



SEWEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dan Boone - Port of Whitman

SPONSORS:



Interim Executive Director Report

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Renewals and Transitions

The summer months always indicate a time of renewal for both SEWEDA and the PRTPO. Some of our grant funding and contract deliverables are renewed around July 1. Primarily, funding through both the Washington State Department of Commerce (for SEWEDA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation (for PRTPO) is reconfirmed for another operational cycle. Our third main source of funding through U.S. Economic Development Association has also been confirmed for another year.

The Washington Dept. of Commerce requires a set of “deliverables” that must be met by each of our four counties. Our managing directors: Tina Davidson (Asotin), Claudia Nysoe (Columbia), Alesia Ruchert (Garfield), and Dick Watters (Whitman), are responsible for carrying out various economic development activities and tasks within each of their respective counties. An example of the deliverables ranges from making a specific number of contacts with new businesses each year for retention efforts, to hosting or sponsoring workshops and trainings for workforce development, small business owners, and other related audiences.

The PRTPO also has a set of outcomes that need to be met, as arranged under a “unified work plan” in contract with the Washington State Department of Transportation. Many of these activities include the coordination of transportation planning efforts in the region, and also results in specific plans or studies that are funded by our state grant. An example of some of the specific projects includes a Walking Study Plan with an emphasis on Safe Routes to School, and an ADA Transition Plan, among others.

It is a season of transitions. On behalf of both boards and staff, a very big THANK YOU goes to Duane Wollmuth for the great leadership and new programs he launched during his tenure, which now have become his legacy.

(Continued)

Executive Director Report (cont.)

Over the past month or so, the SEWEDA/PRTPO organization has been conducting a search for the new Executive Director. Members of both boards served on a Selection Committee and consisted of: Francis Benjamin (Pullman City Council), Janet Danley (WWCC – Clarkston Campus), Jennie Dickinson (Port of Columbia), Mark Storey (Whitman County Public Works), and Mike Tatko (Avista Corp). After several weeks of collecting application materials, five candidates were invited for interviews. After a unanimous recommendation to the SEWEDA Board of Directors, who had final approval authority, Marshall Doak of Salem, OR has accepted the position. Marshall's first official duty will be to attend the board meetings on Tuesday, Sept. 13. Marshall has several years of economic development/executive leadership experience in both Washington and Oregon. He also has served on transportation commissions (OR), and recently merged an EDC and a SBDC in Tillamook County. He has grant writing/management experience, and a track record of strategic planning and organization development. He and his wife, Virginia, have been hoping to relocate to the warmer/drier climate of Eastern Washington. They spent some time in Clarkston when one of their children attended WSU and really liked the area. I will save many other great details about Marshall for the next newsletter article that will come directly from him! Marshall will spend time visiting several communities around the region the week of Sept. 19. Please give Marshall a warm, SE Washington welcome!

Asotin County



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Networking in the Valley

This newsletter covers the activity for June, July and August of 2011. With all the events and activities that this Valley has to offer, it really makes this a great place to spend the summer.

I have been busy attending lots of meetings and doing a lot of networking. SEWEDA relies on partnerships to get business accomplished. I have been actively involved with the following:



Alive After Five
Asotin City Council
Community Development
Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce
Port of Clarkston
Northwest Intermountain Manufacturing Association
Snake River Boat Builders Export Program
NOANET – Broadband/Telecommunications
Clearwater Economic Development Association Collaboration

Clarkston City Council
Asotin County Commissioners
Healthy Communities
Stormwater
American Manufacturers Network
Valley Vision Annual Board
Metro Planning Organization (MPO)

Asotin County (cont):

SEWEDA continues to work with the appropriate partners including but not limited to, local governments, workforce development councils, port districts, community and technical colleges and higher education institutions, export assistance providers, the Washington state quality award council, small business assistance programs and other federal, state and local programs.

City of Asotin:

The City of Asotin welcomes you with a new sign. The Asotin Tomorrow group has been working on getting better signage for the businesses in Asotin and with that came a new entrance sign. Come visit and see what this great little town has to offer.



Snake River Export Boat Builders Program:

We are planning another In-bound Trade Mission – U.S. Commercial Service Trade Specialists in September! We have them coming from Belgium, Turkey, Spain, and Germany.

The Snake River Boat Builders Export Program is a wonderful example of successful collaboration between members of a dynamic manufacturing cluster and the economic development community of the Lewiston/Clarkston region. We encourage you to visit their website www.snakeriverboats.com to fully understand and appreciate the organizations involved with this dynamic program.

