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Executive Director Report



Duane Wollmuth
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Momentum Builds in Southeast Washington

Over the past two years, we have seen much economic development progress and many exciting happenings in our region. Wind energy continues to expand through new wind farm projects and an expansion of wind supply chain businesses. The start of Phase I of Puget Sound Energy's Lower Snake River Wind Farm Project in Garfield County has meant the creation of 250 temporary construction jobs. In addition, lodging, restaurant and other service businesses throughout the region have seen some of their best revenue months in recent years.

The proposed Palouse Wind Farm Project in Whitman County also holds much promise for businesses and job seekers. Like the LSRW Project, this project is expected to generate over 150 temporary construction jobs, and 18 permanent direct and indirect jobs. The project is pending final approval on its' conditional use permit (CUP).

In addition, the region has been at the forefront of efforts to reinvigorate the manufacturing sector through projects such as the Snake River Boat Builder's Export Program and the American Manufacturing Network. Through collaborative efforts led by Clearwater Economic Development Association, the Northwest Intermountain Manufacturing Association, Valley Vision, the Port of Clarkston, SEWEDA, and others, the area has garnered a reputation for its' collaboration and can-do attitude.

The SEWEDA region has also seen the successful retention and expansion of existing businesses. The tourism industry has been expanded through the promotion of the region's Agri-Tourism destinations. A one-half hour television episode on Belo Broadcasting's Northwest Backroads show last September, coordinated by SEWEDA and the Washington State Department of Tourism, highlighted the spectacular Agri-Tourism assets of Dayton and Columbia County. An Agri-Tourism brochure and web site were made available to promote destinations throughout the region.

(Continued)

Executive Director Report (cont.)

While SEWEDA and other economic development organizations in the region have been successful in retaining multiple businesses through asset development, such as the soon to come low cost broadband service, and retaining other businesses by assisting them with permitting issues and dealing with bureaucratic red tape, perhaps the biggest retention success story over the past two years has been the Ski Bluewood Resort in Columbia County. After being notified by the resort owner in the spring of 2010 that he would not re-open the resort in the fall and that a buyer for the resort had to be found by September, 2010, SEWEDA played a major role in spearheading a local effort to find a solution to keep Ski Bluewood open. After a series of community meetings, exploration of various private and public ownership alternatives, financial analyses, and communications with non-profit foundations and the federal government, a solution was found. Mike and Kelly Stephenson, and their investment group took control of the resort in time to open for the 2010-2011 ski season, and retain over 100 part- and full-time jobs.

I have taken great pride as I travel the state and hear others in Seattle, Olympia, and elsewhere comment on the economic development news from Southeast Washington. Our corner of the state is a leader in many ways. Unfortunately, I am also at a point where I must say goodbye, as I have accepted the position of Executive Director of the Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance, a winery and vineyard owner membership organization in the Walla Walla Valley. I know I will be crossing paths with many of you in the future. However, if I don't, I wish you the best and always remember we live in God's country. Let's continue to work together to keep our economy and quality of life the best it can be. Cheers!

Asotin County



Tina Davidson
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Look what's been going on in Asotin County!

With winter behind us and the plush green hills surrounding us, I am excited and ready for summer. I have been busy with a lot of activities and programs here in the Valley and I'm excited to share them with you.



The activities have included Recruitment, Start-up and Retention and Expansion of businesses. I continue to actively seek businesses to locate to Asotin County. I have made several contacts with the Boat Building Industry in the state of Oregon, to share all the exciting things that we have going on with the Snake River Boat Builders Export Program. With the new Sustainable Business Park that the Port of Clarkston is building, we look forward to marketing this area and welcome new businesses to Asotin County. Also continue to work with local businesses to assist with business retention efforts to make sure their needs are being met.

