



Board Meeting

June 11, 2026
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Pacific Maritime Heritage Center (Bayfront)
333 SE Bay Blvd., Newport, OR 97365

or

Join Virtually via Teams

TEAMS Meeting by clicking [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 254 291 114 930 4

Passcode: GL2NZ34k

Mobile 1 Click Number:

[+ 1 872-242-8088](tel:+18722428088)

Phone Conference ID: 572 135 787#

Contact: Susan Patterson (spatterson@ocwcog.org)

AGENDA

- | | | | |
|----|------|--|--|
| 1. | 9:00 | Call to Order & Agenda Review
<i>Welcome to Lincoln County!</i> | Chair Paul Schuytema |
| 2. | 9:05 | Roll Call | Staff |
| 3. | 9:08 | Public Comment | Chair Paul Schuytema |
| 4. | 9:10 | Minutes of March 19, 2026, Meeting (Attachment A pg. 04)
ACTION: Approval of Minutes | Chair Paul Schuytema |
| 5. | 9:12 | CWEDD Executive Committee Appointments
ACTION: Appoint CWEDD Exec Board members (Benton County and at large) | Chair Paul Schuytema |
| 6. | 9:15 | Fall Regional Meeting
Preliminary logistics, date/time, structure, and theme
ACTION: Discussion | Staff, Susan Patterson |
| 7. | 9:30 | CEDS Priorities Area 2 and Proposed Projects (Attachment B pg. 16) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priority Area 2: Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development, Approaches 2 and 3• Economic and Disaster Resiliency• Economic Development Practitioner Convenings ACTION: Discussion | Staff, Justin Peterson and Susan Patterson |

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|-----|-------|--|---|
| 8. | 9:45 | <p>Lincoln County Economic Report
 Link to the full report: Lincoln County, Oregon Economy Status in Middle 2020's</p> <p>ACTION: Information</p> | <p>Chair Paul Schuytema</p> |
| 9. | 10:00 | <p>Georgia Pacific Toledo – Local and Regional Economic impact and report.</p> <p>ACTION: Discussion</p> | <p>Andrea Formo,
Georgia Pacific,
Toledo</p> |
| 10. | 10:40 | <p>Lincoln City EPA Community-Wide Assessment
 <i>An overview of how the City of Lincoln City used EPA Community-Wide Assessment funding to identify brownfields, complete environmental assessments, and support redevelopment projects throughout the community. Specifically highlighting key accomplishments, lessons learned, and next steps following completion of the grant.</i></p> <p>ACTION: Discussion</p> | <p>Guest, Seth Lenaerts – Lincoln City</p> |
| 11. | 10:50 | <p>Discussion: CEDS Working Groups (Open time for any questions) (Attachment C pg. 23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cascades West Innovation Hub • Broadband Action Team (BAT) • Blue Economy Update from EDALC • Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC) • Early Childhood Education (on pause) • Rural Economic Alliance (REAL) • Lane Economic Committee (LEC) • Other workgroup updates? | <p>Chair/Staff,
Susan Patterson</p> |
| 12. | 10:55 | <p>Other Business (time permitting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regionally Significant Updates – by County (Examples – a large manufacturing company announced a new site, other board meetings you attend) • Topics for remaining 2026 meetings? | <p>Chair/Staff,
Susan Patterson</p> |
| 13. | 11:00 | <p>Adjournment
 <i>Next Meeting: September 10, 2026, Benton County</i></p> | <p>Chair</p> |
| 14. | 11:05 | <p>Port Dock 5 “Shop the Dock” Tour – View over the harbor
 Tour of the Newport Port Dock 5 to learn all about commercial fishing in Newport.</p> | <p>Dr. Angee Doerr</p> |
| 15. | 11:30 | <p>Lunch at Clearwater restaurant.
 Please send an RSVP to amuzechenko@ocwcog.org before 5 pm on Wednesday, June 10th.</p> | <p>Chair</p> |

CWEDD MEMBERSHIP (For Quorum Purposes)

OCWCOG Members	Title	Jurisdiction
Mayor Christopher McMorran	Mayor	Philomath
Mayor Jan Kaplan	Mayor	Newport
Mayor Alex Johnson II	Mayor	City of Albany
Heather DeSart	Executive Director	NW Oregon Works
Greg Price	Director	Oregon Coast Community College, SBDC
Christie Dudenhoefer	Executive Director of Semiconductor ED	Oregon State University
Paul Schuytema	Executive Director	EDALC
Chris Workman	City Manager	City of Philomath
Ron Whitlatch	City Manager	City of Lebanon
John Pascone	President	LEDG
Pam Barlow-Lind	Planning Director	CTSI
Christopher Jacobs	Economic Dev Director	Benton County
Lane Members	Title	Jurisdiction
Chris Wig	Board Member	Willamalane Parks and Rec District
Patti Chappel	Board Member	Eugene People's Utility District
Randy Groves	City Councilor	City of Eugene
Robbie McCoy	Mayor	City of Veneta
Steve Racca	Board Member	Fern Ridge Library District
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.

CWEDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Hybrid Meeting: IN PERSON at Lane Council of Governments

859 Willamette Street SE, Eugene OR 97401-2910

or Virtual Via Microsoft Teams Technologies

OCWCOG Members	Title	Jurisdiction	Attendance
Nancy Wyse	Commissioner	Benton County	Yes
Vacant	Vacant	Lincoln County	Vacant
Vacant	Vacant	Benton County At Large	Vacant
Alex Johnson II	Mayor	City of Albany	Sophie Adams
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
Ron Whitlatch	City Councilor	City of Lebanon	Yes
John Pascone	President	LEDG	Yes
Pam Barlow-Lind	Tribal Planner	CTSI	No
Christopher Jacobs	Economic Development Manager	Corvallis/Benton County Economic Development	Yes
Lane Members	Title	Jurisdiction	Attendance
Randy Groves	City Councilor	City of Eugene	Yes
Shery Duerst-Higgins	Board Member	Land ESD & S. Lane SD	No
Bryan Cutchen	Mayor	Oakridge	Yes
Ashley Espinoza	Board Member	Bethel SD Board Member	No
Steve Recca	Board Member	Fern Ridge Library District	No
Pete Knox	Board Member	Lane Transit District	Yes
Greg Ervin	City Councilor	City of Cottage Grove	Yes
Matt Michael	City Manager	City of Veneta	No

Staff: Planning Supervisor Justin Peterson, CED Director Matt Lehman, Interim EDA Supervisor Susan Patterson, LCOG Loan Manager Sandra Easdale, Brenda Moore LCOG Executive Director, OCWCOG Lead Planner Corum Ketchum, Executive Assistant Ashlyn Muzechenko.

Guests: Jason Harris, Courtney Flathers, Daniel Tiel, Chantelle Meyer, Chris Wig, Heather DeSart, Greg Price, Paul Egbert, Heather Stevens, Allyson West, Jacob Callister, Jason Harris, Christie Dudenhoefer

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION / CONCLUSION
1. Call to Order & Agenda Review	<p>The Chair, Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County Director, Pual Schuytema, called the March 19, 2026, CWEDD Board meeting to order at 9:05 am.</p> <p>Chair Schuytema welcomed all in attendance to Lane County.</p> <p>There were no changes to the agenda.</p>	<p>The Meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by the Chair, EDALC Director Paul Schuytema.</p>
2. Welcome and Roll Call	<p>Planning Supervisor Justin Peterson conducted a rollcall of the CWEDD Board members and guests in attendance.</p>	<p>Roll call was conducted by Justin Peterson</p>
3. Public Comment	<p>There were no public comments made to the CWEDD Board of Directors.</p>	<p>There were no public comments.</p>
4. CWEDD Board Membership and Election of Officers	<p>Randy Groves moved to approve the continuation of Paul Schuytema as Chair and Greg Ervin as Vice-Chair. Pete Knox seconded.</p> <p>The Chair, Paul Schuytema, of EDALC voted in favor. Vice-Chair Greg Ervin of Cottage Grove voted in favor. Sophie Adams of Albany voted in favor. John Pascone of LEDG voted in favor Randy Groves of Eugene voted in favor. Pete Knox of LTD voted in favor. Ron Whitlatch of Lebanon voted in favor. Christopher Jacobs of Corvallis voted in favor. Chris Workman of Philomath voted in favor. Nancy Wyse of Benton County voted in favor. Bryan Cutchen of Oakridge voted in favor. There were no votes against.</p>	<p>Motion Approved.</p>

<p>5. CWEDD Executive Committee Appointments</p>	<p>Chris Jacobs moved to approve the current executive committee membership to be continued for another year. Randy Groves seconded.</p> <p>The Chair, Paul Schuytema, of EDALC voted in favor. Vice-Chair Greg Ervin of Cottage Grove voted in favor. Sophie Adams of Albany voted in favor. John Pascone of LEDG voted in favor Randy Groves of Eugene voted in favor. Pete Knox of LTD voted in favor. Ron Whitlatch of Lebanon voted in favor. Christopher Jacobs of Corvallis voted in favor. Chris Workman of Philomath voted in favor. Nancy Wyse of Benton County voted in favor. Bryan Cutchen of Oakridge voted in favor. There were no votes against.</p>	<p>Motion Approved.</p>
<p>6. Minutes of December 11, 2025, Meeting (Packet Attachment A)</p> <p>Action: Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>Councilor Greg Ervin moved to approve the minutes for the December 11, 2025, CWEDD Board Meeting. Christopher Jacobs seconded</p> <p>The Chair, Paul Schuytema, of EDALC voted in favor. Vice-Chair Greg Ervin of Cottage Grove voted in favor. Sophie Adams of Albany voted in favor. John Pascone of LEDG voted in favor Randy Groves of Eugene voted in favor. Pete Knox of LTD voted in favor. Ron Whitlatch of Lebanon voted in favor. Christopher Jacobs of Corvallis voted in favor. Chris Workman of Philomath voted in favor. Nancy Wyse of Benton County voted in favor. Bryan Cutchen of Oakridge voted in favor. There were no votes against.</p>	<p>The motion carried unanimously</p>
<p>7. Strategic Discussion about Priority Area 2 and CWEDD Board Goals</p>	<p>Corum Ketchum, CWEDD staff facilitated a discussion related to CEDS Priority Area 2: Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development. The Board was asked to consider and prioritize Area approaches. He referenced Federal and Regional Priorities, and posed several guiding questions to help frame the discussion:</p>	<p>Discussion and prioritization.</p> <p>Board conversation elected to work on</p>