Clarkston's Alive After Five:

The newsletter wouldn't be the same without mentioning Clarkston's Alive After Five. Once again, we have rocked downtown Clarkston with another successful year. The last Alive After Five will be September 1, from 5-9. Come on down for some fun in the sun and listen to some local entertainment while having a glass of wine in the Garden!



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

Circle Seven Grocery
Clarkston Sprinklers
Trenchless Irrigation & Landscape
Nancy's Creative Cuts
M.R. Good Dogs
Bridge Street Station
House Check

Always Our Best
A New Day Counseling Services
Spot on Yogurt
3-C's Construction
Linn Pemberton, EA
AllPro Towing & Recovery
SPN Enterprises, LLC

Columbia County



Claudia Nysoe
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Tourism Drives Economic Development In Columbia County

In summertime one thinks of vacations and road trips. The tourism business continues to grow in Columbia County with visitors coming from all states, and the countries of Switzerland, Germany, England, Argentina, Japan and Poland to visit our little town. People love to explore our historic town, to tour our historic Dayton Train Depot, Lewis and Clark encampment, our historic home walking tour, our stately courthouse and to eat at our top notch restaurants. Our community events continue to bring in those that want to experience small town America. Bicyclers, golfers and hikers are increasing in number; camping and fishing are summertime activities that bring families to our area by the carload. And the Sun! Westsiders love our sunshine.



Locals and tourists are enjoying Dayton's three wineries and our favorite micro-brewery, **Skye Book & Brew**. This establishment sells new and used books for the whole family. Skye is a comfortable place to gather including family dining, beer brewed on premises, regional wines, and homemade root beer.

Dumas Station focuses on creating Bordeaux-varietal red wines with grapes from their estate Walla Walla vineyard. They are a small, family-owned winery committed to quality, and creating some of the best wine in Washington State. Located on Highway 12 west of Dayton, Dumas is open to the public on Saturdays from 1-5pm.



The newest winery opened for business August 19 on Main Street. **Mace Mead Works** is a producer of handcrafted honey wines using only the highest quality honeys from reputable beekeepers in the region. The winery is located on Dayton's Historic Main Street where you can enjoy a relaxing glass of mead, peruse an eclectic art collection, and listen to music on the best hi-fi stereo in town. Saturday nights feature live music from a variety of northwest musicians, DJ's, and performers. See how mead is made in the beautiful barrel cellar and try the wine that inspired ancient philosophers, warriors, and kings at Mace Mead Works.

Dayton Wine Works sits on the hill above Main Street and features a beautiful setting to enjoy your glass of wine outdoors on their patio. They feature award-winning wines and memorable and fun labels such as, "No Rut Red, Lured-In, Not Tonight Deer, and Old Iron." Owner Carl Kramer also brings great weekend entertainment to hill with his Live Music and Potluck Winemaker dinners on the patio.



Columbia County (cont):

Blue Mountain Station

Dayton has become a destination place for “Foodies” as we boast fine dining at its best with our restaurants and non-franchise eateries. We even have a famous four star restaurant located here. So it only seems natural that our Columbia County Port District is looking to build “the world’s first Eco-Friendly “Artisan Natural & Organic Food Park.” Blue Mountain Station will be an international food park, attracting tourists from around the world, including professionally guided tours through the production facility and creating brand awareness and sales in the onsite market a& deli. As the ADO representing SEWEDA for Columbia County, I have recently been asked to serve on the board of directors for Dayton’s new Blue Mountain Station. This exciting project is lead by Port Manager, Jennie Dickinson. Phase 1, the infra-structure was just completed in June. For more information go to www.portofcolumbia.org.



Garfield County



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Pomeroy’s Pioneer Plaza Park Nears Completion

Although officially begun in 2004, the impetus for “Pioneer Plaza”, a pedestrian space on Main Street in downtown Pomeroy, began with a grant application to the 1989 Washington Centennial Committee by the City of Pomeroy and the Pomeroy Chamber of Commerce. The project cited in the grant application was to “make a park in the downtown business district where a 2-lot site has remained unimproved following a fire in 1978.” It would take another 13 years, 5 other fund-raising initiatives, and countless volunteer and city crew hours to bring the project to fruition. During that time, 3 different engineering/architectural firms drew up plans, 4 grant-making organizations approved funding for the project and a variety of elected officials have inherited the park as part of the city’s “to-do” list. Today, the park is an inviting pedestrian space with artwork, park benches, landscaping elements, pathways, greenery and shade. The final element, a permanent restroom, is scheduled to be delivered in September, possibly in time for the annual Garfield County Fair, Sept. 16th-18th.