Speaking of the **Snake River Boat Builders Export Program**, I would like to provide you with an update as to where we are at with this program. On January 22-30, 2011, Six participants of the program exhibited in the Snake River Boat Builders Pavilion at boot Düsseldorf Germany. Bentz Boats, Custom Weld Boats, Phantom MIL/PRO, Riddle Marine, SJX Jet Boats and Thunder Jet Boats. The nine day show included a wide range of exhibitors, importers, agents and consumers from throughout Europe.

Asotin County (cont):

It was considered an outstanding success, a great foundation for building the brand and developing the European market. Plans are underway to expand the program's presence and impact at boot Düsseldorf, 2012. Currently program participants are getting the CE certification training through the summer months. Another reception is planned in the LC Valley in September. There will be more information to come as we get closer to the date.



SEWEDA again this year, participated in the **WSU High School Business Plan Competition** and I am honored to say that **Riley Hughes of Asotin High School** took First place, with a cash prize of \$1,550.00. I want to personally acknowledge what a great program this is and what great rewards it is for these students. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication outside of the classroom to get these plans put together. So again thanks to all the partners, that makes this program possible!

I am on the **American Manufacturers Network (AMN)** Board of Directors and Planning Team which is a consortium of manufacturers organized through a not-for-profit corporation for the purpose of responding to large manufacturer and U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) supply needs. Clearwater Economic Development Association (CEDA) recently received an EDA grant in the amount of \$160,000 for establishment of the AMN. *The AMN mission is to enhance and assure the domestic supply base for manufactured parts; by working with military installations and large manufacturers within the NW to supply "problem parts" through the use of an existing, regional network of manufacturers and exercising processes that reduce costs, cycle times and waste.* As a result, AMN shall increase military preparedness and create manufacturing job opportunities in rural northwestern states. It will stimulate rural economic growth via the creation and retention of living wage manufacturing jobs in rural communities by matching existing and new manufacturing capabilities. This is a great collaboration with CEDA, NIMA, Valley Vision, and the Port of Clarkston. I will keep you updated as this program progresses.

Clarkston's Alive After Five kicked off on May 5th with a Cinco De Mayo celebration. What an amazing start to the Alive After Five season. Entertainment was fantastic, vendors were busy making money and Clarkston was Alive After Five!



As you can see by the picture we had great attendance, the weather cooperated and we had over 60 vendors. A good time was had by all according to KLEW TV which gave us great coverage. Izzy the Camel is back for another year along with Slinky the Clown. And Tendercare is again sponsoring the kid's activities with a jumping castle and face painting along with a variety of free kid's games. The funds that were generated last year were used to purchasing flower pots for our new light poles. We have 9 baskets that are now on display and next we will be purchasing banners that will also be on the new light poles when installed. Clarkston's Alive After five is the First Thursday of every month, May thru September. Our next event will be June 2, Downtown Clarkston 5-9 pm. It's the place to be with Live music, great food, a TON of vendors and Children's activities.

Asotin County (cont):

And Last but not Least.....

We recently learned that our Executive Director, Duane Wollmuth had accepted a new position with the Walla Walla Wine Alliance and his last day was May 26th. It's a natural for him to go back to work in the wine industry and we all wish him the Best of Luck. But this is sad news for Asotin County because Duane has been such an asset to so many programs for the Valley. One great example is the Snake River Boat Builders Program, where he was a great advocate for this program and took the initiative to spread the word and did it with extreme confidence to help educate and promote the program. But more so in the leadership and guidance he has provided to me coming into the Asotin County Managing Director position. He gave me the confidence I needed to take on tasks that I was not comfortable with and gave me the direction I needed to move ahead. He has provided all four of us managing directors with a positive direction and the steps we need to take to get these tasks accomplished. He has opened many doors for SEWEDA and generated great partnerships and opportunities that we so much needed. He was a great asset to SEWEDA and he will be greatly missed.

The following are **New Business Licenses** issued in Clarkston and we would just like to welcome them and wish them the best of luck:

Robert Harrington, Contractor
Unhinged Imaging, 6th Street
Fuller Brush, Elm Street
Pathfinder IT, Boston Street
TLC Homes, LLC, 6th Street
Lanman Property Preservation, LLC, 16th Street
Chapman Roofing, 13th Street

Columbia County



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**Dayton
Is A Cool Town!**

KNDU-TV the NBC affiliate out of the Tri-Cities, featured a series of Cool Town segments during the month of May. Dayton was spotlighted on Thursday May 12th. The station did a great job showing why Dayton is special and what sets our town apart from other small towns in Eastern Washington. Twelve of our local businesses also produced television commercials featuring Dayton's restaurants, gift shops, winery, brewery, art gallery and theater. So little Dayton dominated the airwaves! But, just as we were feeling puffed up with pride the herpes horse virus hit. Dayton Days, the traditional Memorial weekend event, in its 93rd year was badly hurt earlier this spring when state budget cuts stopped pari-mutuel horse racing in the community. The Dayton Days board decided to go ahead with the event minus the races, focusing their efforts on the traditional parade and rodeo. And then the "perfect storm" hit. Due to the herpes horse virus, the rodeo was cancelled and the decision was made to allow no horses in the local parade. So we ended up being a very small parade, big in spirit! And isn't that what makes a small town a "cool town"? A town turning out to watch a horse parade with no horses. **Dayton –truly is a cool town.**

Garfield County



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Pomeroy Chamber of Commerce Plans Tumbleweed Festival Activities

Pomeroy Chamber of Commerce will once again partner with the Garfield County Pioneer Association for the annual Pioneer Day/Tumbleweed Festival June 10-12 in Pomeroy. The weekends' activities will kick off on Friday with the second annual Car Show which begins at noon on 7th and Columbia Streets. The show is part of the Wine, Stein and Shine event, a regional wine and micro-brew tasting, which will be held from 5:00-10:00 pm in the Spinner's Maple Hall at 7th and Columbia. Registration for the car show will begin at 10:00 am, and awards for the show will be presented at 4:30.

The Dash for Cash Fun Run will begin at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 11th with registration beginning at 7:30. The Annual Pioneer Day Parade will begin at 10:00 am on Main Street, followed by the Fun Run Awards Presentation. The Food Court will be open in the Spinners Maple Hall from 11:00-1:00, and the Main Street Flea Market/Swap Meet will be open all day next to Vonda's Antique Mall. Both the Garfield County Museum and the Eastern Washington Agriculture Museum will be open for visitors Friday and Saturday. Saturday's events will wrap up with live music by Lark Drive at the Spinner's Maple Hall.

The Annual Crystal Springs Golf Tournament will begin Sunday at 10:00 am at the Crystal Springs (municipal) Golf Course, and the Pomeroy Gun Club will hold its annual Sausage and Rifle Shoot at the Club beginning at 9:00. As well, the first annual Washington Wind Festival will hold activities throughout the weekend at the Pataha Flour Mill just outside of Pomeroy. The weekend holds something for everyone and the Pomeroy Chamber of Commerce invites you to attend!



SEWEDA to Assist Local Students Attending Washington Business Week

In a partnership with the local school district and the Pomeroy Chamber of Commerce, SEWEDA's Managing Director in Garfield County, Alesia Ruchert, is offering several internships as a means of earning tuition for several local business labs students to attend Washington Business Week July 10-16 at Gonzaga University. Both SEWEDA and the Chamber have committed funds to several students who have applied to assist with camp fees in exchange for internship hours, assisting with community events, promotional initiatives and various professional and business-related activities within the organizations. PHS principal Doug LaMunyan proposed the internships in lieu of scholarship as a means of allowing the student to gain value on both ends, rather than just receiving monetary donations without putting in an effort to earn it. Amy Miller, PHS Business Labs instructor, has worked closely with 6 students in registering for the camp and is organizing a committee meeting for selecting those individuals who expressed interest in and applied for the internships. SEWEDA has committed \$300.00 toward camp fees, with the Chamber also committing a portion, to be divided equally among the applicants. Washington Business Week is a week-long camp designed to introduce future business leaders with the basic concepts of business operations in a fun and educational environment. For further information visit the Washington Business Week website at www.wbw.org.

