebanon	Yes
John Pascone	President	LEDG	Yes
Pam Barlow-Lind	Tribal Planning Director	CTSI	Yes
Sophie Adams	Economic Development Manger	City of Albany	Yes
<b>Lane Members</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Greg James	Board Member	WillamaLane	Yes
Bryan Cutchen	Mayor	City of Oakridge	James Clevanger
Randy Groves	City Councilor	City of Eugene	No
Heather Buch	Commissioner	Lane County	Yes
Patti Chappel	President	Emerald People's Utility District	No
Kori Rodley	City Councilor	City of Springfield	No
Greg Ervin	City Councilor	City of Cottage Grove	No
Matt Michael	City Manager	City of Veneta	Yes

**Staff:** *Community and Economic Development Planner Justin Peterson, Community and Economic Development Administrative Assistant Ashlyn Muzechenko, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments Executive Director Ryan Vogt, Lane Council of Governments Loan Program Manager Sandra Easdale, Lane Council of Governments Executive Director Brenda Moore, Community and Economic Development Operations Supervisor Emma Chavez-Sosa, Community and Economic Development Director Jaclyn Disney, and Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments Administrative Assistant Angelykah Light.*

**Guests:** Heather Desart, Courtney Flathers, Jesse Quinn, Cindy Perry, Katrina Sturgeon, Christopher Jacobs, Jordan Orceas, Britt Hoskins, and Patrick O'Connor.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION / CONCLUSION
1. Call to Order & Agenda Review	<p>The 2023 Chair, Commissioner Heather Buch called the February 08, 2024, CWEDD Board meeting to order at 9:03 am.</p> <p>The CWEDD Members and Interested Parties in attendance did introductions for all in attendance.</p> <p>There were no changes to the agenda.</p>	<b>The Meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by the 2023 Chair Commissioner Heather Buch</b>
2. Welcome and Roll Call	Staff Justin Peterson conducted roll call of the CWEDD Board of Commissioner members.	<b>Roll Call was conducted by Staff Justin Peterson</b>
3. Public Comment	There were no public comments made to the CWEDD Board of Directors.	<b>There were no public comments.</b>
4. CWEDD Board Membership and Election of Officers	<p>Peterson introduced the CWEDD Election of officer's topic, with the rules and history behind it.</p> <p>Peterson added that this year the chair will be from the OCWCOG region as last year was from the LCOG region.</p> <p>Peterson noted that Paul Schuytema has volunteered to be chair of the CWEDD for the 3 Year Term.</p> <p>The group accepted Schuytema's nomination to chair, with the idea of waiting to host vice-chair elections until the May CWEDD Board meeting after LCOG has their board member appointments finalized.</p> <p>Greg Games moved to nominate Paul Schuytema into the chair position, and Sophie Adams seconded. This motion was carried unanimously.</p>	

<p>5. CWEDD Executive Committee Appointments</p>	<p>Peterson shared the current executive committee appointments and discussed the roles of the Executive Committee with all in attendance.</p> <p>At the May Board meeting, the new executive committee members will be elected. The goal will be to have the current committee members serve until the May session.</p>	
<p>6. Minutes of September 07, 2023, Meeting (Attachment C)</p> <p><b>Action: Approval of Minutes</b></p>	<p>Commissioner Heather Buch moved to approve the minutes for the September 07, 2023, CWEDD Board Meeting. Sophie Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Commissioner Heather Buch moved to approve the minutes for the September 07, 2023, CWEDD Board Meeting. Sophie Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.</b></p>
<p>7. Lane Workforce Partnerships – Critical Jobs Sector Award</p>	<p>Chair Paul Schuytema introduced Jesse Quinn and Cindy Perry to present the Lane Workforce Partnerships, the critical jobs sector award.</p> <p>Quinn shared th Oregon Coast Hospitality and Sector Partnership presentation with Lane workforce partnership to the CWEDD Board Members in attendance.</p> <p>The critical sectors job quality grant is a tri-partnership, with an award amount of \$446,786 for an 18-month duration for the planning grant. The goal is to generate nearly 40,000 jobs by 2031 on the Oregon Coast.</p> <p>This grant works with the Good Jobs Principles, with the department of commerce and labor which focuses on recruitment and hiring, benefits, DEI and Accessibility, Empowerment and representation, job security, and many more initiatives.</p> <p>Quinn shared the significant steps towards addressing coastal hospitality. This is a crucial part of the region’s economic prosperity.</p> <p>The sector strategy will define the scope of the Oregon Costal</p>	

	<p>hospitality industry, facilitate industry wide listening sessions, and conduct comprehensive surveys. This will develop occupational career pathways.</p> <p>Perry shared the planning grant deliverables with a few being, conducting surveys, creating growth strategy, prioritize service for specific groups, prioritizing service, utilizing data, generating best practice reports, engaging with relevant organization, contracting with Next Gen consultants, planning, and convening industry engagement sessions, conducting worker surveys and interviews, and establishing metrics and goals.</p> <p>The goal is to reach all types of people in the region to get the impacts of this program in full.</p> <p>Perry presented the 18-month timeline for the planning grant. The goal is to come out of it with strong products that will set up the initiative with a way to move forward and continue the work. This project will be finalized in spring of 2025.</p> <p>Lane Workforce partnership is asking the CWEDD for industry support and regional collaboration and networking as this grant is in the CWEDD Region.</p> <p>Peterson noted that staff will share out the presentation after this meeting.</p>	
<p>8. Regional Economic Update</p>	<p>Patrick O-Connor shared the regional economic development update for the four counties.</p> <p>O'Connor shared the presentation covering employment in Oregon, Lane, Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties through December 2023.</p> <p>O'Connor shared that more than half (22) of all counties have regained their total pandemic recession job losses. Recovery has been slower for many of the easter counties and surprisingly Portland areas as well.</p>	

