

**Tri County Economic Development District  
TEDD/RTPO Board of Directors  
Hybrid Meeting  
Wednesday, March 26, 2025**

**1. Call to Order & Introductions**

Tri County Economic Development District (TEDD) Chair, Robert Dean called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Introductions were conducted.

**TEDD/RTPO Board Members**

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Robert Rosencrantz, Pend Oreille County

Robert Dean, Ferry County

Shari DePaulo, Town of Marcus

Debra Hansen, WSU Stevens County Extension

Jessica Garza, Port of Pend Oreille

Tara Leininger, Mayor Metaline Falls

Rod Van Alyne, Workforce Development

Mick Yarroll, Stevens County PUD

Madison Campbell, Kalispel Tribe

Leslie Valz, Stevens County Treasurer

Jack Smith, City of Colville

Greg McCunn, City of Chewelah

Tonya Wallace, City of Chewelah

Rosemary Shaw, Colville Together

Bryan Raines, Rural Resources

Michelle McCullum, Avista

Barney Brockwell, Workforce Development

Mike Zorica, Kalispel Tribe

Michelle McCollum, Avista

**GUESTS**

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Brandon Hansen, External Relations Manager

Deana Zakar, Kinn Ross River Operations

Josh Kaiel, Innovia Foundation

**TEDD STAFF**

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Jeff Koffel, Executive Director

Frank Metlow, Deputy Exec Director/Planning Director

Jim Cupples, Business Support Contractor

Carrie Paetsch, Finance Manager

Doug Hook, Assistant Finance Manager

Shelly Stevens, Regional Marketing & Tourism Developer

Ryan Burkey, Economic Developer

**2. Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of February 26, 2025 Minutes
- Approval of General Fund & Loan Fund Expenditures & Transfers –February 2025

**February 2025**

**General Fund** – Claims Payable: Voucher Numbers: - 114711-114719; 114723; 11421-114525; 115035-115043; 115044-115045 in the amount of \$873,794.26 AND Benefits in the amount of \$15,267.69, AND Payroll in the amount of \$41,803.90 for a monthly total of \$930,865.85.

**TEDD Loan Fund** – Electronic Funds Transfer-- February 2025 IRP #5 Payment in the amount of \$42,450.00, for a monthly total of \$42,450.00.

**TC EDC Loan Fund** – Electronic Funds Transfer – February 2025 RMAP Payment in the amount of \$2,290.80 for a monthly total of \$2290.80.

*Jack Smith made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Debra Hansen seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

**3. Presentation**

- Community Heart & Soul – Josh Kaiel, Innovia Foundation

**4. Executive Director's Report – Jeff Koffel**

- Jeff noted there will be computer upgrades and in next month's billing you will see some of the expenses reflected in that.
- The plumbing project will start in a few weeks and completion by the end of April 2025.
- The Incubator has some issues with the roll-up doors and water leaks and garbage can issues. There was a heater issue that was resolved.
- The childcare project is complete and there is a good model to help anyone analyze whether a childcare facility of any size is viable in their area.

## **5. Staff Reports**

### **Deputy Executive Director/Planning Director—Frank Metlow**

- Frank noted they are completing the Regional Safety Action Plan. Our consultant SCJ is completing the project prioritization and draft completed by the end of February. The draft will be sent out for review and presented to TAC at the March meeting. TAC will make a recommendation to approve or not. The plan will then be presented to the board at the March meeting for adoption.
- The MPL-RTPL meeting was this month, and concerns were raised about the impact of State Budget issues on WSDOT projects, especially regarding green energy and EV funding. WSDOT continues to evaluate how changes in Federal funding may influence State Budgets and projects. Waiting for further updates from WSDOT on freight data and transportation issues.
- Frank mentioned that requests from WSDOT for FGTS data requests may arise. Those are voluntary and we do not have Type 1 or Type 2 routes in our region.
- All broadband applications are in for Stevens and Ferry County and will know soon if we get those locations.
- Community Connect is open, however unable to put in Application until we know what is happening with BEAD.
- Groundbreaking for the Stevens County Central Project is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> at the General Store in Rice.

### **Business Support Contractor --Jim Cupples**

- Jim report on the Central Stevens County Broadband Project, which is set to break ground next week and will utilize both fiber and wireless technologies.

### **Assistant Finance Manager – Doug Hook**

- Still continuing to move data to Springbrook. Entering the current year, AP's and expenditures and Carrie has done all the historical entries. Great program and user friendly.
- Currently there are 8 active loans in the process. 1 in Pend Oreille County, 1 in Whitman County and 6 in Stevens County. The loan committee just approved 2 of those loans for a total of \$650k.

### **Regional Marketing & Tourism Developer – Shelly Stevens**

- We recently attended the Great Outdoor & Bike Expo in Spokane, which is one of the biggest shows we do.
- Selected once again to take part in the Port of Seattle Spotlight Ad Program at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Our new ad will be on display April-June in Concourse D.
- "Train Dreams" the movie filmed all over NE Washington will soon be available for viewing.
- Washington Filmworks requested we send them five things that represent what is unique about our region for their Film Day display at the capitol building next week.
- The long-time Executive Director of the International Selkirk Loop is leaving the organization.
- Shelly attended a two-day virtual Outdoor Marketing Bootcamp put on by the American Trails Association.
- Our various Facebook pages all had a lot of interactions.

### **Economic Developer – Ryan Burkey**

- Ryan noted he attended the Great Outdoor & Bike Expo in Spokane with Bob and Shelly.
- The Tri-County area has a slight increase in unemployment numbers, due to seasonal job changes.
- Ryan mentioned he and Bob Stevens have been conducting various workshops both in Stevens and Ferry Counties. Ryan spoke with some of the community members in Ferry County about the economy in the area. Will continue to talk with the community to let them know we are here to help. More Workshops are scheduled for April and May 2025.
- Ryan and Bob will set up booths at both the Colville and Chewelah Home and Garden Show's coming up.

- **Old Business**

- **New Business –**

- Resolution 2025-001 – Authorizing application and administration of the RBEG/RBOG program under the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)

*Jack smith made motion to approve Resolution 2025-001, Gregg McCunn second the motion, motion Passed.*

**6. Updates from Board Members and Guests**

- Members and guests gave updates of individual interests.

**7. Adjournment**

- As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.
- The next TEDD Board meeting was verified for April 23, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted: Verna Johnson, Office Assistant**

  
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**Greg Young, TEDD Board Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

Signed by:  
*Robert Dean*  
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**Robert Dean, TEDD Board Secretary**