

**SPECIAL MEETING: EDC's ARPA Stakeholders' Meeting**

**Veterans Memorial Museum, 100 SW Veterans Way in Chehalis**

(available to the public online and by phone via Zoom)

**July 21, 2021**

**2:06 p.m.**

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, JP Anderson, Josh Metcalf, Richard DeBolt, Marrienne Schumacher, Todd Chaput, Rep. Jim Walsh, Alison Puckett, Meja Handlen, Randy Mueller, Katie Conradi, Michelle Whitten, Lori Schmitt, Rachelle Denham, Kessina Lee, Lara McRea, various other elected (county and city) officials, various staff members and various representatives of area businesses and area nonprofits

Guests: Various members of the public and press, including Susan DeLaire, Nic Scott, The Chronicle, Bill Serrahn, Frank Corbin, Luke Canfield

Recorder: Rieva Lester

EDC Executive Director Richard DeBolt discussed the state's process of ranking projects for funding in the capital budget, noting that government efficiency and partnerships will move projects up in the state's rankings. He said the EDC has partnered with Lewis County to identify projects for which federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) could be paired with funding from the state's capital budget.

Commissioner Stamper discussed the challenges the pandemic has created and outlined steps the county and other governmental entities have taken to address funding and health needs. He thanked county staff for its efforts.

Commissioner Pollock said the county plans to devote its ARPA funds toward infrastructure improvements, including the creation of a water bank to supply future housing, business and fish and other aquatic wildlife.

Commissioner Swope said the county wants to maximize the ARPA funding it receives.

Richard said the group is seeking data about upcoming projects to help map out coordinated efforts that could be combined with other projects

Lewis County Manager Erik Martin discussed the county's recently established Strategic Plan and efforts to tie the ARPA funding to initiatives outlined in the Strategic Plan.

Lewis County Budget Services Manager Becky Butler stressed the need to adhere to the U.S. Treasury's reporting and accounting guidelines. She said the cornerstones for future efforts are communication, compliance and transparency.

Lewis County Public Health and Social Services Director JP Anderson discussed efforts to address the county's infrastructure needs, such as water and waste system needs. JP said behavioral health also continues to be a priority for the county.

At 2:35 p.m., Richard announced that the meeting was being recessed for 10 minutes.

The meeting resumed at 2:56 p.m.

EDC Infrastructure Initiatives Program Manager Todd Chaput discussed the EDC's MOU with Lewis County, through which the EDC is being tasked with the following:

- Facilitate and plan stakeholder meetings
- Research and lobby for infrastructure funding
- Develop criteria and application process for grant funding
- Facilitate economic impact meetings with stakeholders

Representatives of the EDC and other participants outlined plans for identifying potential projects and creating a collaborative approach to funding approaches.

Lewis County Public Works Director Josh Metcalf discussed Public Works' efforts to leverage resources to provide the best value for taxpayers.

Becky noted that the commissioners discuss the county's plans regarding ARPA funding every other Wednesday. She encouraged the group to watch the commissioners' agendas to see when discussions are taking place.

Meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.