	<p>For the month of December Oregon’s unemployment rate was 3.7%, which was 83,400 people.</p> <p>Employers added 37,400 jobs to nonfarm payrolls over the past year, a growth rate of 1.9%. More than half of those gains occurred in private health care and social assistance.</p> <p>O’Connor shared the unemployment reason trend graph detailing entrants (52%), job losers (33%), and job leavers (15%).</p> <p>All four counties trend closely to the overall state average too. This means near all-time lows for unemployment percentages.</p> <p>O’Connor shared the Oregon Labor Force participation rates by age group with the members and guests in attendance.</p> <p>O’Connor mentioned that using the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis’s graph, economists speculate that we are at close to full employment for our state.</p> <p>O’Connor shared the four county’s specific changes to jobs during the COVID Recession and the Great Recession.</p> <p>Linn County is up 1,800 jobs or 3.8% since February 2020.</p> <p>Lane County is down 2.6% or 4,400 jobs since February 2020.</p> <p>Lincoln County is up 1.8% since February 2020, when it was originally down 9.5% at the start of the pandemic.</p> <p>Benton County is up 1,340 jobs or 3.1% since February 2020.</p> <p>O’Connor shared that in fall of 2023 Oregon business employers</p>	
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	<p>reported 65,200 vacancies, which is higher than the normal rate. For context, a typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time permanent position.</p> <p>Chair Schuytema asked about the criteria for a “difficult to fill job”, O’Connor answered that it is determined by the employers and those that have barriers in terms of credentials.</p> <p>CED Director Jaclyn Disney noted that it is good to show that the harder to fill jobs are showing more vacancies, this can tie into the next CEDs development to support the growth of those job sectors.</p> <p>Kelly Hart asked about part of the vacancy survey, and if there were conversations about the turnovers.</p> <p>O’Connor answered that it is not currently captured in the statistics. However, turnover can be looked at through tax documents, but not through the vacancy survey.</p> <p>Peterson noted that staff will send out the presentation with members after the meeting.</p>	
<p>9. CEDS 2025-2030 Update Conversation</p>	<p>Peterson shared that staff are starting to develop a scope of work for updating the CEDS which will likely be available at the May Board meeting, which will provide a more detailed timeline.</p> <p>Peterson gave a background of the current CEDS and what the 5 broad priority areas were. The question for the group is to see what the goals are from members for this next session.</p> <p>The hope is to get into the implementation of the CEDS development and how to leverage the CEDS for additional money and efforts across the region.</p> <p>Chair Schuytema shared that this has been discussed lightly with the</p>	

	<p>executive committee, which an idea of an easy fix could be addressing redundancy in tracking resiliency and diversity. This topic could become clearer.</p> <p>There could also be a higher focus on infrastructure development, specifically broadband as it is a large part of our region. Another topic is digital equity which will be important for the region to pay attention to and make a priority. The goal would be to focus on what is going on in our region, and keep track of it.</p> <p>Chris Workman shared that one of the topics previously discussed was trying to identify groups they could take on bites of the CEDs as well to assist in smaller teams.</p> <p>Disney noted that she noticed there is a spectrum of needs that need to be acknowledged in smaller communities as well as in the larger cities. Specifically focusing on what defines economic growth in all types of our regions.</p> <p>Matt Michel shared that the smaller taskforces could help focus energies and efforts and he supports Workman's idea to make this a new and strong part of the CEDs. The goal is to optimize value, and gather around issue areas that need to be addressed.</p> <p>Chair Schuytema noted that he agrees with what has been said, and the CEDs exist as the key that unlocks the EDA funds. There are important parts of regional collaboration that need to be seen as important for all types of funding and not just federal funds.</p> <p>Disney added that community readiness is also another important part of Economic Development that is often not thought about up front. The community needs to be ready to receive growth.</p> <p>Britt Hoskins noted that staying in touch with the SBDC's can help be</p>	
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	a partner in our region.	
<p>10. Discussion: CEDS Working Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadband Action Team (BAT)</li> <li>• Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC)</li> <li>• Early Childhood Education</li> <li>• Rural Economic Alliance (REAL)</li> <li>• Lane Economic Committee (LEC)</li> <li>• Blue Economy Update from EDALC</li> <li>• Other workgroup updates?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Broadband Action Team (BAT)</b></p> <p>Chair Schuytema shared an update for the BAT, there are a number of regional ad-hoc with information sharing capabilities. In January the broadband technical assistant grant program opened up, and OCWCOG and LCOG regions submitted grant applications to that agency. This would help apply for the BEAD Grants that are coming soon.</p> <p>Solarity is working on an upcoming BEAD application that will work with Lincoln and Benton counties that will partner with Pioneer Telephone companies as well.</p> <p><b>Cascades West Regional Consortium</b></p> <p>Peterson shared that this group is 11 cities in Linn and Benton counties that work with the wetland challenges in our region. There is an upcoming meeting that will focus on upcoming legislative bills.</p> <p><b>Early Childhood Education</b></p> <p>There were no updates for this working group.</p> <p><b>Rural Economic Alliance (REAL)</b></p> <p>Hart shared the REAL have received another round of funding through the states ROI Grant, and are still working on the allocation process between partners and the REAL allocations. This will help decide how the local communities can be helped through the new funding.</p> <p><b>Lane Economic Committee</b></p> <p>Sandra Easdale shared the LEC Updates for the last 5 months:</p> <p><i>September 11, 2023</i></p> <p>Loan Administration Committee (LAC) Membership Nomination  Presenter(s): Sandra Easdale, Loan Program Manager</p>	