CWEDD CEDS Update 2025 – 2030

Priority Areas and Implementation Strategies



	Priority Area 1	Regional Collaboration and Partnerships
	Priority Area 2	Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development
	Priority Area 3	Infrastructure Resilience
	Priority Area 4	Foundations for Economic Wellbeing
	Priority Area 5	Rural Vitality

approaches two and three.

Priority Area 2

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development

#	Approach	Recommended Lead	Key Partners
1	Provide support to entrepreneurship, industrial innovation, business retention and business expansion efforts combined with workforce development efforts to create a thriving business environment.	CWEDD	Workforce dev agencies, SBDCs, entrepreneurship leads.
2	Facilitate connections between business development centers, economic development organizations, business incubators and accelerators to create a clear and obvious bridge of support between the start-up and growth phases of new businesses.	Workforce dev agencies	CWEDD, workforce investment boards, incubators, accelerators, SBDCs, state and federal regulatory agencies
3	Facilitate collaboration between educational institutions (both higher education and community colleges), economic support organizations and regional businesses to continue to grow our regional entrepreneurial ecosystem supporting innovative businesses region-wide.	School districts, community colleges, and universities	Workforce dev agencies
4	Develop a future-ready workforce pipeline by coordinating current & future business needs with higher education training, from STEM disciplines to career technical education.	WETS and community colleges	Workforce dev agencies
5	Provide start-ups and existing businesses with technical assistance, resources and incentives to help SBDCs thrive better (live) in our region.		Accelerators
6	Identify resources and develop relationships before shocks so that businesses can immediately access financial assistance post-shock.	Government loan officers, Business Oregon	CWEDD, LDA, Small Business Administration, community banks
7	Support discussions for regulatory changes at the local, state, and federal level to facilitate business growth and health.	CWEDD	Business Oregon, FGT, city and county partners

Description: In order to thrive, the region must foster entrepreneurship, innovation, and workforce development through collaboration with educators, business support organizations, and economic development partners. Key initiatives include expanding technical assistance, bridging gaps between business incubation and growth, aligning workforce training with industry needs, and advocating for regulatory improvements. This approach ensures businesses at all stages and of all sizes have the resources, talent, and supportive policies needed to thrive and drive long-term economic prosperity.

CWEDD's Role: As the designated economic development district of the region, CWEDD provides access to unique sources of Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding and programming. The District has an opportunity to offer resources and coordination that will support local-level business retention and expansion efforts and entrepreneurial ecosystems builders. **Over the next five years**, the District will provide research capacity, serve as an information hub, and facilitate important connections between business support providers, members, and federal programming.

Chair Schuytema noted that there are resources needed across the region for businesses and start ups, such as the network inventory the OWCOC had put together in the past. There are newer and updated versions available including resource lists and asset maps.

	<p>Randy Groves noted that he received information from Lane County and the Southern Willamette Valley Innovation Corridor about an emerging initiative about how to strengthen scientific research for industry momentum, land readiness, and quality of place. See this link: Home SWV Innovation He also noted that many start-ups are coming out of these programs are looking for resources for business skills like permitting help and payroll tax resources.</p> <p>Chair Schuytema shared a conceptual and systems mapping model called Asset Quilting. EDALC has used this model for some time. Asset quilting is a visual map of how different assets, service, and resources are interconnected and work together.</p> <p>Pete Knox noted that leveraging what we have is important.</p> <p>John Pascone shared in the meeting chat, that CWEDD needs to be more involved with the Governor’s Prosperity Council.</p>	
<p>8. Regional Solutions Prosperity Map Presentation</p>	<p>Courtney Flathers, the Regional Solutions Governor of Oregon : Regional Solutions : Regional Solutions : State of Oregon coordinator shared her presentation on the Prosperity Road Map.</p> <p>The Prosperity Map presentation provided information about how Oregon is currently looking and what future scenarios or trends are being reviewed.</p> <p>Next steps look like the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recruit additional Leadership Expertise to grow and drive the roadmap ● Establish a new fast track program ● Reduce Barriers to investment and growth ● Partner with businesses and commuities for growth ● Modernize and Strengthen Oregon’s Economic Development Tools ● Explore Targeted Tax changes to spur living wage job creation and 	

