

Update with the EDC

October 5, 2020

1:31 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Lee Napier, Tailor Albright, Dan Rich, Grace Jimenez

Guest: Claudia Yaw

Recorder: Rieva Lester

COVID-19

Dan Rich said Lewis EDC has put out two COVID-19 relief packages and is working on a third: a Working Washington relief package, for which applications are being accepted. He said Lewis EDC is working on Smart Tank through an EDA grant. He said the EDC is working with the college to ensure future items fit the strategic portion of the grant.

Economic development

Dan discussed funding the BOCC approved earlier in the day for the Winlock project and then gave the following updates:

- A \$10 million to \$20 million substation will be needed for the Mickelsen Parkway area.
- The county will lose its Transalta tax base beginning in 2025.
- The EDC will meet with a headhunter Oct. 6 to begin its efforts to find a new executive director.

Dan stressed the need for infrastructure to address future needs.

Distressed Counties funding

Dan said the county has seen two or three large projects come through in the past few months. He discussed Lewis County PUD's project to extend power to the Benaroya site and noted that the .09 committee will meet later in the week to review recent applications from the City of Centralia and the East Lewis County Public Development Area (ELCPDA).

Announcements

Dan noted that he recently retired from – and sold – his business. He also noted that there have been talks about the possible creation of an H2 fueling station in Lewis County.

Meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.