	<p>The Lane Economic Committee recommends the appointment of Committee members to the Lane Council of Governments' (LCOG) Board. LEC recommended LAC members to LCOG Board for approval.</p> <p>Letter of Support Request – Economic Development Administration's Recompete Program Presenter(s): Denise Walters-LEC Staff and Jude Anderson – Lane County Eco. Dev. Mgr.</p> <p>The LEC was asked to consider recommending the LCOG Board provide a letter of support for Lane County's proposal to the Recompete Program. The request was made to the LCOG Board.</p> <p><i>October 09, 2023</i></p> <p>Discussion of establishing Nomination Committee for LEC Presenter(s): Denise Walters, LEC Staff</p> <p>This is an annual process and Ms. Walters welcomed volunteers for the 2024 LEC Chair and Vice Chair positions – Matt Michael and Paul Berger volunteered.</p> <p>Travel Lane County Presenter(s): Natalie Inouye and Stephanie Hoshaw</p> <p>Travel Lane County briefed the LEC on the research and business intelligence tools they use to market Lane County as a destination. Travel Lane County is sharing access to these tools with community partners, who may use them for tourism strategies or broader economic development work to support business recruitment and expansion.</p> <p><i>November 13, 2023</i></p> <p>Economic Drivers &amp; The Cost of Homelessness in Lane County</p>	
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	<p>Presenter(s): Madeline Baron &amp; John Tapogna of ECONorthwest</p> <p>For many years ECONorthwest has conducted numerous analyses of Oregon housing policy at local, regional, and state levels. Madeline Baron and John Tapogna presented their findings regarding economic drivers and costs of homelessness in Lane County.</p> <hr/> <p><i>December 11, 2023</i></p> <p>Discussions regarding 2024 Government Member Appointment Check-in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eminder for those representing local jurisdictions to please check in with their appointing authority and confirm who will serve on the LEC for 2024</li> </ul> <p>Discussion regarding LEC entertaining motions for appointment and vote for LEC Chair and Vice Chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hair Greg Ervin and Vice Chair Anne Fifield were appointed to serve another term.</li> </ul> <p>Connected Lane County  Presenter(s): Heidi Larwick, Executive Director</p> <p>Connected Lane County (CLC) works with Lane County school districts, industry partners, workgroups, and community organizations to create opportunities and prepare youth for their lives beyond high school. CLC identifies and bridges gaps, works to change systems, and creates safe spaces to help youth succeed via three core programs: Elevate, Navigate, and Spark. Elevate provides career-connected learning opportunities for youth and professional development opportunities for educators. Navigate offers individualized work readiness and school re-engagement services for</p>	
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	<p>youth facing significant barriers to employment and education. Spark is a safe place to learn, innovate, collaborate, and create through out-of-school training opportunities that help youth grow their skills, become confident problem solvers, and gain hands-on experiences. Spark experiences currently include Invention Lab, Invention Club, and The Agency.</p> <p><i>January 18, 2024</i></p> <p>Discussion regarding Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update and process  Presenter(s): Denise Walters, LEC Staff and Justin Peterson, OCWCOG Staff</p> <p>Denise Walters said a comprehensive development strategy would be developed this year.  Justin Peterson said Oregon Cascades West was working on a scope of work for the CEDS update. The scope of work would span five years between 2025 to 2030. Background data for each county needed to be updated, a new SWAT analysis would be developed, and an assessment of the previous CEDS would be conducted to build the framework for the new CEDS document. Vice Chair Anne Fifield asked what the timeframe was to update the CEDS. Justin Peterson said the goal was to have the draft CEDS ready by the end of 2024 and adopt the new CEDS at the start of 2025.</p> <p>CEDS Progress from LEC Member Perspectives  Presenter(s): Denise Walters, LEC Staff</p> <p>Denise Walters said in the past, a survey was conducted to determine if the CEDS was serving member organizations well. The survey showed that most people were happy with the CEDS. However, she suggested that now would be a good time for members to share their critiques, so they could be taken into consideration while the draft CEDS was being developed.</p>	
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	<p>Collaborative Economic Development Oregon (CEDO)  Presenter(s): Matt Sayre Executive Director and Caitlin Vargas from CEDO</p> <p>CEDO is a county-wide economic development organization. Matt Sayre’s discussion focused on CEDO Priority One; Regional Collaboration, Priority Two; Sector Diversification, and Priority Four; CEDO / Lane Workforce Partnership Collaboration. CEDO worked collaboratively with regional partners to accelerate the creation of new high-wage jobs across Lane County. Their vision entailed growing Lane County’s targeted industries, which was in alignment with the CEDS. CEDO was focused on the following three initiatives:  Welcome – Attract High-wage Employers to the Region  Innovate – Help Entrepreneurs in the Region  Thrive – Help Existing Companies in the Region</p> <p><b>Blue Economy</b></p> <p>Chair Schuytema shared the Blue Economy staff have submitted a letter of intent for stage 4 of their research project for a commercial fishing vessel using ethanol injection kits.</p> <p>There was also an LLC for profit company was created for when next steps can be taken.</p> <p>Last month officially kicked off an economic impact study for the NOAH Pacific Fleet being moved to be stationed in Newport, Oregon.</p> <p>Blue Economy is working on funding a coast wide seafood butchery program at 5 high schools across the region.</p> <p>Additionally, Oregon Seaweed is potentially doing a new production facility in Newport, which would be the largest seaweed aquaculture facility in the United States.</p>	
<p>11. Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Committee</li> </ul>	<p><b>Executive Committee Updates:</b>  The Executive Committee was able to approve both Broadband Grant Application letters of support, one from OCWCOG Region and one</p>	

<p>Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff Updates</li> <li>• Jurisdictional Updates</li> <li>• CWEDD Regional project list (<i>Attachment D</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>from LCOG Region.</p> <p><b>Staff Updates:</b> Jaclyn Disney introduced herself to the CWEDD Board Members and Guests in attendance. Disney is the new Community and Economic Development Director at Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments.</p> <p><b>Jurisdictional Updates:</b> There were additional jurisdictional updates.</p> <p><b>CWEDD Regional Project List:</b> Staff shared Attachment D, as the regional project list with a goal to connect all projects across the region to the district and share that information with the group. This allows the group to hear about and support these economic development efforts.</p>	
<p>12. Adjournment</p>	<p>The next CWEDD Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 09, 2024.</p>	<p><b>The Meeting was adjourned by Chair Executive Director Paul Schuytema at 10:55 am</b></p>

DRAFT Scope of Work:

**Cascades West Economic Development  
District: Update of Benton, Lincoln, and Linn  
Portion of the Regional Comprehensive  
Economic Development Strategy 2025-2030**

## Background

The Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) is a partnership between Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) and the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG). The CWEDD is designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) to work on economic development efforts in Linn, Benton, Lane and Lincoln Counties. The Oregon Cascades West Community and Economic Development Committee and the Lane Economic Committee (LEC) play lead roles in defining regional community and economic development issues, opportunities, vision, goals, and work programs.