	<p>increase GPD.</p> <p>Flathers also shared a survey which is closing tomorrow, that will be collecting feedback on this new initiative and how to move forward. The link to the survey (closing 3.20) can be found here: https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/Pages/Prosperity-Co... CWEDD Board Meeting Microsoft Teams</p>	
<p>9. LCOG Broadband Update</p>	<p>Jacob Callister shared a presentation regarding Broadband in the LCOG area. He shared there is a digital divide between people who have access to affordable and reliable internet service (and the skills and gadgets to take advantage of these) and those who don't. Additionally, it's the public sector who can help close this divide by their policies, reuglations, and priorities, along with – public sector funding, equity access, and help with implementation.</p> <p>Callister also shared the Reigonal Fiber Consortium System:</p>	

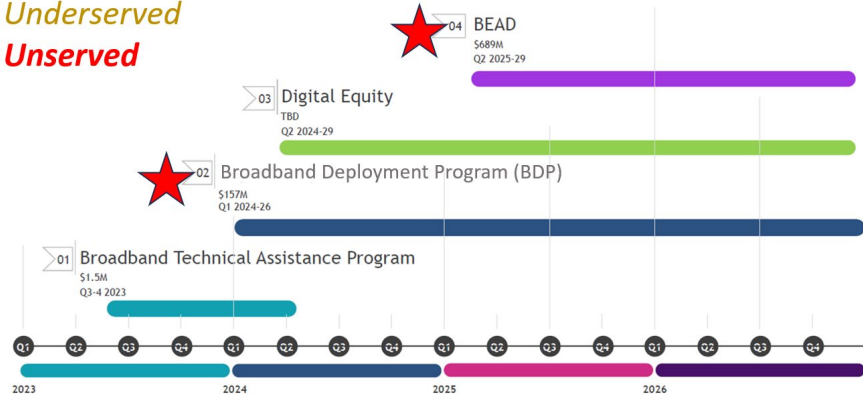


This group also helps to make up the Regional Broadband planning (and doing) group.

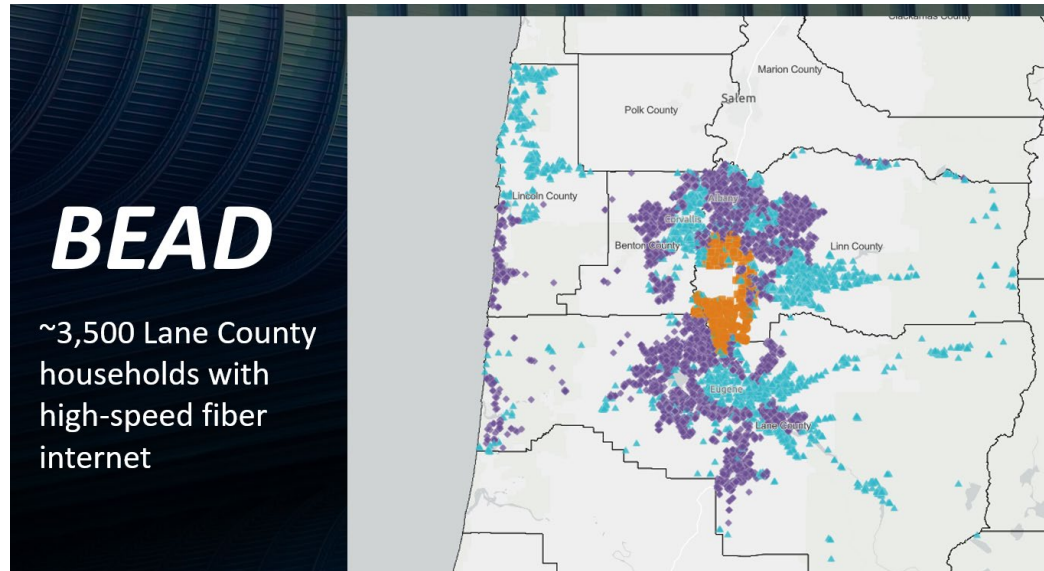
The following roll out was also shared with CWEDD Board Members and Guests:

Oregon Broadband Programs - Rollout

Served
Underserved
Unserved



As a result of BEAD, approximately 3,500 Lane County Households have high-speed fiber internet.



