

Economic Alliance update

May 1, 2023

1:31 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Swope, Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, Richard DeBolt, Todd Chaput, Amy Buzzard

Guest(s): Elizabeth Rohr

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Public comment: None.

Legislative: Richard DeBolt discussed bills that passed the state Legislature. He talked about Economic Alliance's (EA) work with the Dig Once project.

ARPA: Richard said EA will provide a stakeholders' update during the May 5 Mayors' Meeting.

Grants: Richard DeBolt and Amy Buzzard discussed EA's efforts to secure grants for small businesses. Richard said EA is working on an agriculture analysis to determine how to best help agriculture in the region. Richard said EA is pursuing Bioeconomy Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone rating and is working to draw an ingot manufacturer and a forest woods group to the area.

Tourism: Todd Chaput said the state tourism group gave a presentation the previous week about partnering to develop destination marketing locally. Todd said the tourism website is being finalized and that the Discover Lewis County is reaching out to Chehalis and Centralia regarding efforts to increase tourism.

Events: Richard said Economist William Conerly will give a presentation at 1 p.m. May 17 at the Juice Box in Centralia. Richard said a real estate forum is planned for Oct. 15 and a Hispanic Business forum is planned for September.

The group discussed water rights and proposals being discussed regarding flood mitigation.

Meeting ended at 2:02 p.m.