According to the EDA, a comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDs) is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies. The CEDs should analyze the regional economy and serve as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. The COVID-19 crisis impacted local, regional, state, national, and global economic activity, EDA is requiring EDDs to consider and integrate economic resilience and recovery into CEDs updates.

CWEDD last updated the regional 2020-2025 CEDs in 2020. Furthermore, in 2015, CWEDD completed a wide-ranging community and stakeholder engagement process that resulted in an extensive re-write of the 2010-2015 CEDs. The EDA requires economic development districts to update their CEDs every five years. Thus, the 2025-2030 CEDs is at the end of its five-year cycle. The CWEDD Board of Directors will be initiating discussion on the CEDs update this year. In addition, CWEDD worked with the Institute for Policy Research and Engagement (IPRE) at the University of Oregon on economic resilience implementation activities in 2020-21 under a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The end product was the “Economic Resilience Metrics: Measurement Framework and District Profile” that was added to the CEDs appendix in February 2022.

Given the extensive update completed in previous years, the Executive Committee Discussions indicate our update will focus on the implementation framework and integrating resilience. This work program describes how Staff will work with the CWEDD Board to update the CEDs consistent with EDA requirements pursuant to 13 C.F.R. § 303.7.

# Scope of Work

This scope of work describes how Staff will work with the CWEDD Board to update the 2025-2030 CEDS. CWEDD Staff will lead the plan update. Staff will work with Aniko Drlik-Muehleck, IPRE Portfolio Manager at the UO. CWEDD plans to work with IPRE on updating the CEDS. Staff intends to have IPRE help with the implementation framework of the CEDS and review the draft CEDS for EDA compliance.

## **Task 1—Project Kick-off**

Staff will meet in a hybrid format with the CWEDD Executive Committee, the CWEDD Board, and other interested parties to clarify the goals and objectives of the project. We will review the sequence of activities, the timeline, and budget, required for the completion of the work. Staff will confirm the goals and objectives with the full CWEDD Board at the May 9, 2024, meeting. Then officially kick-off the project at the August 2024 meeting.

**Timing:** August, 2024 (Approve scope in May 2024)  
**Meetings:** 1 hybrid meeting  
**Product:** Meeting minutes  
**Task Lead:** Staff

## **Task 2 – Stakeholder Engagement**

A foundational element of the Economic Development Strategic Plan is stakeholder engagement and community input. EDA requires that the CEDS process be overseen by an economic development strategy committee. The “strategy” committee must represent the main economic interests of the region and must include private sector representatives. The CWEDD already has two committees that meet the EDA requirements: (1) the Lane Economic Committee, and (2) the Cascades-West Council of Governments Community and Economic Development Committee. Staff will coordinate with the chairs of both committees and the CWEDD Board to contribute to, review, and comment on the CEDS update.

OCWCOG proposes a stakeholder engagement and community input strategy that includes two meetings with the CWEDD strategy committee (i.e. combined membership of the Lane Economic Committee and Cascades West Council of Governments Community and Economic Development Committee). In addition, we will hold an in-person open house where members of the strategy committee, CWEDD Board, and local/regional business leaders and economic development stakeholders can engage with and comment on the materials. Each engagement strategy is described in further detail below...

### **Meeting 1**

We will hold the first meeting with the Strategy Committee **in October 2024**. The purpose of this meeting will be to solicit feedback from the committee on the SWOT Analysis and CEDS Action Plan. This includes reviewing the status and priority of existing actions as well as the format and organization of the strategies within the plan. In addition, we will seek to identify opportunities to link economic recovery considerations with the CEDS update. Finally, we will work with the committee to identify other key stakeholders the committee would specifically like to invite to participate in the CEDS update process.

## **In-Person Open House**

In order to engage as many stakeholders in the CEDS update process as possible, we will host a in-person open house in **late January/February**. We will present materials in an interactive format. We will directly invite stakeholders identified by the strategy committee to participate. In addition, we will invite participation from any members of the CWEDD economic development ecosystem to participate through general solicitations. Staff will collaborate with CWEDD to host the open house. We will utilize information and feedback collected during the open house to inform updates to the CEDS.

## **Meeting 2**

We will hold a second meeting with the strategy committee in late **March or April 2025**. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the draft CEDS and solicit input on any final edits. We will request a formal endorsement and recommendation for the Board to approve the CEDS at this meeting. CWEDD adoption of the CEDS will occur at a separate meeting of the CWEDD Board to be scheduled in December.

<b>Schedule:</b>	January - March, 2025
<b>Meetings:</b>	<b>2 hybrid meetings with the strategy committee, one January/February and one March; one meeting with the CWEDD Board in February.</b>
<b>Product:</b>	Meeting minutes; virtual open house feedback summary
<b>Task Lead:</b>	Staff

## **Task 3 – Review and Update the District Profile**

Staff will review the District Profile. The 2020-2025 CEDS included minor edits to the District Profile and did not include a full rewrite. This exercise will take economic impacts associated with COVID-19 into consideration. In addition, Staff will incorporate relevant findings from economic resilience assessment into the 2025 District Profile. Following the strategy committee meeting, Staff will prepare an updated draft District Profile for review and comment. Staff will incorporate feedback and insert the final District Profile into the CEDS.

