

*White Pine County Economic Diversification Council  
Monthly Activity Report for August, 2011*

**Marketing:**

1. Wind Energy Industrial Cluster: I have completed the marketing brochure and will produce 100 copies to take to the Power Supply Chain Conference in Des Moines, IA. In September. I am scheduling appointments now with booth exhibit sponsors to introduce our Industrial Cluster Development. We are now members of American Wind Energy Association and will access their website to download information of all current and planned wind farm projects located within the (11) state Western Region. We will develop a mailing campaign to solicit information as per their current and future mechanical needs to create a list of supporting companies that they are looking at doing warranty work on their systems and identify companies that are being utilized by multiple projects. We will then reach out to those companies to inspire an interest to develop an office in our Wind Energy Industrial Cluster. As well, GLWN.org is an international supply chain advisory group and network of wind energy manufacturers that I will be able to pull information per wind energy service and manufacture company contact info. We will email the marketing brochure to each and then follow-up with phone calls to solicit tenant opportunities.
2. Aviation / Aerospace Industrial Cluster: I have identified five major corporations that have been issued government funds to conduct feasibility studies to replace the Space Shuttle Program. I am working on creating a marketing package to be able to promote the initiative.
3. USDA/ Nevada State Purchasing Div. Supported Food Processing Plant: We have made contact with Sarah Adler by email and she recommended we speak with Kay Vernatter. I am hoping to visit USDA and get some answers last week of August while in Carson City.
4. Juniper / Pinion Pine Pellet Manufacturer: The DOE award for renewable initiatives has \$400,000 allocated for a Biomass Manufacturing facility development with a match from the manufacture. Many other tasks with minor funding is available thru the grant for assessment and studies into PJ. I have been discussing these options with the DOE staff and we are fine tuning my understanding of the tasks at hand and getting a better understanding of the parameters of the fund usage.
5. USDA/ Forest Service Supported Ward Mtn. / Cave Mtn. Ski Resort Development: I am meeting with the US forest department and a Colorado Broker/ Investors to walk the Ward Mountain Summit on Wednesday and discuss every ones interest to develop a ski resort. The US forest is motivated to issue a Special Use Permit for a ski development.

**Social Media:**

1. Website Development: I have been working with the Job Connect Staff, Sally Gust, to locate an experienced unemployed person whom is willing to take advantage of the Silver State Works program and built our website.
2. Face Book Development: I have not yet opened an account to express our presence. I am awaiting our website construction.

3. LinkedIn Development: I have not yet opened a business account yet.
4. WPC Chamber of Commerce: I have been attending their monthly meetings and we had discussions regarding the marketing support sought out by Silver State Challenge.
5. Ely Times Newspaper Monthly Article: I have written my first article two weeks ago and will be submitting a new article each month to discuss the things the CED Office is working on and asking the community for comments.

### **Client Services:**

1. SNWA Water Grab: I have read the Red Rock Valley, LLC vs. Washoe County Supreme Court Case summary and have arrived at a list of tasks I feel White Pine County needs to address to be able to defend itself. I will be having future discussions with Kelly Brown.
2. Pattern Energy Spring Valley Wind: I will be attending the open house reception at the County park on Friday and will get employment criteria of needed employees and see if we have enough time to train a local person(s) to meet the employment criteria before the project completes construction. In the interim, I have been discussing rail transportation with Mortenson Construction as an alternative to trucking in the components from the east coast. A train currently has access to Currie, NV.
3. Robinson Nevada Mining Corporation: I have held preliminary discussions with Joe and his team to address the USDOT TIGER Grant we are applying for to gain funds to improve the railroad. They are committed to getting us ballast material as a contribution value to assist with a match in funding. We are getting them ballast spec's to be able to take off value contribution numbers from. No match is required. I have asked his office to complete a housing survey to be able to analyze all major employer housing needs over the next 5 years. It seems we need 428 homes to sustain growth just between all major employers in our market within the next 5 years. I met with Nevada Housing Development Authority today and we are working together to identify issues affiliated with a 63 acre parcel the county owns and what can be done with the parcel.
4. LS Power/ NV Energy Development/ Road Maintenance Agreement: the Road maintenance Agreement is almost complete but it can not be executed until a Development Agreement is agreed upon. I am working with Mark Sullivan to address our provided draft of the Development Agreement and he is reviewing with his attorneys. We hope to have a Development Agreement with a Road Maintenance Agreement attached with exhibits prior to the Nevada Energy Commission meeting to discuss NV Energy's Tax Abatement applications. I have shared the Development Agreement with Lincoln and Nye County and we are collaborating together to fine tune the agreement that satisfies all needs for each county.

