

Minutes of Whatcom County EDI Board Meeting
Online Meeting
May 11, 2022 – 1:30 p.m.

Board Members present at Meeting:

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive	Guy Occhiogrosso, Chamber of Commerce
Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive	Seth Fleetwood, City of Bellingham Mayor
Atul Deshmane, PUD#1 Commissioner	Stephen A. Jones, Agricultural Industry
Don Goldberg, Associate Development Org.	

Board Members absent:

Todd Donovan, Whatcom County Council	
Jim Kyle, Fishing Industry	David Franklin, At-Large
Scott Korthuis, City of Lynden Mayor	Aubrey Stargell, Timber Industry
Ken Bell, POB Commissioner	Kevin Hester, City of Nooksack Mayor

Staff present: Suzanne Mildner, County Executive Office

Guests present:

Jori Burnett, City of Ferndale	Mayor Greg Hansen, City of Ferndale
Kevin Renz, City of Ferndale	

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Sidhu welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. 7 board members present (meeting the quorum requirement) and guests were acknowledged and welcomed.

Additional Infrastructure Requests (formerly ARPA grants)

Chair Sidhu asked Mr. Burnett to address the board regarding the two projects they are presenting today. Mr. Burnett first spoke about the Metalworks Skate Park as a long-awaited and necessary recreation project which is receiving funding from the state and the city, in addition to private fundraising efforts; the request for EDI funds is \$200,000 total. It will be located just south of downtown, west of Pioneer Village, in a highly visible area. The second project is the Church Road Booster station. This project is in an area of existing and future development where the current pump station is 45-50 years old and in need of replacement pumps, motors, controls, etc. The city will be paying the majority of costs, with an EDI request for \$250,000.

Chair Sidhu asked if any board members had questions about these two projects; there were none.

Deputy Executive Schroeder indicated an updated “infrastructure requests” spreadsheet had been sent to board members earlier today wherein these two projects were added to the others which had previously been discussed. These new items will bring the total EDI request up to approximately \$10.6-million which is well within the budget of available funding.

Chair Sidhu expressed his support of all the projects and noted that the two new ones reviewed today do not overwhelm the EDI fund balance. These projects are a good example of positive economic activity in the community, especially as they are leveraging over \$16-million (combined) from our various jurisdictions. He called for a motion on the Ferndale project proposals.

Mr. Jones made a motion for EDI Board approval of both projects. Commissioner Deshmane seconded the motion. Chair Sidhu called for a vote on the motion, and the **motion passed unanimously 7-0.**

Mr. Goldberg asked Mr. Burnett if the two Ferndale projects were included in the CEDS project list data that he had provided, and Mr. Burnett confirmed that they were included.

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DE Schroeder indicated he had prepared a draft memorandum to County Council, pending the approval of these projects, and now that they have received approval to move forward he will send this motion of support to Council for their consideration at the May 24th meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: TBD

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Mildner, EDI Board Clerk
Whatcom County Executive Office