<b>Timing:</b>	June-September, 2024
<b>Meetings:</b>	1 hybrid meeting (Meeting 1 in Task 2)
<b>Product:</b>	Updated District Profile Chapter
<b>Task Lead:</b>	Staff

## **Task 4 – Review and Update SWOT Analysis**

Staff will review the 2020 Strength Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) assessment. We will conduct a meeting with the strategy committee to review and amend the SWOT. This exercise will take economic impacts associated with COVID-19 into consideration. In addition, Staff will incorporate relevant findings from economic resilience assessment into the 2025 SWOT. Following the strategy committee meeting, Staff will prepare an updated draft SWOT for review and comment. Staff will incorporate feedback and insert the final SWOT into the CEDS.

<b>Timing:</b>	July-September, 2024
<b>Meetings:</b>	1 hybrid meeting (Meeting 1 in Task 2)
<b>Product:</b>	Updated SWOT Chapter
<b>Task Lead:</b>	Staff



## **Task 5 – Update Action Plan**

OCWCOG will review the 2020-2025 Action Plan. As a first step in the review process, OCWCOG will document progress on each action item. We will consult with CWEDD staff and strategy committee members as needed to determine progress. Once we have completed a draft progress assessment, we will meet with the strategy committee to review and confirm the assessment. At this meeting we will solicit action plan update ideas from the committee. Staff will submit a draft Action Plan to the committee and broader stakeholder community for review and comment. Staff will incorporate feedback and insert an updated Action Plan into the CEDS. The modified Action Plan will be discussed during the second strategy committee meeting. As part of this task, we will reformat the actions for clarity, usability, and implementation.

**Timing:** October 2024 -March, 2025  
**Meetings:** 2 virtual meetings (Meeting 1 and Meeting 2 from Task 2)  
**Product:** Updated Action Plan  
**Task Lead:** Staff

## **Task 6 – Resilience Revisions**

In this task, Staff will revise the CEDS to integrate and incorporate economic resilience as a central component in the plan, as required by the EDA. This activity will build on the existing CEDS Resilience sections and will formally incorporate findings, analysis, and information from the FEMA resilience work into the CEDS. Staff will complete this re-write. The modified CEDS language will be discussed during the second strategy committee meeting. Staff will then incorporate feedback into the finalized CEDS document.

**Timing:** January- March, 2025  
**Meetings:** 1 hybrid meeting (Meeting 2 from Task 2)  
**Product:** Updated CEDS language related to resilience  
**Task Lead:** Staff

## **Task 7 – Review and Update Implementation Framework**

Building on work completed by the region by CWEDD staff and consultants, Staff will review and update the implementation framework. Specifically, this task will review a proposed structure to better facilitate collaboration across the region. This task may be supplemented with up to five (5) stakeholder interviews. The primary objective of this task will be to build upon the Region's strengths and opportunities and resolve the weaknesses and threats, including long-standing resource allocation and capacity issues in the region. The modified implementation framework will be discussed during the second strategy committee meeting. Staff will then incorporate feedback into the finalized CEDS document.

**Timing:** January- March, 2025  
**Meetings:** 1 hybrid meeting (Meeting 2 from Task 2)  
**Product:** Updated implementation framework  
**Task Lead:** Staff

## **Task 8 – Update Performance and Evaluation Framework**

Building on work completed through the FEMA resilience work, Staff will review and update the CEDS Performance and Evaluation Framework. This task may include up to five (5) stakeholder interviews. The primary objective of this task is to create a monitoring system that will be manageable for CWEDD staff to implement and effective for tracking progress on CEDS goals. The modified performance and evaluation framework will be discussed during the second strategy committee meeting. Staff will then incorporate feedback into the finalized CEDS document.

**Timing:** February - March, 2025  
**Meetings:** 1 virtual meeting (Meeting 2 from Task 2)  
**Product:** Updated performance and evaluation framework  
**Task Lead:** Staff

### **Task 9 - Draft and Final Economic Development Strategic Plan**

Staff will update the CEDS based on the research findings and public involvement input collected. This update will allow the plan to reflect current public opinions and attitudes and provide the region with up-to-date strategies for addressing growth, service, and other issues. Staff will work with CWEDD to post the draft plan for the required 30-day public comment period. Staff will incorporate public comment into the final document prior to submittal to the Board for approval. As part of this task, we will develop a short, graphic summary of the CEDS. The summary will include key actionable information and serve as an accessible means for partners to interact with the CEDS on an ongoing basis.

**Schedule:** Draft Plan, May 2025 (Presentation at the May CWEDD meeting)  
Final Plan, June/July 2025  
Adoption, August 2025  
Project close out, August 2025  
**Meetings:** One with CWEDD Board (May 2025), one final adoption meeting August 2025  
**Product:** Draft and Final CEDS with supporting documentation  
**Task Lead:** Staff



**CWEDD** | ECONOMIC  
CASCADES WEST | DEVELOPMENT  
DISTRICT

## **Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD)**

### **Semi-Annual Progress Report**

**October 2023 – March 2024**

**ED23SEA3020007**

The annual update is provided below with a list of accomplishments. This is the first year of the three-year period. The semi-annual report is organized based on the submitted work plan with the CEDS priority areas identified in parentheses.

### **October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024 update**

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

- The CWEDD Board held meetings on May 11<sup>th</sup>, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 during this planning period. Board meeting topics included working groups, an Oregon Employment Department (OED) economic update, broadband updates, a semiconductor update, and a Lane Workforce Partnership – Critical Jobs Grant update.
- The Executive Committee meets before each CWEDD Board Meeting. The CWEDD Executive Committee helped establish agendas, approved letters of support, and helped CWEDD stay agile to meet the needs of the region.
- CWEDD Staff continued to evaluate the best way to monitor resiliency metrics.
- CWEDD Staff are starting conversations and project planning for the 2025-2030 CEDS Update.
- CWEDD Staff attended the Oregon Infrastructure Summit on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Staff were on the panel for the Technical Assistance workshop.