<p>10. Discussion: CEDS Working Groups</p>	<p>Blue Economy Update from EDALC</p> <p>On February 7th, as part of the Winter Waters event, Discover Newport and the Central Coast Food Web (based in Newport) hosted the Blue Line event, a tour of Blue Economy stops in the Newport area - the Oregon Coast Aquarium, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Pacific Maritime Heritage Center, Newport Port Dock 7 and the Central Coast Food Web/Yaquina Lab. The event showcased seafood-based Blue Economy efforts in Newport. Just over 200 people attended the event.</p> <p>On May 8th, the Hatfield Marine Science Center will host the Blue Economy Workforce Development Workshop. The Workshop will bring together leaders from academia, government agencies, and industry to strengthen the network of partnerships serving Oregon and southern Washington’s coastal and maritime sectors. The goal is to help academic institutions become more responsive to the evolving needs of Blue Economy employers, ensuring the region’s students are well prepared for meaningful and skilled careers in this growing field.</p> <p>Broadband Action Team (BAT)</p> <p>In early February the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) approved Oregon's Final Proposal for the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, authorizing the state to move forward implementing the largest broadband infrastructure investment in Oregon's history. Through this approval, Oregon will invest \$689 million to expand affordable, high-speed, and reliable internet service across the state. The initiative is expected to connect 104,654 unserved and underserved households, healthcare facilities, and businesses, with a strong focus on rural communities, tribal lands, and other historically underserved areas.</p> <p>Slight disclaimer on this optimistic news: 46% of the new connections in Oregon will be via Low Earth Orbit satellites from Starlink (most on the eastern side of the state) - it’s still unclear if that tech can provide true broadband at that scale. There are limitations on connections per square</p>	
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mile to maintain approved broadband speeds, plus Starlink remains expensive (per month - the equipment will be free) and requires a cell phone and cell connection to set up.

The Oregon Broadband Office (OBO) has just launched the ARPA Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Digital Connectivity Technology Program, making \$6.8 million available to expand access to internet-enabled devices and public Wi-Fi infrastructure across the state.

Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC)

The CWRC recently applied for a Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) grant to fund the business plan for a regional bank. The grant was not funded. The group continues to look towards next steps to support lower wetland credit costs and streamlined permitting processes. The group next meets in January 2026.

Early Childhood Education (new appointee needed)

No updates, a new appointment is needed.

Cascades West Innovation Hub

Our regional Innovation Hub is firing on all cylinders with defined regional lead organizations (CEDO for Lane, EDALC for Lincoln, RAIN for Linn and Benton and Latino Founders) and a regional advisory board.

On January 27th, EDALC hosted an event: Fueling Growth: How Lincoln County Service Providers Can Support Innovation. Today 3/19/2026 there is an event in Albany: How Vallisnor & The Ecosystem Built a Future Together in Albany. On Friday 3/20/2026 in Corvallis,

The Start Up Engine Workshop will be held. early-stage, innovation-driven founders who are working to refine problem-solution fit, clarify product-market fit, and strengthen the foundations of a scalable venture.

Lane Economic Committee (LEC)

December 9, 2025 – no meeting

January 12, 2026

- 2026-2027 Planning Session with LEC Group.
 - With a new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) and ever-changing landscape, discussion was held to converse economic development partners' needs and priorities, alignments with the new CEDS and Regional Solutions.
 - The meeting had a round robin on what each member are individually prioritizing to better understand each other's needs and identify any regional priorities or opportunities for combined efforts.

 - With needs and priorities on the table, a closer look at the CEDS to identify alignments (and potential gaps) as well as take some time with CEDS identified Approaches that LEC can advance.
 - Discussions today are intended to identify some clear actionable items for the LEC as well as identify other ways to make time together more meaningful to your daily pursuits.
- 2026 Chair and Vice Chair nominations
 - Committee appointed Greg Erivin as 2026 LEC Chair and Anne Fifield as 2026 LEC Vice Chair.

February 12, 2026 – no meeting

March 9, 2026

- Loan Advisory Committee (LAC) Bylaws
 - The Lane Economic Committee for LCOG oversees reviewing LAC materials and making recommendations to the LCOG Board for approval. Formal Bylaws were reviewed and discussed. Recommendation for LAC Bylaws was passed on to LCOG Board for approval.
- Industry and Employment Trends
 - Henry Fields Workforce Analyst with the Oregon Employment

	<p>Office provided an overview of trends in Oregon, Lane County, along with some reflection points to comparator communities.</p> <p>Rural Economic Alliance (REAL) Chris Workman shared the next REAL meeting will be this coming week and there are no updates at this time.</p>	
<p>11. Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEDS/CWEDD Marketing Video • 2026 Meeting Schedule • EDA Planning Grant Update Meeting • Executive Committee Updates • Regionally Significant Updates by County • Topics for 2026 Meetings 	<p>Jurisdictional Updates:</p> <p>CEDS/CWEDD Marketing Video Update The CWEDD Board approved of the marketing video and felt it is a great step forward to share the message out. The EDALC Team put this video together with Sarah Buddingh logging well over 1,000 miles to travel around the region to capture videos and host interviews.</p> <p>The marketing video is available on YouTube and is a great resource to share out at council and commission meetings.</p> <p>Next Regional Meeting Discussion Peterson noted a regional meeting is being looked at by staff for fall of 2025. More information forthcoming. If there is someone who wants to host or join events – please reach out to spatterson@ocwcog.org and amuzechenko@ocwcog.org.</p> <p>2026 Meeting Schedules Peterson shared the 2026 meeting schedules were in the meeting packet and the next meeting will be in June at a location TBA in Lincoln County.</p> <p>Topics for 2026 Meetings Members were asked to send topics for the 2026 calendar year to jpeterson@ocwcog.org.</p>	
<p>12. Adjournment</p>	<p><i>Next Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2026, in Lincoln County. The in-person meeting room is still being determined.</i></p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned by Chair Paul Schuytema at 11:00 am</p>