Garfield County (cont):

The pre-construction phase for the “pocket park”, as it was called prior to adoption of the official name, was begun in 2004 and was funded in part by a grant through Washington State Historical Society’s Heritage Program for Lewis-Clark Bicentennial Projects. The intrepid explorers had passed through the area following the Pataha Creek on their return journey from the ocean, and actually camped overnight at site about 4 miles east of downtown Pomeroy. The grant dollars were funded with the understanding that there would be an interpretive element in the park somewhere, depicting the Lewis and Clark story in Garfield County. The actual site of the future park, historically known as the Gammon Block, had become a dumping area for debris in the years after the buildings had been destroyed by fire in 1978. In the mid-80’s the city replaced the sidewalks on Main Street and the old concrete was piled in the empty lot.

In the early 90’s a group of conscientious citizens received funding from a local family foundation to have a mural painted onto the boards that had been placed at the front of the lot. The painter created a scene which depicts a turn-of-the century family outing downtown, and actually incorporated the surviving metal façade columns as part of the canvas. Although the portion seen by the public was attractive due to the mural, behind the façade was a mangle of junk, so a good portion of the funding from WSHS was utilized for debris removal and backfill. Early in the rehabilitation work, it became apparent that removing the mural panels was necessary, but that they would be an important element in the completed park.



The city crew removed the panels and stored them for several years, and when the panels were re-hung inside the park using a self-supporting framework, a local artist was hired to restore the weather faded paintings. Engineering studies had determined that the exterior walls of the adjacent buildings as well as what remained of the historic building facade, although stable, should not be used as anchor points for any park elements, and that



appropriate drainage needed to be installed so that water would not seep in below exposed areas of the buildings’ foundations. Some of the debris was actually retained and manipulated so that it created a drainage type system beneath the fill-dirt and pea gravel that was used as the top layer, and a new, stable foundation was created for the future pocket park. As well, some pre-construction infrastructure installation for the restrooms and lighting was completed during this phase with a \$25,000 grant from Northwest Area Foundation. Both of these early, crucial grant applications were written by Alesia Ruchert, Managing Director for SEWEDA (then PEDC) in Garfield County.

With the completion of the pre-construction phase in 2005, the City began seeking other funding sources and received design drafts from Don Brigham & Associates, which were used in several of the subsequent grant applications. Working with the PRTPO in 2007, the city received Transportation Enhancement funds of \$68,000, which allowed design and fabrication of park furniture, including park benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles and bike racks, as well as the Lewis and Clark interpretive artwork panels, park signage and some landscape elements. A local metal artist won the bid for the furniture and signs, and the local FFA Ag Mechanics class created the bike racks. The grant also allowed for new signage at Pomeroy’s City Hall as well as interpretive plaques for the 42 buildings in Pomeroy’s Downtown Historic District. Although several designs had been submitted to the City for consideration in developing the pocket park, all remained true to the original intent of the park: to rehabilitate a vacant lot on Pomeroy’s Main Street in order to create an aesthetically pleasing public space in which the local and traveling public could relax and gather, and which would provide ADA compliant public restrooms while using artwork to reflect the county’s rich history and heritage.

Garfield County (cont):

The City adopted the official name for the space, "Pioneer Plaza" in 2005, in honor of the pioneering spirit that brought the original settlers to area in the 1860's. As a further means of celebrating the heritage of the county, the City established a memorial brick program as a means of investing local dollars into the park's development. Memorial bricks were offered for purchase to local and past residents, as well as others with a tie to Pomeroy, as a memorial for a family member, group or organization. These bricks would be incorporated into the design of the park as a decorative element and would also help raise local funds for its completion. To date, 152 memorial bricks have been purchased.

Federal dollars would again play a role in the parks development and prove to be the closer for the deal. In 2006, the City learned of available development dollars through the Federal Forest Highway Enhancement program. Intended for another community's restroom project which had been turned back, the grant opportunity was brought to the city through the US Forest Service Pomeroy Ranger District. A network of agencies came together to lend expertise in implementing the \$166,000 grant to develop restrooms in a public space along a highway which accesses federal forest lands. The US Forest Service, the Western Federal Lands Highway Division, the Garfield County Public Works Dept., the City of Pomeroy and SEWEDA collaborated in attaining the federal dollars that would bring the park at last to completion.