#### Task 4: Build Partnerships and Collaboration (Priority Area 1: Regional Collaboration and Partnerships, and Priority Area 4: Workforce Support) – Ongoing

- Staff established a regional network of CWEDD stakeholders. A list of county level staff that can support more localized CWEDD efforts has been completed and will be periodically updated.
- Staff continued to maintain the OCWCOG website with current CWEDD information.
- Staff continued to serve our rural communities.
- Staff participated in the Regional Solutions Team (RST) meetings and visited our rural communities to hear their pressing infrastructure needs. We work with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Business Oregon on the best way to address these needs. The RST visited Coburg, Toledo, the Port of Newport, Port of Toledo, and Oakridge during this planning period.



- Staff regularly attended events targeted at start-up and emerging businesses and support the retention and expansion of existing businesses.
- Staff continued regular meetings and relationships with key regional partners to include Ports, economic development leaders, state officials and business incubators.
- Staff updated the Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Business Referral Network Document in 2024 and will continue to maintain the document.
- Staff have remained active with the Oregon Economic Development Districts (OEDD) organization.
- Staff created the Economic Districts first member binders. Member binders included a handbook, acronyms and glossary, board of directors list, board schedule, CEDS handout, bylaws and articles of agreement.
- Staff has been called into the discussion around Innovation Hubs. Venn Collaborative was hired to complete Phase 1 of Business Oregon's Innovation Hub program. CWEDD was selected as the governing model for our four-county EDD to apply for Phase 2 of the Innovation Hub. This would position the EDD to add traded sector business and entrepreneurship as a focus to our next CEDS. The Phase 2 application was submitted in February 2024 and funding decisions are expected in April 2024.
- Staff provided support to member communities to evaluate opportunities for EDA funding and other state/federal grants and programs.
- LCOG was awarded an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant for Phase 2 of the Mapping Oregon's Wetland Delineations and Determinations, in partnership with the Oregon Department of State Lands.
- Entered into an IGA for providing Technology Support Services to Curry County who experienced a cyberattack last year. This partnership is expanding community service reach and partnership beyond the EDD. This activity also addresses rural vitality.
- Assisted Blue River and area partners in wildfire recovery and rural vitality by facilitating the development a Blue River Community Plan. This activity also addresses rural vitality.
- Assisted Lane County, Eugene and Springfield in the update of their Public Facilities and Services Plan.
- Kicked-off new project to serve as consultant to update the City of Creswell's Economic Opportunities Analysis Plan with partial funding secured from the State Department of State Lands. This activity also addresses rural vitality.
- Staff assisted the City of Veneta apply for and successfully obtain an Oregon State Parks and Recreation Grant. This activity also addresses rural vitality.



- Staff worked with the City of Coburg on developing an Oregon Water and Resource Development grant proposal. This activity also addresses resilience and rural vitality.
- Staff worked with Lane Education Service District to further diversify funding and secure additional resources for Regional Career Technical Education primarily focused on construction, manufacturing, and health sectors. This activity also addresses workforce support and rural vitality.
- Staff supported Mapleton School District with a Full-Service Community Schools grant application. This activity also addresses workforce support and rural vitality.
- Staff coordinated with University of Oregon Hazards Mitigation Lab on several infrastructure related projects. This activity also addresses resilience and regional collaboration.
- Assisted Lane County with outreach to potential project partners and obtain letters of support for EDA Recompete Program. This activity also addresses workforce support and rural vitality.
- Completed Climate Friendly Area Studies (Phase 1) of implementation of the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) Rule for City of Eugene, City of Springfield, City of Albany, City of Corvallis, and City of Philomath.
- In conjunction with Lane County, secured DLCD Funding to assist Blue River to draft a Complete Community Plan that focuses on re-development of Blue River following the Holiday Farm Fire. This activity also addresses resiliency and rural vitality.
- In partnership with Business Oregon, saw through the completion and adoption of the Port of Umpqua's updated Strategic Business Plan. This activity also addresses rural vitality.
- Secured DLCD Technical Assistance Funding for the City of Lowell to adopt a new Development Code that implements its Downtown Master Plan and focuses on the principles of Transportation Growth Management. This activity also addresses rural vitality.
- Filled a critical need in Junction City to provide on-site Planning Services two days a week. This activity also addresses rural vitality.
- The Economic Development Practitioners lunch has been updated to better meet the needs of our regional partners. The meetings will be quarterly with additional meetings as needed.
- LCOG continued to staff the Lane Economic Committee (LEC). OCWCOG Staff are now actively attending the LEC meetings. The LEC is an advisory committee to the LCOG Board. The goal is for greater collaboration between the LEC and CWEDD Board. Two LEC Members are CWEDD Board members. This activity also addresses regional visibility.



- The Childcare Working Group is currently focused on helping market Growing Care to our three-county region. Staff also attends the newly formed State Childcare Collaboration Group.
- The CWEDD Region has two Early Learning Hubs: The Lane Early Learning Alliance and the Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties. Onward Eugene hired a Childcare Sector Strategist for the Lane County area. The role is focused on finding solutions to the childcare crisis in Lane County and is funded in part by United Way of Lane County. This activity also addresses workforce support.
- Staff help facilitate a Childcare working group for Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties focused on economic development and workforce. Goals include Regional Collaboration, Childcare Needs Messaging, Affordable Care, and Recruitment/Retention of Workforce. The group continues to monitor available grants in which to apply. Childcare affordability and availability continue to impact economic development in our region and are key components of workforce support. This activity also addresses workforce support.
- Partnered with the City of Albany to provide Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to Childcare businesses with 5 or fewer employees. Three single member childcare businesses were funded. Two of the grant recipients were Hispanic. The grant addresses a significant regional need for childcare workforce and childcare slots.
- CWEDD is unique, in that it is comprised of three different Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), which are: Willamette Workforce Partnership (Linn County), Northwest Oregon Works (Benton and Lincoln Counties), and Lane Workforce Partnership (Lane County). Staff continue to engage with the WIBs in our region to discuss and support workforce efforts.
- The recent economic conditions resulted in an enhanced focus on the economic impacts of the affordability and availability of Childcare. A childcare working group was created and continued regular meetings. Childcare affordability and availability continue to impact economic development in our region and is a key component of workforce support. Childcare efforts in the region are essential, and support low-income households, parents, women, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) members of the workforce.
- Staff provided ongoing support to member communities to evaluate opportunities for EDA funding. Several grants for the Build Back Better (BBB) grant opportunity included our region. The Mass Timber project was awarded Phase II funding. The University of Oregon and Oregon State University are in our region and are key stakeholders in the effort. Staff will continue to inform the region about the Mass Timber effort and attend stakeholder meetings. This also addresses regional collaboration and sector diversification through business development.



- The Lane Economic Service District (ESD) received \$500,000 for Career Technical Education from the Oregon Department of Education. This grant will support wages during 24-25 for a .50 Apprenticeship Trades Specialist, .25 Lane African American Black Student Success Navigator, and .25 Native Youth Wellness Specialist.
- The Lane ESD received \$50,000 from the Grow Your Own – Education Pathway Program from the Meyer Memorial Trust. This grant will be used to build a diversified, locally grown K-12 educator workforce.

Task 5: Expand Strategic Cross Sector Partnerships – Pending

- Staff continued to provide administrative support for the Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC). Phase I of a Wetland Mitigation Study was completed in October 2022. Staff is working on identifying funding for Phase II and/or determining the next best step for the consortium.
- Staff are discussing the impact of upcoming transportation projects with Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO), Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), and Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation (CWACT) on economic development in the region.
- The Mass Timber project was awarded Phase II Build Back Better (BBB) funding. The University of Oregon and Oregon State University are in our region and are key stakeholders in the effort. Staff will continue to inform the region about the Mass Timber effort and attend stakeholder meetings.
- Staff attended the August 24, 2023 Linn County Community Wild Fire Protection meeting. At the meeting staff provided input to the consultant team and participated in round tables.

Task 6: Update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – Expected Year 2

- Expected in year two of this planning grant. The scope of work is expected to be approved at the May 2024 CWEDD meeting.

Task 7: Enhance Regional Visibility – Ongoing

- The conversations around enhancing regional visibility are ongoing.
- Regular monthly or bi-monthly emails have been sent to District partner agencies and interested parties containing economic development news updates, events, and funding opportunities.
- Staff continued to write letters of support for regional projects. In addition, Staff created and the CWEDD Board approved letter of support guidelines to develop a process for approving letters.



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

- See Task 4 Above.

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

- Staff is starting discussions on developing a prioritized list of regional needs.
- Continued to support large infrastructure projects, particularly those of regional significance.
- Staff hired a Grant Administration Specialist to help identify and leverage funding sources. The position will provide capacity support to cities in our region to apply for grant funding opportunities.
- Staff worked with the Institute for Policy Research and Engagement (IPRE) to develop metrics research. The metrics report will be used to evaluate the resiliency of the region.
- Staff continued to meet with partners in preparation for an effort to develop an Electric Vehicle Blueprint for Lane County.
- Applied for a Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant to work with regional partners to improve the region's capacity to respond to and recover from hazards such as a Cascadia Subduction Zone seismic event and climate change.
- The conversations around identifying and leveraging funding sources to increase resiliency are ongoing.
- Staff leveraged an integrated planning grant from Business Oregon (\$25,000) to develop a brownfield inventory, community outreach, and apply for the 2022 EPA Brownfield Coalition grant for the Linn and Benton areas. The EPA Coalition grant for Linn and Benton Counties was awarded. Staff released a Request for Proposals (RFP) and anticipates implementation to begin in the Spring of 2024.
- Staff applied for an IEDC Fellow and were not selected. There were over 500 host site submissions with only 65 selected to move forward. We are pursuing other avenues to address workforce housing and industrial site readiness.
- Replaced hardware for BigLeaf VoIP SD-WAN failover, ensuring reliable communication services across much of the region.
- Deployed Palo Alto next-gen firewall infrastructure for enhanced network security and protection for several public agencies to protect against cyber threats.
- Completed an MS-ISAC NCSR Assessment, ensuring compliance, grant funding eligibility and that security standards are being met, enhancing overall organizational resiliency to better serve the region.





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

- Rural Development conversations and meetings are ongoing.
- CWEDD anticipates funding from HB3395 to continue rural capacity building. This builds on the previously awarded Business Oregon Funding and Ford Family Foundation funding to expand rural capacity support. Staff will continue to visit small cities in the region to discuss project needs and grant opportunities.
- Staff maintains a rural partner's email list. The email list will be used to share rural updates with communities in the region.
- Attended the Willamette Valley Broadband event on November 30, 2023.
- Staff took over the management of an EDA Broadband grant in 2022. OCWCOG along with Benton, Lincoln, and Linn County selected Solarity for our EDA Broadband Feasibility Study. A contract was signed with Solarity August 15, 2022, and work will continue through June 2024. Initial meetings started, and a stakeholder list was created. LCOG and Lane County is also in the process of developing a Regional Broadband Strategy Feasibility Study. The Strategy will include a plan and actionable steps toward providing enhanced and reliable broadband internet service to Lane County areas lacking appropriate coverage, maximize the region's competitiveness, and expand into underserved and unserved areas in Lane County.

Staff from LCOG and OCWCOG plan to coordinate the two efforts. Regional broadband and telecommunications continue to be an area of interest and concern for partners exacerbated by the pandemic and the significantly increased need for virtual communications in professional, governmental and educational sectors. The goal is to ascertain the needs, challenges, and barriers associated with rural broadband development and service within the District and secure funding for implementation of increased access.

- The EDD applied for two Broadband Technical Assistance Program (BTAP) grants. These grants are offered to support and promote local and regional broadband planning efforts as they develop financing and deployment strategies to provide high-speed internet to unserved and underserved locations in Oregon. This program is funded by the Oregon Universal Service Fund. The grants were not awarded and Staff are exploring other funding options.
- Staff continues to attend the Broadband Action Team (BAT) meetings. Currently focused on educating our counties on how to utilize the broadband maps that provide unserved/underserved areas along with cost plans for wireless, fiber, and hybrid models.
- Staff continues to coordinate with the USDA local branch on grant opportunities.
- Staff continued to work with the City of Toledo on Planning Projects through an Intergovernmental Agreement. The City of Toledo updated their Comprehensive Plan.



- Staff continued to work with the City of Sweet Home on Planning Projects through an Intergovernmental Agreement.
- Staff helped the City of Sweet Home apply for a USDOT Rural Technical Assistance Grant for planning and design of 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This grant was not awarded.
- Staff continued to support the creation of the Mid-Valley Partnership (MVP) now renamed to the Rural Economic Alliance (REAL), a rural economic partnership that includes nine cities in Linn and Benton Counties.
- Received a Community Benefit Initiative (CBI) Grant from Trillium Community Health Plan to advance health equity in our rural communities.

**Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD)  
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Committee**

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**Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD)  
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee**

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<b>CWEDD Region - Economic Development Projects</b>				
<b>Project Name/ Description</b>	<b>Primary Funder/ Amount / Year Awarded</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Priority Area(s)</b>	<b>Link</b>
<b>Regional or Statewide</b>				
Mass Timber Coalition - Build Back Better	EDA Build Back Better / \$41.4 million / 2022	EDA, OR Department of Forestry, UO, OSU, Port of Portland, DLCD, Biz OR	All 5 Priority Areas	<a href="#">Home   Oregon Mass Timber Coalition</a>
Oregon Workforce Partnership -Post Release Job training, services for reentry population	US Department of Labor / \$3.9 million / 2023	US Department of Labor, Oregon Workforce Partnership	4. Workforce support	<a href="#">US Department of Labor awards \$49.4M to 17 organizations in 15 states to provide pre-, post-release job training, services for reentry population   U.S. Department of Labor (dol.gov)</a>
Lane, Lincoln, Benton USDA Reconnect	USDA Reconnect / 24.9 million Grant /2023	Benton, Lincoln, Lane, OCWCOG, Pioneer	1. Regional Collabroation, 3. Infrastructure Resilience, 5. Rual Vitality	<a href="#">Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$700 Million to Connect People in Remote and Rural Areas to High-Speed Internet   USDA</a>
Coastal Region Hospitality Industry Sector Partnership - Lane Workforce Partnership.	US Department of Labor / \$446,878 Award / 2023	Lane Workforce Partnership, NW Oregon Works, Southern Oregon WIB	4. Workforce support	<a href="#">Biden-Harris administration awards \$16M to improve job quality, expand access to good jobs in critical sectors, including care, climate resilience, hospitality   U.S. Department of Labor (dol.gov)</a>
<b>Lane County</b>				

Cottage Grove - Main Street Revitalization -includes street repaving, frontage improvements, and new water and storm sewer utilities.	EDA PWEAA/ \$5 million / 2022	EDA, Cottage Grove, LCOG	1. Regional Collaboration, 2. Business Development, 5. Rural Vitality	<a href="#">EDA Main Street Revitalization Project   Cottage Grove Oregon</a>
City of Eugene Susan Arlie Park Trails and Mountain Bike Facilities	EDA ARPA Travel Tourism and Outdoor Rec / \$1.2 million / 2022	EDA, City of Eugene, LCOG	1. Regional Collaboration	<a href="#">Phase I of Suzanne Arlie Park development is underway!   Suzanne Arlie Park   Engage Eugene (eugene-or.gov)</a>
Stratocache - Oregon Senate Bill 4 Funding	\$4 4/ 19 million/ 2023	Eugene	2. Business Development	
Broadband - LCOG - Regional Broadband Strategy and Funding Response	LCOG Funds / \$250,000 / 2022	LCOG, City and County Partners	1. Regional Collaboration, 3. Infrastructure	
South Lane County Health Clinic	USDA / \$1 million / 2023	Lane County, LCC, Cottage Grove	1. Regional Collaboration, 4. Workforce Support, 5. Rural Vitality	
<b>Linn, Benton, and Lincoln</b>				
Broadband - OCWCOG - Feasibility Study	EDA / \$300,000 / 2022	EDA, OCWCOG, City and County Partners	1. Regional Collaboration, 3. Infrastructure Resilience	
Oregon Ocean Innovation Hub (O2HI) - Oregon Blue Economy	Business Oregon / 600k / 2022	Lincoln County, OSU, Biz Oregon, ODOE, EDA, USDA-RD	1. Regional Collaboration, 2. Business Support, 4. Workforce Support, 5. Rural Vitality	<a href="#">Business Oregon : Emerging Industries : Reports, Publications, and Plans : State of Oregon</a>
Millersburg Intermodal Center	Business Oregon / 25 million / 2017	Linn County, AMEDC, ODOT, Biz OR, DLCD, DEQ	1. Regional Collaboration, 2. Business Support, 3. Infrastructure Resilience	<a href="#">Mid-Willamette Valley Intermodal Center   Home (mvic-intermodal.com)</a>

Linn and Benton EPA Brownfield Coalition Grant	EPA / \$1 million/ 2023	DevNW, Tangent, Lebanon, Albany, OCWCOG	1. Regional Collaboration, 2. Business Development, 5. Rural Vitality
South Corvallis Food Hub	ARPA / \$550,000 / 2021	Corvallis, OSU	1. Regional Collaboration, 2. Business Support, 4. Workforce Support
Multi-purpose grant - Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians - Toledo Mill Property	EPA/ \$800k / 2023	EPA, City of Toledo, DEQ, Biz Oregon	2. Business Development, 5. Rural Vitality
Hewlett- Packard - Oregon Senate Bill 4 Funding	\$4 4/ 9.5 million/ 2023	Corvallis, Biz Oregon	2. Business Development
Amorphyx - Oregon Senate Bill 4 Funding	\$4 4/ \$250,000/ 2023	Corvallis, Biz Oregon	2. Business Development
Corvallis Microfluidics Tech Hub	EDA/ Pending / 2023	EDA, Biz Oregon, OSU, Corvallis	2. Business Development