

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION held at Community Futures Cowichan Boardroom on February 5, 2009 at 7:30 am.

PRESENT: Director Kent
Director Cossey
Maria Lauridsen
John Morris
Mike Kelly
Pat Foster

ALSO PRESENT: Dave Johel
Dave Jackson
Wade Simmons
George Robbins
Geoff Millar, Economic Development Manager
Kathy Lachman, Business Development Officer
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

Addendums added to Correspondence, Reports and New Business.

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF
MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the November 14, 2008 Regular EDC meeting be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES**

Director Cossey requested statistical data be sent to him in time to review for the February 12 and 26, 2009 meetings.

DELEGATIONS

Not applicable.

CORRESPONDENCE

C1

Received a request for the West Coast Community Adjustment Program and Rural Economic Diversity Implementation (REDI) from Community Futures Cowichan. The Economic Development Manager will send copies of these reports to Director Cossey and Dave Jackson. The successful applicants must show that their initiatives meet economic goals of our region and requires applicants to obtain Economic Development Cowichan support for their application.

REPORTS

**R1
Clean Technologies**

The Business Development Officer gave a presentation on this sector of opportunity. A community investment support program (CISP) application has been approved for a Clean Technology study. The report is expected to be complete in March 2009.

**R2
Area Agriculture Plan**

The Economic Development Manager gave an update. In December 2008 grant funding was secured. The request for proposal closed January 2009. A steering committee will be formed. Focus has changed from regional to provincial.

**R3
External Activities**

The Business Development Officer is attending Linx BC meetings. February tradeshow include the BC Real Estate Convention and the BC Agriculture Show. Good connections have been made with Vancouver Island commercial realtors. City of Duncan has completed a Tourism study. Recommendation was to create a Regional Tourism strategy. John Morris reported that affordable housing is booming in the region due to low interest rates and low unemployment. The island demographics have not changed.

**R4
Economic Summit**

Director Kent gave an update on the highlights. Two billion dollars is expected to be released in the next 60 days. High priority is Cowichan Place and match funding for the Island Coastal Economic Trust. BC and Canada are well positioned but will rely on global change.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

Not applicable.

NEW BUSINESS

**NB1
2009 EDC
Appointments**

Director Cossey and Director Kent have been appointed by the Board to serve on the EDC for a one year term ending December 31, 2009.

It was moved and seconded that the Economic Development Manager put forward a proposal to the Board to re-appoint Dave Johel, Dave Jackson, Wade Simmons and George Robbins to the EDC for a two year term expiring December 31, 2010.

MOTION CARRIED

**NB2
Employment Program** Wade Simmons handed out information on the Match Program. It is an opportunity for employment counsellors to talk with agencies to understand what skill sets they require for recruitment. Once the report is complete it will be made available to the EDC. Wade is looking for assistance with success stories in our region.

Director Cossey left the meeting at 9 am.
John Morris left at 9:15 am

CLOSED SESSION Not applicable.

ADJOURNMENT **It was moved and seconded that the Regular meeting adjourn.**

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 am. Next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2009.

Certified Correct:

Chairperson

Secretary

Dated: _____