Priority Area 2

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development

#	Approach	Recommended Lead	Key Partners
1	Provide support to entrepreneurship, industrial innovation, business retention and business expansion efforts combined with workforce development efforts to create a thriving business environment.	CWEDD	Workforce dev agencies, SBDCs, entrepreneurship leads.
2	Facilitate connections between business development centers, economic development organizations, business incubators and accelerators to create a clear and obvious bridge of support between the start-up and growth phases of new businesses.	Workforce dev agencies	CWEDD, workforce investment boards, incubators, accelerators, SBDCs, state and federal regulatory agencies
3	Facilitate collaboration between educational institutions (both higher education and community colleges), economic support organizations and regional businesses to continue to grow our regional entrepreneurial ecosystem supporting innovative businesses region-wide.	School districts, community colleges, and universities	Workforce dev agencies
4	Develop a future-ready workforce pipeline by coordinating current & future business needs with higher education training, from STEM disciplines to career technical education.	WIBS and community colleges	Workforce dev agencies
5	Provide start-ups and existing businesses with technical assistance, resources and incentives to help them better thrive in our region.	SBDCs	Accelerators
6	Identify resources and develop relationships before shocks so that businesses can immediately access financial assistance post-shock.	Government loan officers, Business Oregon	CWEDD, EDA, Small Business Administration, community banks
7	Support discussions for regulatory changes at the local, state, and federal level to facilitate business growth and health.	CWEDD	Business Oregon, RST, city and county partners

Description: In order to thrive, the region must foster entrepreneurship, innovation, and workforce development through collaboration with educators, business support organizations, and economic development partners. Key initiatives include expanding technical assistance, bridging gaps between business incubation and growth, aligning workforce training with industry needs, and advocating for regulatory improvements. This approach ensures businesses at all stages and of all sizes have the resources, talent, and supportive policies needed to thrive and drive long-term economic prosperity

CWEDD's Role: As the designated economic development district of the region, CWEDD provides access to unique sources of Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding and programming. The District has an opportunity to offer resources and coordination that will support local-level business retention and expansion efforts and entrepreneurial ecosystems builders. **Over the next five years**, the District will provide research capacity, serve as an information hub, and facilitate important connections between business support providers, members, and federal programming.



Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 1

Provide support to entrepreneurship, industrial innovation, business retention and business expansion efforts combined with workforce development efforts to create a thriving business environment through regional coordination.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Create and promote a database of incubators, accelerators, capital sources, and business support services available in the region.
- b) Assist with identifying and pursuing funding that would increase capacity of Small Business Development Centers, business incubators and accelerators.
- c) Help counties and cities establish their own business registration or tracking systems that will allow the collection of more and better data about business' needs in order to facilitate responsive government.
- d) Establish a network of local and regional staff who can help businesses navigate through permitting and other processes.
- e) Develop and publicize educational opportunities about the advantages of international trade for regional businesses that are interested in expanding into new markets.
- f) Coordinate workforce and entrepreneurship efforts through the CEDS working group process. Including integrating the Innovation Hub work as a working group.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
The databases as described in strategies (a), (b) and (c), number of businesses engaged as described in strategies (d) and (e).	Every plan update	CWEDD, member cities	CWEDD, regulatory partners, and its membership



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approaches 2 and 3

- 2) Facilitate connections between business development centers, economic development organizations, business incubators and accelerators to create a clear and obvious bridge of support between the start-up and growth phases of new businesses.
- 3) Facilitate collaboration between educational institutions (both higher education and community colleges), economic support organizations and regional businesses to continue to grow our regional entrepreneurial ecosystem supporting innovative businesses region-wide.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Facilitate annual meetings with representatives from business development centers and incubators/accelerators to discuss the process referrals between support providers.
- b) Facilitate annual meetings with representatives from educational institutions to build connections between regional needs and academic course offerings.
- c) Organize a forum on regional innovation networking to facilitate the exchange of ideas and talent across sectors and geography.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Number of events held, number of attendees, and organizations/sectors represented at each event	Every plan update	CWEDD, SBDCs	CWEDD



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 4

Develop a future-ready workforce pipeline by coordinating current & future business needs with higher education training, from STEM disciplines to career technical education.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Support the development of a STEM and career and technical education (CTE) workforce pipeline by coordinating programming between employers and educational institutions, including high schools, community colleges, and universities.
- b) Identify key industries and employers based on local comparative advantages and national trends. Industries could include: mass timber, computer chip manufacturing, engineering, oceanics, software, and more.
- c) Connect local workforce initiatives with EDA investment strategies to increase the capacity of the pipeline

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
STEM job growth rate and regional STEM cluster investments	Every plan update	CWEDD	Census, Oregon by the Numbers



Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 5

Provide start-ups and existing businesses with technical assistance, resources and incentives to help them better thrive in our region.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Support Small Development Centers (SBDCs), incubators, and accelerators in developing resources to help operators develop and manage their business plans.
- b) Discuss potential shocks, threats, disasters and risk reduction strategies at local chamber or business association “Lunch and Learn” events to encourage businesses to create continuity of operations plans.
- c) Incentivize investments in business resilience for businesses that have business continuity plans (e.g. reduce business license fees; expedite plan review for retrofit/mitigation projects).

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Number of events held, number of attendees, and organizations/sectors represented at each event	Every plan update	Workforce agencies, SBDCs	Membership



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 6

Identify resources and develop relationships before shocks so that businesses can immediately access financial assistance post-shock.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Identify external funding (particularly federal programs) to leverage local funds for business-related mitigation and recovery activities.
- b) Coordinate financial recovery programs with other recovery programs and efforts as described in Priority Area 1 Approach 3.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Dollars dispersed, programs created, applications received	Every plan update	CWEDD	SBA, EDA, CWEDD membership



Alignment



US Economic Development Administration



Regional Solutions

Grow Economic Vitality Through Business Development Approach 7

Support discussions for regulatory changes at the local, state, and federal level to facilitate business growth and health.

Implementation Strategies

- a) Convene policy discussions between governments, economic development agencies, business interests, labor groups, and workforce development entities in alignment with other economic development organizations, like the Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA).
- b) Provide business owner/operators with consistent opportunities to regularly provide feedback to CWEDD membership about the current business climate.

Indicators of Success

Supporting Metrics	Collection Frequency	Data Lead	Sources
Number of convenings with State and Federal partners	Every plan update	CWEDD	SBA, EDA, CWEDD membership



CWEDD Board 6-11 2026 Meeting
Working Committee Updates

Blue Economy

Senate Bill 1525, which was signed into law by Governor Tina Kotek on April 7, 2026, establishes the Blue Economy Task Force to study, develop, and recommend strategies for growing sustainable ocean-based industries in the state.

The task force is directed to identify opportunities in sectors like sustainable aquaculture, marine biotechnology, and seafood. It will submit a comprehensive report with prioritized recommendations for policies, investments, and workforce development to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2027.

The law authorizes the Oregon Ocean Science Trust to establish and maintain a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to further its scientific and economic mission.

On May 15th, NOAA released their Request for Information (RFI) for ports from Seattle to San Francisco who are interested in housing the Marine Operations Center - Pacific (MOC-P) fleet after the Newport lease expires. The Port of Newport is working to respond to this RFI (due June 15th) with help from Hatfield, EDALC and local, state and federal legislators. For more information, contact: Paul Schuytema, Executive Director, EDALC, paul@businesslincolncounty.com

Broadband Action Team

On the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD - for Internet Infrastructure contracts - \$689M has been awarded to the state) front, seven Oregon contracts have been signed, ten are in process, and two have been declined and will be sent out for a new bid (from any eligible ISP).

Bipartisan support is growing in Congress to inject about \$7B into the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP - which was shut down in June of 2024), which previously served 23M households, helping provide cost subsidies for broadband Internet access. For more information, contact: Paul Schuytema, Executive Director, EDALC, paul@businesslincolncounty.com

Cascades West Innovation Hub (CWIH)

The CWIH team members attended and tabled at the Oregon Innovation Showcase in Portland on May 11th and May 12th. On May 18th, CWIH held an invite-only event to tour Advanced Technologies and Manufacturing Institute (ATAMI) in Corvallis. This event bridged the gap between the physical requirements of scaling startups that need specialized equipment, tools and space, and the regional resources designed to help them grow locally.

Today (Thursday, June 11th), The Oregon Entrepreneurs Network (OEN), CWIH and the City

of Florence are partnering to host a first-ever PubTalk in Florence. The event will be an engaging, beginner-friendly evening designed to pull back the curtain on how innovation gets funded. Website: innovatecascadeswest.org For more information, contact: Rachel Jagoda Brunette, Hub Director, RAIN, rachel@raincatalysts.org or Paul Schuytema, Executive Director, EDALC, paul@businesslincolncounty.com

Cascades West Regional Consortium

The CWRC hosted Grey Wolf with the Oregon Department of State Lands at the May meeting. Grey presented on the availability of credits and provided a creating a mitigation bank 101. The next step for the Consortium is gathering local sites owned by cities or other sites that have the potential to be a mitigation bank in the future. For more information contact: Justin Peterson, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments West, jpeterson@ocwcog.org