Whitman County



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**The lazy days of summer are
in sight, but there is still
plenty happening in
Whitman County!**

2011 Business Plan Competition

The Winners of the High School Division, sponsored by SEWEDA and Avista are:

- 1st Place: Torn Scooters- Riley Hughes, Asotin High School- \$1550
- 2nd Place: Kristin's Coffee- Kristin Nelson, Palouse/Garfield High School- \$1200
- 3rd Place: Green Community- Jack Qiu, Melcah & Sam Nordquist, Pullman HS- \$1000

Winners of the Open Division, sponsored by the Port of Whitman are:

- 1st Place: Palouse Spirits- Joe Fondahn, \$6,000 (Distillery)
- 2nd Place: Noah's Ark Foods- Mike & Mindy Hicks, \$5,000 (Gluten Free Treats)
- 3rd Place: Guerilla Paintball- Nathan Weller & Julia Krauser, \$4,000 (Paintball Games)

Palouse Wind

The permit granting the construction of 65 wind turbines in Whitman County earned a conditional use permit on Monday, May 23, 2011. Hearing Examiner Andrew Kottkamp granted the permit and denied two appeals filed against the wind farm in his multi-page decision. Construction of the wind farm could start as soon as this summer.

SEWEDA Bus Tour to Garfield County

SEWEDA sponsored a bus tour for over 40 business owners, farmers and community leaders to Garfield County. The purpose of the tour was to meet with various individuals to demonstrate the positive impact that Wind Farms have had on Garfield County.

The tour met with the projects managers from Puget Sound Energy and toured the Wind Farm up close and personal. The managers related to the tour the many positive results and the environmental impact for the region. The group was able to see how they were built and how they operated.

Next the group met with the manager from the main construction firm and he explained how Garfield County and nearby counties benefited. Many services like asphalt paving, gravel, water trucks will be sub contracted out to firms adding temporary jobs in the county.

The group took a tour of the NEW RV Park being developed at the Port of Garfield. The park will have 35 spaces, shower and laundry facilities as well as a mini mart and micro brew tasting room. After construction of the Wind Farm the RV Park will serve the many hunters, fisherman and other outdoor enthusiasts visiting Pomeroy.

Finally the group met with local businesses which indicated that most of the increase in business would be short term, until the project is completed. Businesses such as the grocery store, mini mart, restaurants and hotel were seeing big benefits. Whitman County should see a similar impact.



Whitman County (cont):

Pullman Farmers Market

Running every Wednesday from 4-6 pm through August. The market is located on Kamiakan Street next to the Spot Shop. Many other businesses are staying open an hour later with specials, sidewalk sales and unique opportunities. Paradise Creek Brewery is open and will have outdoor seating as well as dinner and beverage specials.

Summer Happenings in Whitman County

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS- Join the fun in **Johnson, Albion, Garfield, LaCrosse and Pullman.**

Many activities are planned at each location-parade, food, fireworks and more!

Palouse- 7th Annual Spring BBQ & Hotrod Gathering- June 4th; Art Walk, 2nd weekend in July; Bluegrass Festival, July 30th Go to www.VisitPalouse.com for more information

Pullman- NATIONAL LENTIL FESTIVAL, August 19th & 20th - More info: www.pullmanchamber.com

St. John- WEBBS SLOUGH RACES, June 18th and August 27 - More info: www.Webbsslough.com

Uniontown- ANNUAL FLEA MARKET AND YARD SALE, 3rd weekend in August, 19th & 20th

Tekoa- SLIPPERY GULCH DAYS, June 17, 18 & 19 - More info: www.tekowa.com

Rosalia- BATTLE DAYS CELEBRATION, June 1, 2 & 3 - More info: www.Townofrosalia.org

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