### **Industrial Support:**

1. Industrial Readiness Plan: I have received Land Use Maps from Chris Flannery and will provide to the Council for review and direction.
2. Wind Energy Industrial Cluster: I have made my reservations to participate with the Des Moines Power Supply Convention in mid-September. I am ready to market our project. I am scheduling an appointment to visit Carson City the last week of August to visit with delegations, NCED, USDA, NSOE on our initiative and ask for direction for funding programs to support infrastructure development within the Phase Two designated area.

3. Aviation/ Aerospace Industrial Cluster: I have asked the WPC Commissioners to approve the BLM 2,000 acre NEPA study review of property we have requested to be sold directly to WPC per the WPC Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2006. I will be working hard to locate a corporation we can partner up with to purchase the land when available from BLM, potentially 2-3 years from now.
4. Aqua-cultural Facility: I am working with a New York Investment Group to identify 500+ acres in our market to develop an aqua-cultural facility. I am awaiting a copy of the corporate financials. I have their business plan and it makes sense. Apparently, they have an \$861M project with an 80% USDA guarantee and they need an Industrial Revenue Bond to support the development of a manufacture that will provide 450 new jobs at initiation.

### **Business Retention:**

1. Lund, Baker and Ruth Post Office: I am working with Commissioner Gary Perea to draft a letter to submit to the Post Office Administration stressing the need to allow our local post offices to remain open to support Rural America Growth and help to sustain existing jobs as the #1 Distressed State of the Nation deals with current economic conditions.
2. Ely Airport Great Lakes Airlines: I have reached out to Airport Manager Mike Coster to assist his office in any way to help combat the decrease of the FAA allowable amount of transport passenger reimbursement. He seems to be holding well at this time and has not required our assistance.

### **Business Expansion:**

1. Reck Brothers, LLC: I have discussed issues with Terry Reck regarding (2) 40 acre parcels going up for BLM land sale in the future. One of the parcels is his existing gravel pit area. He will transfer his existing aggregate machinery to a 40 acre parcel he purchased last year if he is unsuccessful in accepting the terms of the modified competitive bid amount.
2. Midway Gold: We have been discussing housing issues and we are working with the Nevada Rural Housing Authority to identify parcels for potential residential development. We have concluded to the lot and size of home needed to satisfy their future employee needs.
3. Silver Predator/ Taylor Mine: I have not yet had any contact recently with their corporation in regards to their direction of development in WPC. I know they are still conducting test hole drilling for sampling.
4. U.S. Gold: They have not contacted our office for any assistance at this time. They too are in the beginning stages of exploration.

### **Entrepreneurial Development:**

1. Doug Youngfield / UNR Biodiesel Fuel Recycling Satellite Office: I have spoken with Dr. Tom Harris and he will be reaching out to UNR staff once they are back from summer break to discuss WPC willingness to create a satellite training facility within the

renewable sector. We will have funding available from many sources to support the facility in developing a facility.

2. USDA/ Nevada State Purchasing Div. Supported Food Processing Plant: See comments in the Marketing Section.
3. Juniper / Pinion Pine Pellet Manufacturer: See comments in the Marketing Section.

### **Tourism:**

1. USDA/ Forest Service Supported Ward Mtn. / Cave Mtn. Ski Resort Development: See comments in the Marketing Section.
2. Downtown Revitalization Program: I have attended the EPA Brownsfield Funding seminar in Las Vegas last week. WPC is part of a 5 county coalition granted \$1M for Assessment Studies and some minor cleanup. I have mentioned to the NDEP and its consultant McGinley and Associates and they are willing to look at providing all the costs to assess the McGill Ball park Asbestos and PCB issues. If those conditions exist, they are willing at looking at funding the cleanup with a 20% match from SNPLMA funds to remediate the situation with minimum cost to the McGill Township and WPC.
3. Silver State Classic Challenge: We have reached out to the Nevada State DOT office to see if they would allow us to place a metal plaque on the (4) existing "Welcome to Ely" signage clusters. No answer has been reached from them yet.

### **Education:**

1. UNR Renewable Energy Program Satellite Office/ Great Basin College Foundation: I have briefly spoken with Mary Swetich at the GBC to discuss the funds coming into the GBCF from major projects and our need to discuss the initiatives we would like to initiate that would allow Career Inspirational Hands On Training with Local Business Internship Sponsorship for college and high school students. Once Dr. Tom Harris has had an opportunity to discuss a vision to develop a satellite teaching facility in our market, we can look at what resources are available to assist with that initiative.
2. DOE Renewable Energy Grant: I have held discussions with the staff at DOE and we are brainstorming to establish ideas I can then put on the agenda to discuss at the next EDC meeting. There are 6 tasks that need to be considered. Our office is providing a copy of those tasks as well as the amount of support for your review today.