Lane Economic Committee

April 13, 2026 Meeting

Presenter: Sarah Means office of Governor Tina Kotek

Spoke about the “Governor’s Prosperity Council”

- In December 2025 Governor Kotek released a [Prosperity Road Map](#). Sarah Means from the Office of Governor Tina Kotek - Workforce, Higher Education, and Economic Development Advisor provided overview and update on the Prosperity Council and its work which centers on the state’s role in the following areas:
- **Business Climate:** Explore and recommend strategies for regulatory streamlining and potential changes in tax policy that would stimulate GDP growth, and long-term tax revenue.
- **Workforce:** Explore and recommend opportunities to modernize Oregon’s workforce development systems to improve the effectiveness and relevance of training programs for our workforce and employers in growing sectors.
- **Tools for Growth:** Ranging from incentives to land use, explore and recommend updates to economic development tools that reflect and support today’s business ecosystem.

Senator Tim Knopp has been appointed as the Chief Prosperity Officer to work closely with the Council, whose membership is as follows:

- Renée James, Founder, Ampere Computing – Co-Chair
- Curtis Robinhold, Port of Portland – Co-Chair
- David Booth, Tillamook Creamery
- Robert Camarillo, Oregon Building Trades
- Lois Cho, Cho Wines
- Andrew Colas, Colas Construction
- Alice Dale, Labor Consultant - SEIU
- Dave Drinkward, Hoffman Construction
- Diane Fraiman, Voyager Capital
- Brian Hall, NIC Industries
- Stephen Laffoon, Penderia Technology

- Richelle Luther, Columbia Sportswear
- Toby Luther, Lone Rock Resources
- Laura Naumes, Naumes, Inc.
- Brad DePuyt, Fort George Brewing
- Jordan Schnitzer, President and CEO of Schnitzer Properties

May 11, 2026 Meeting

Presenter: Ross Kanaga and Lynn Meyers from DevNW

Spoke about Community Land Trust Model

- DevNW provided information on their community land trust model project, Floral Hill. Generally speaking, community land trusts are governed by community land trust residents, community residents, and nonprofit and public representatives that provide permanent community holding of land and affordable housing.

Presenter: Eric Mongan of Lane County

Spoke about Lane Bank Model

- Lane County provided information on their Housing Land Banking Program that is in development. Generally speaking, land banks are public entities focused on transforming or reviving vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties into vibrant uses aligned to community goals.

LEC Members discussed future LEC Topics:

- A. Cascades West Innovation Hub (Nicole Matthews)
- B. Education Technology (Ed Tech) and the development of the Knowledge Sector
- C. Case management for individuals and families as a tool for economic wellbeing
- D. Housing
- E. Food Security
- F. Meet with Legislators or their staff
- G. University of Oregon - Tech Transfer and School of Education as product generators
- H. Travel Lane County-Destination Master Plan
- I. Sector Strategy Work – Lane Workforce Partnerships, Collaborative Economic Development Oregon, and Regional Career Technical Education
- J. Business Retention
- K. Talent Retention
- L. Agriculture and Value Added Agricultural (production and transportation)
- M. Natural Resources and Variety of Economic Sectors (small forest, timber, restoration, rec & tourism, health)
- N. Resilience Stress Test (continued)
- O. Venture capital and diversification of capital
- P. Winter indoor
- Q. Recreation Opportunities
- R. Arts and Economy (continued)

- S. Port of Coos Bay and related rail
- T. Moderate-income revolving loan programs potential need for some legislative fixes
- U. Water, waste, and storm utilities/infrastructure (ex. Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission and Goshen and/or Junction City)
- V. Changes to State Land Use policy for housing and its implementation
- W. Nuts and bolts of Metro Plan Amendments (as it pertains to topic U above)/potential speakers Jason Harris, Regional Solutions
 - Criteria for “affordable” or “workforce” housing The Lane Economic Committee for LCOG oversees reviewing LAC materials and making recommendations to the LCOG Board for approval. Formal Bylaws were reviewed and discussed. Recommendation for LAC Bylaws was passed on to LCOG Board for approval.

Industry and Employment Trends

- Henry Fields Workforce Analyst with the Oregon Employment Office provided an overview of trends in Oregon, Lane County, along with some reflection points to comparator communities.

For more information, contact: Sandra Easdale, Lane Council of Governments,
SEASDALE@lcog-org.gov

Real Economic Alliance (REAL)

The REAL commissioned a LBCC communications intern to develop a marketing plan for the organization and its member jurisdictions: The following links provide a project overview:
[REAL June 2026 Marketing Plan Update](#) [REAL Communications Intern Economic Development Observations](#)

For more information contact: Scott McDowell, City Administrator, City of Brownsville,
admin@ci.brownsville.or.us or Chris Workman, City Manager, City of Philomath,
cworkman@philomathoregon.gov