

**Tri County Economic Development District  
TEDD/RTPO Board of Directors  
Hybrid Meeting  
Wednesday, October 22, 2025**

**1. Call to Order & Introductions**

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

**TEDD/RTPO Board Members**

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Debra Hansen, WSU Stevens County Extension	Dan Fagerlie, Ferry County PUD
Robert Rosencrantz, Pend Oreille County	Dave Rick, Pend Oreille County PUD
Abby Gribi, City of Newport	Barney Brockwell, Eastern WA Partnership
Kelly Driver, Port of Pend Oreille	Christine Whitney, Colville Tribe
Rosemary Shaw, Colville Together	Bryan Raines, Rural Resources
Jack Smith, City of Colville	Matt Schanz, NE Tri County Health
Sonia Hoffman, Colville Tribe	Michelle McCollum, Avista Utilities
Mick Yarrol, Stevens PUD	Leslie Valz, Stevens County Treasurer
Jan Hoogstad, Avista Utilities	Shari DePaulo, Town of Marcus
Madison Campbell, Kalispel Tribe	Doug Kyle
Luke Decker, Colville National Forest	

**GUESTS**

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Edward Lambert, SCJ Alliance	Steven Bruchman, Congressman Baumgartner's Office
Patrick Jones, Eastern Washington University	

**TEDD STAFF**

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Jeff Koffel, Executive Director	Shelly Stevens, Regional Marketing & Tourism Developer
Frank Metlow, Deputy Exec Director/Planning Director	Ryan Burke, Economic Developer
Scott Thompson, Loan Officer	Verna Johnson, Office Assistant
Bob Stevens, Regional Business Specialist	Jim Cupples, Business Support Contractor

**2. Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of September 24, 2025 Minutes
- Approval of General Fund & Loan Fund Expenditures & Transfers –September 2025

**September 2025**

**General Fund** – Claims Payable: Voucher Numbers: - 119896-119906; 120065-120066; 120067-120069 in the amount of \$653,251.05 AND Benefits in the amount of \$13,912.98, AND Payroll in the amount of \$39,256.57, for a monthly total of \$706,420.60.

**TEDD Loan Fund** —Claims Payable: NONE

**TC EDC Loan Fund** – Electronic Funds Transfer – August 2025 RMAP Payment in the amount of \$2,290.80; September 2025 RMAP Payment in the amount of \$2290.80, for a monthly total of \$4,581.60.

*Jack Smith made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Dan Fagerlie seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

**3. Presentation** – Northeast Washington Trends, presented by D. Patrick Jones, PhD

#### 4. Staff Reports

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

- UPWP Annual Report was submitted recently.
- Issued an RFP for a consultant to assist with the CTP-HSTP planning process.
- Continue to build out the fiber and aerial for the Stevens County Central Project,
- DNG is finalizing their final tower.
- TEDD was awarded the Ferry County Project 230 and pending contract.
- Pending notifications on the Community Connect.
- On the Central Project, we are currently working with NoaNet to complete the customer portal.

##### Business Support Contractor—Jim Cupples

- Jim mentioned that the Central Stevens County project is moving along smoothly.
- Jim announced that he will be stepping away from his position from TEDD.

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

- Shelly announced that Republic will be the recipient of the EPA, Rural Outdoor Recreational for rural economies Grant.
- The first four videos that are part of the current Marketing & Production Grant project have been delivered. These will be added to the visitor website.
- For 2025, we purchased an advertising package with Scenic Washington.
- Washington Grown, a PBS show, will be filming in our area in October. The episode will feature the Ferry Conservation District and will also interview Shelly about agritourism and other tourism opportunities in the region.
- TEDD provided grant research support to the International Selkirk Loop.
- TEDD assisted in helping Fisherman’s Cove Resort on Curlew Lake to verify business information on Google.
- October 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> is the SWT Tourism Conference at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane, WA.
- Shelly also reminded the Board of the Imagine Library that is available, at no charge, to any business organization.
- The various Facebook pages have all received a lot of activity.

##### Economic Developer – Ryan Burkey

- Ryan reported the unemployment situation across the three counties has not changed significantly.
- The Ferry County Economic Development Strategy Project is nearing completion.
- Bob and Ryan have plans for more business support workshops that will begin soon.
- Recently attended a community meeting held at Hewes Craft that discussed the concerns of trying to keep people in the area to work at local manufacturers.

##### Regional Business Specialist—Bob Stevens

- Bob announced his retirement, and this being his last TEDD Board Meeting.
- A graph was shared showing the ADO interactions between July – September 2025.
- Continuing to get direct contact with the ADOs in areas as well as commercial banks to improve the referrals for the loan committee.
- Hewes Craft recently hosted a dialogue about workforce in the area.

##### Loan Officer – Scott Thompson

- Currently there are 43 loans through August.
- Scott shared details on how the loan fund works and mentioned he is available for public speaking to discuss the loan fund.
- Receiving inquiries from Chelan and Douglas Counties and planning another Southern tour to meet with ADO’s to discuss the loan fund opportunities.
- Currently, we have 8 clients in the application Portfol.

**5. Executive Director’s Report – Jeff Koffel**

- Jeff mentioned Jim Cupples unexpected departure from TEDD, as well as Bob Stevens’ retirement.
- Scott Thompson contract was extended through the end of the year.
- TEDD welcomes Campbell Thompson to the team as Social Media Marketing Intern.
- Jeff reported on the recent funding cuts affecting the ADO program.
- TEDD applied for the USDA RCEBI grant, unfortunately we did not receive it.

**Old Business – None**

**New Business –**

- **Benton Franklin Council of Government’s Revolving Loan Fund**
  - Jeff would like to pursue negotiations with the Benton-Franklin Council of Governments on potentially assuming their loan fund.  
*Abby Gibbi made a motion allowing negotiations with Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, to take over their revolving loan fund. Jack Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
  
- **TEDD / NEWRTPO 2026 Budget**
  - Budget request letters for 2026 have been sent out for review.

**Updates from Board Members and Guests**

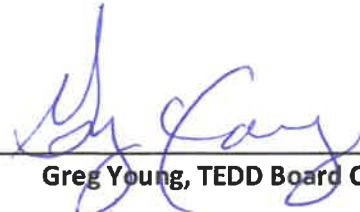
- Members and guests gave updates of individual interests.

**6. Adjournment**

- As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:57p.m.
- The next TEDD Board meeting was verified for October 22nd, at 1:00 p.m.

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

**ATTEST:**

  
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**Greg Young, TEDD Board Chairman**

  
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**Robert Dean, TEDD Board Secretary**