

Economic Alliance update

July 7, 2023

9:07 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Swope, Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, Lee Napier, Richard DeBolt, Todd Chaput, Nic Scott

Guest(s): None

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Public comment: None.

The commissioners outlined the following policy updates for the .09 Distressed Counties Advisory Board:

- Change from two at-large positions to one at-large position and one Industrial Commission position
- Have BOCC oversee the application process for the appointee representing small cities
- Have one representative from each port
- Indicate that the representative for large cities will alternate annually between Chehalis and Centralia
- Have the application process take place in the fourth quarter for terms effective Jan. 1 of the following year
- Set term dates as one-year terms effective Jan. 1 to Dec. 31

Richard DeBolt and Todd Chaput discussed cross-marketing opportunities and research taking place regarding visitors' travel and spending habits.

Richard and Todd discussed a timber company and a battery manufacturer considering building in Lewis County. They also discussed their coordination with the Port of Chehalis on work – including a feasibility study – taking place regarding agricultural marketing and the potential creation of a commercial farmers market. Commissioner Pollock requested additional information about the battery manufacturer and expressed concerns about the handling of hazardous materials.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.