The elements funded through this final grant include walkway development utilizing concrete and the memorial bricks, an awning to protect the re-hung murals, metal artwork, a pergola for shade, a large curving brick planter box for greenspace, a retaining wall, security components, strategically placed locally quarried basalt boulders, and a pre-constructed ADA compliant public restroom. All of these elements have recently been added to the park. Other miscellaneous elements in the park which were donated through-out its development include a basalt water fountain, a large spruce tree, planter pots and seasonal plantings, and a information kiosk which was later removed and utilized elsewhere.

Numerous volunteers, city employees and elected officials have worked together during the life of the project and include (but not limited to) former Pomeroy City Mayor Clay Barr, current Mayor Alan Gould, Garfield County Engineer Grant Morgan, former Chamber of Commerce President Jan Gould, city crew members Kenny Landkammer, Willie Graham and Mike Lockard, former city PWD Tim Bemis, SEWEDA managing director for Garfield County Alesia Ruchert, various dedicated Chamber members, Lisa Lund, Maribeth Waldher and Pacific Power's community relations specialist Marc Jenkins. Today, the park affords an inviting public space with seating, shade, greenspace, public art, wi-fi and very soon, permanent public restrooms. All of those involved in this project extend a heartfelt invitation to the curious and the travel-weary to stop on Main Street in Pomeroy, stretch your legs, grab a coffee at The Bean Counter in Meyer's Hardware or Soggy Bottom Coffee House and then take a stroll into Pioneer Plaza, the little park that proves dreams really do come true.

Whitman County



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**August has arrived and
Whitman County
is in full swing.**

Harvest has finally started and the crops are excellent with high yield and good prices. Washington State University is back in session with 18,5000+ students to put smiles on retailers faces.



Whitman County (cont):



Here are some things happening in Whitman County.

Port of Whitman Commissioners Race:

The primary race was held August 16th to reduce the field from 4 to 2. The primary winners were: Tom Kammerzell, a rancher from Colfax and Al Sorensen, an insurance agent from Pullman. The general election will be held in November and the winner will serve a four year term.

Fiber Optic Line:

The Port of Whitman, in Partnership with NoaNet (Northwest Open Access Network), began construction of a 170 mile fiber optic line stretching from Spokane to Clarkston, WA, in July of 2011. The Port is a sub-recipient of a \$10M Federal BTOP Grant to build the fiber line which will bring broadband capability to many rural communities in Whitman County.

What will the Fiber do for the communities of Whitman County: Increase competition among service providers for both public and private sector users; Increase the competitive edge for recruiting high tech companies dependent on broadband; Increase the productivity and help retain existing companies; Provide enhanced bandwidth opportunities to medical facilities, libraries and other government entities.

Firstwind, Avista:

Avista has selected to purchase power generated by the proposed Palouse Wind project in Whitman County. Palouse wind will provide Avista with approximately 40 megawatts of renewable energy under a 30 year power purchase agreement with deliveries beginning in 2012. The energy meets Avista's Washington State mandated renewable portfolio standard requirements. The construction of a relay station has been started in Thorton, WA to manage the energy distribution.

Palouse Scenic Byway:

Palouse Scenic Byway has installed a sign on hwy 195 just south of Uniontown. Additional signs will be installed west of LaCrosse on hwy 26 and north of Rosalia on hwy 195.

The signs are being installed by Ace Elliott Construction of Pullman.



Events Being Sponsored By SEWEDA:

Mayor's Roundtable is set for Thursday, September 22, 2011 in Uniontown. Andy Mere, AICP, special Projects Coordinator with the Association of Washington Cities will discuss some of the service and programs AWC offers small communities and some of his efforts around keeping rural communities thriving. The event is being co-sponsored by SEWEDA, Avista and the County Commissioners.

Whitman County (cont):

Pullman 2020! Thursday, September 8, 2011 is the “kickoff” event in creating a preferred community vision for the year 2020. Speakers are: Edmund Schweitzer, Ph. D. President, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories and Elson Floyd, Ph. D., President, Washington State University The event is being co-sponsored by SEWEDA, Avista and the City of Pullman.

Uniontown/Colton Economic Improvement Committee: SEWEDA has been assisting the committee in discussions regarding economic development in the communities the past few months. SEWEDA has made a donation to do a community survey to see what directions the citizens of Uniontown and Colton would like to go. This process will be on going for the next 4-6 months as the survey is development, sent out and the results of the survey.

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