

Organization: Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NEOEDD)

Presenter name: Lisa Dawson, Executive Director

Email: lisadawson@neoedd.org

Phone: 541-426-3598

Website: www.neoedd.org

Mission and purpose:

In 1985 Wallowa, Union and Baker counties established the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District to enhance community and economic development services in the region.

NEOEDD's mission is to provide resources and facilitate quality decision making for the benefit of entrepreneurs, businesses and communities in Northeast Oregon.

Our purpose:

- Help businesses start, survive and grow through loans and matched savings, product and market research and development, research of regulations, business planning, classes and referrals
- Help private Non-profit corporations survive and thrive through training and technical assistance on best management practices; grant and donor-based fundraising; feasibility studies and internal audits
- Help local governments and communities provide needed infrastructure and services through training and technical assistance for project development, financing, management and reporting; leadership training; and development of permanent local funding through community endowment funds.

Key metrics/outcomes/impact for the past year:

Matched Savings for Business and Education - Currently 15 participants enrolled in Wallowa County, saving >\$40,500 and leveraging > \$121,500 in matching funds to invest in their business or education.

Loans - \$5.5 million in loans in the region; 340 jobs retained; 425 jobs created; \$400,000 currently available to lend

Grants – More than \$5.8 million in grants written over the last five years for projects in the region

Current top 3 priorities/focus areas:

Entrepreneurial Development

- ▶ Fully utilize our loan and IDA funding and technical assistance to help more businesses start and grow

Brownfields Assessment Program

- ▶ Create more useable land through Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments for public or private property

Food System Development

- ▶ Strengthen diversified food production, processing and private/nonprofit partnerships

Challenges that you most need help with, either from another organization or the community at large:

Getting the word out about matched savings accounts – funds available now at \$3 match for \$1 saved.

Increasing collaboration and having enough staff time to spend with other organizations in the community to plan and implement projects.

Top 3 opportunities you see for the coming year:

Local Business Investing (equity and loans) - create a collaborative Economic Development structure to give individual investors more options to invest in vital local businesses

Grow the Wallowa Fund (www.wallowafund.org) – increase awareness of and donations for the Wallowa Fund to support projects and programs in Wallowa County

Tourism development – agritourism development and promotion; bicycle-related trail/road tourism development and promotion

of current active/serious collaborators:

Oregon Rural Action, Oregon Microenterprise Network, Valley Individual Development Accounts, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Community Bank , Wallowa County Food System Council, Northeast Oregon Business Development, Wallowa County Business Facilitation, Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce

Who would you like to collaborate with more?

Wallowa County Board of Commissioners, Wallowa Resources, Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce, Building Healthy Families, Cities, Community Connection (matched savings for first time home purchase), Springboard Innovation, other food system projects across Oregon