### **Youth:**

1. Community Swimming Pool: I have assisted the Coalition Committee to identify (3) facilities that have similar community pool structures to the spec's we are envisioning for WPC. I have received budgets and we are making facility visits on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our budget sits at \$450,000 a year max to operate and maintain the pool based on Sales Tax revenue projected based on the last (8) years of history average per .25% increase.
2. USDA/ Forest Service Supported Ward Mtn. / Cave Mtn. Ski Resort Development: See Marketing section for comments.
3. Career Inspired/ Business Internship Program: I have been nominated to join the Career Inspiration Committee at the high school that discusses and creates special classes that

inspire the high school students within up and coming Industry professions that our local area most supports. Look for classes in renewable Energy with hands on lab work sponsored by a new local manufacture.

### **Community Development:**

1. SNPLMA Cooperative Funding Projects: We are fast tracking the developments and are at the conceptual design stage with majority of the projects. We hope to submit for reimbursements in September. In the interim, we will have to go out to bid to reassign an engineer to the projects after Oct 30<sup>th</sup> as Day Engineering contract expires. Some scoping meeting have been held and my concern is not having enough funds to complete the deliverables. Some issues that restrict the develop at some sites did not have funds allocated to that procedure and therefore, our actual construction funds available are being shortened as our feasibility costs increase from budgeted earlier. We will draft the construction drawings and go out to bid before we submit paperwork to have the deliverables adjusted by SNPLMA Staff.
2. South Steptoe Valley Transportation Plan: We have provided our comments to leave several roads open and the BLM office is revising the plan, taking out comments into consideration to protect tourism and recreational uses that provide a benefit to WPC.
3. Brownsfields Coalition Assessment Grant: Our first (5) county coalition workshop will be held in mid-September. I am already asking the Commission and City Council to suggest properties that need to be considered to have an AAI study completed at no cost.
4. Railroad Capital Improvements: I am working with Mark Bassett to draft the initial grant to be submitted for pre-approval by Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. I am gathering support letters from all partnering municipalities to include with the grant application.
5. Subdivision Development: We have concluded our Major Employer Housing Needs Assessment and have determined we need 428 new homes in (5) years. I have visited with NRHA today and we are going to discuss a MOU Agreement between WPC and NRHA. I will draft a summary statement of the MOU and address the WPC Commission.
6. Community Swimming Pool: See comments from the Youth Section.
7. Mt. Wheeler Service Capacity: I have not been able to visit Mt. Wheeler to see what their service limits are for new development and if they have renewable energy percentage obligations to arrive at energy as other public utility companies. If so, what can CED office do to assist with that issue.
8. City of Ely Sewer Plant Capacity: The current facility an allow up to 500 more units. The 63 acre parcel the county owns at the end of Ave M needs a Sewer pump Station and pipe sizing upgrades. Dean Day is putting some numbers together to allow us to seek for infrastructure grants.
9. City of Ely Water Service Capacity: Water capacity seems stronger pressures the more you get away from the water towers. The 63 acre parcel the County owns has adequate water pressure.
10. High Speed Internet Development: I have spoken with Nevada Broadband and they are getting on the Commissioners Agenda for Sept. 14th to discuss the States initiative to provide broadband speed to the rural markets. Once the WPC Commission gives approval of their initiative, I will work with their office to assemble a committee to conduct feasibility work.

### **Grant Opportunities:**

1. USDOT TIGER Grant: We are in the gather support documents stage.

### **Funding Resources:**

1. See the separate Funding spreadsheet of available resources to WPC.

### **Staff Administration:**

1. CED's Annual Application Update: Elaine is taking lead on the issue with my support. We have CED's approval to have our next required report submitted by March 2012. We will work on this winter when slower in office.
2. NCED Bi-Annual Application: Elaine is in charge of.

### **Program Administration:**

1. AB 449 Progress/ RDA Designation: I have asked to schedule a meeting with Ken Person on August 30<sup>th</sup> in Carson to discuss what we are doing in WPC and why we should have an opportunity to be considered the designated rural RDA. We have a NCED Commission presentation to give in October. We will be providing a long report as created here to show what we are doing in our market and how we can assist our neighboring counties with creating marketing initiatives to help them achieve success.
2. White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, & Development Act of 2006 / BLM Land Disposal-Sale: I have a pretty good understanding of the processing and we will need to get ready for next year's land nominations as identified by BLM within the parcels approved within their Land Policy Act.

### **Legal Administration:**

1. Major Project Development Agreement Ordinance: I will be drafting a generic Development Agreement outline to present to the NACO annual convention in Carson as I have been asked to sit on the Advisory Committee to provide comments on how County's need to prepare for Major Project invasions.

### **Board / Committee/ Membership:**

1. American Wind Energy Association (AWEA):
2. National Association of Development Organizations (NADO):
3. PJ Partnership Ely Seminar Panel Member:
4. NACO Annual Seminar Panel Member:
5. Railroad Enterprise Committee:
6. White Pine High School Career Inspiration Panel Member: