

Wasatch Front Economic Development District
Meeting Minutes
 September 19, 2017

A meeting of the Wasatch Front Economic Development District (WFEDD) was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 in the offices of the Salt Lake Chamber, 175 East 400 South #600, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Welcome and Introductions [Recording 00:12]

Commissioner Shawn Milne, Chair, thanked the Salt Lake Chamber for hosting the WFEDD meeting and handed the time over to Ms. Abby Osborne, the VP of Government Relations with the Salt Lake Chamber, to give an overview of what is happening at the Chamber. Ms. Osborne explained that the Chamber has membership in all 29 counties and a number of different states as well. She noted that this is the only Chamber in the nation, outside of the US Chamber, that has a dedicated employee working on corporate responsibility which means working with businesses to increase their sociability. Currently they are working on a blueprint process, and are undertaking what the economy is going to look like in the next 30-50 years. Ms. Osborne said that the Chamber's advocacy on the Hill runs the gamut on anything that would influence the business community, such as: transportation initiative, education, air quality, water, and regulations. She said that they are heading to Washington DC the following week to take 70-80 business leaders to meet with Secretary of Interior, Secretary of Air Force, and two others that at the time of the meeting had not been confirmed. They will also be meeting with Chairman Brady to go over tax reform, and Senator Flake. **Introductions [Recording 05:55]**

WFEDD Members and Alternates Present

IN ATTENDANCE	2017 WFEDD MEMBERS
	DAVIS COUNTY
x	Board Member: Commissioner Jim Smith (Davis County)
x	Alternate: Mayor Bob Stevenson (Layton City)
	Board Member: Reid Newey (Davis School District)
x	Board Member: Michael Bouwhuis (Davis Applied Technology College)
	Alternate: Craig Bott (Grow Utah)
	Strategy Committee: Bruce Davis (Weber State University)
	MORGAN COUNTY
x	Board Member: Councilmember John Barber (Morgan County)
x	Board Member: Stephen Lyon (Morgan County Economic Development)
	Strategy Committee: Shaun Peterson (Peterson Wealth Services)
	Strategy Committee: Gavin McCleary (Farm Bureau Financial)
	SALT LAKE COUNTY
x	Board Member: Mayor Bill Applegarth (Riverton City)
	Board Member: Carlton Christenson (Salt Lake County)
x	Alternate: Stuart Clason (Salt Lake County)
x	Strategy Committee: Susie Becker (Zions Public Finance)
	Strategy Committee Alternate: Scott Aylett (Zions Public Finance)
	Strategy Committee: Chris DeHerrera (Associated Builders & Contractors)
	TOOELE COUNTY
x	Board Member: Commissioner Shawn Milne, Chair (Tooele County)
	Alternate: Councilmember Brad Pratt (Tooele City)
x	Board Member: Chris Sloan (Group 1 Real Estate)
	Alternate: Scott Snelson (Tooele Applied Technology College)
x	Strategy Committee: Randy Sant (Economic Development Consulting)
	Strategy Committee: Todd R. Bingham (Utah Manufacturers Assoc.)
	WEBER COUNTY
x	Board Member: Commissioner James Ebert (Weber County)
	Alternate: Mayor Brent Taylor (North Ogden City)
	Strategy Committee: Tom Christopoulos (Ogden City)
	Alternate: Terrance Bride (Ogden City)
	Board Member: Scott Parkinson (Bank of Utah)
	Alternate: Rick Fairbanks (Ogden Exchange Club)
	Strategy Committee: Jeff Edwards (Utah Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Initiative)
x	Strategy Committee: Joseph Spence (Goldman Sachs)
	STATEWIDE
x	Board Member: Benjamin Hart (Governor's Office of Economic Development)
	Alternate: Tom Wadsworth (GOED)
x	Board Member: Carrie Mayne (Utah Department of Workforce Services)
	Alternate: Mark Knold (Utah Department of Workforce Services)
	Strategy Committee: Lew Cramer (Coldwell Banker Commercial)

	Strategy Committee: Darin Mellott (CBRE)
x	Strategy Committee: Abby Osborne (Salt Lake Chamber)
x	Strategy Committee Alternate: Michael Parker (Salt Lake Chamber)

WFEDD Representatives and Others Present

Christy Dahlberg	WFRC
LaNiece Davenport	WFRC
John Downen	Kem C Gardner Policy Institute, U of U
Tresa Folkman	Associated Builders & Contractors
Katie Gerard	WFRC
Matt Hilburn	EDCU
Ted Knowlton	WFRC
Mike O'Mally	GOED
Blake Thomas	Salt Lake County
Megan Townsend	WFRC
Mark Walker	Tooele Technical College

Action: Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2017 [Recording 08:33]

Katie Gerard, WFRC, informed the committee that for future meetings, the intention will be to save time and resources, while still providing all of the pertinent meeting information to the committee, and continuing to be transparent to the public. She said that the number of printed packets will be reduced for each meeting and ensuring that everyone has the capability to view the materials online. She reminded everyone that the packet information is emailed out one week before the meeting, and that would continue. This will be a gradual change and some printed packets will be available each meeting and certainly, anytime upon request.

Commissioner Milne entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the Wasatch Front Economic Development District meeting held on May 22, 2017. Mike Bouwhuis motioned to approved these minutes, and it was seconded by Councilman John Barber. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Opportunity for Public Comment [Recording 10:02]

There were none.

Statewide Initiatives

a. Information/Discussion: Legislative Task Force – Economic Development, Land Use, et al. Working Group – Abby Osborne, Salt Lake Chamber [Recording 10:17]

Abby Osborne presented information on the Legislative Task Force to the Committee. She said that the Task Force was legislatively decided on by Senator Harper and Representative Schultz, to look at transportation holistically in the state, and how we fund and function, and was split up into three working groups. Those groups include:

- Funding, which looks at how transportation such as, transit, bike, and pedestrian is funded both on the local state and regional level.
- Governance, how the Chamber governs between the different agencies and different modes.
- Economic Development, Land Use, Rural Issues, Aviation, and Active Transportation

Ms. Osborne explained that the Task Force was scheduled to go through October, and it's likely that will get extended for another nine months. Osborne commented that the focus is to a number of different issues, stating that the chamber currently doesn't fund transit in the state, with any state funds, so Utah is one of four states that has a transit system that doesn't receive state funds. The Transportation Investment Funds to allow for those projects to be eligible for state funds. The next issue is how the Chamber deals with corridor planning, land use issues, and making sure there is coordination and cooperation across the region within each city. Another issue is how the Chamber looks at rural transportation, both on transit rural and road rural. Lastly, active transportation which is not funded with state funds.

There was discussion held among the committee.

b. Information/Discussion: Economic Development and Transportation – Ben Hart, GOED [Recording 19:53]

Mr. Ben Hart, Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development presented on how GOED works within the nexus of transportation and economic development. Mr. Hart explained that GOED is the state agency that is responsible for economic growth and economic vitality across the state. The way this is done is:

- Attract: Tourism, Film & Global Branding
- Recruit: Corporate Recruitment & International
- Grow: Urban and Rural Business Services

Some of the recent accolades that Utah has received are:

- #1 Best State for Business
- #1 Travel Destination
- #5 Broadband Speeds in U.S.
- #1 Fastest Growing State
- #1 in Workforce Quality
- A+ Small Business Friendliness
- #1 in Transportation Tech Innovation

Hart noted that an asset of our state is Utah's fiscally conservative approach. This means that we have money to invest in long-term transportation projects. With this, corporations know that they can expand in a predictable business environment. Along with the fast growth, it's important that Utah is becoming increasingly urbanized. Given the concentration of population along the Wasatch Front, we are the 9th most urban state in the country.

Utah's success is due to the diverse economy. According to the Department of Workforce Services, Utah has the fourth most diverse economy in the nation. Approximately 15 percent of all Utah jobs fall into one of the strategic industry clusters, which include:

- Financial Services
- Aerospace & Defense
- IT/Software
- Manufacturing & Distribution
- Life Sciences
- Outdoor Products
- Energy
- Advanced Materials

Mr. Hart discussed some topics that came up in the working group that was held in August at the Salt Lake Chamber. First was the need for communities and agencies to make data-driven decisions when it comes to economic development and infrastructure. Second, in keeping with the conservative nature, the state has a limited toolkit of tax incentives and training funds. Third there was discussion of cluster-based development, and last, business expansion should be considered in tandem with worker housing.

There was a robust conversation held among the committee regarding residential density and how it affects economic development clusters and transportation.

c. Information/Discussion: Utah's Defense Sector: Economic Impacts of the Military and Veterans – John Downen, Gardner Policy Institute [Recording 1:17:41]

Mr. John Downen, Senior Research Analyst with the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, gave an overview of the report that he and his colleague Levi Pace recently completed. The University of Utah's Gardner Policy Institute has found that within Utah's Defense sector are 7 main generators, these include: Hill Air Force Base, Dugway Proving Ground, Tooele Army Depot, Utah National Guard, the Reserves, veterans, and additional contracts and grants. Combined, this bring in 109,000 jobs (5.8%) and \$9.2 billion in economy activity or 6.2% of Utah's GDP. In terms of defense contractors, some of the largest include L-3 Communications, Orbital ATK, Northrop Grumman, and Boeing. Defense employment has been stable since 2000 with a slight decline in military personnel and slight increase in civilian defense jobs.

There was discussion held among the committee.

2018-2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

a. Information/Discussion: Overview, Timeline, Work Program, and Community Survey – LaNiece Davenport, Wasatch Front Regional Council [Recording 1:44:30]

Ms. LaNiece Davenport, WFRC, reminded the committee of the Wasatch Front Economic Development District's vision; To build consensus and enhance quality of life by developing and implementing visions and plans for a well-functioning multi-modal transportation system, livable communities, a strong economy, and a healthy environment. She then reiterated the Mission Statement which reads, "To support economic development plans, promote long-term economic competitiveness, and attract federal monies in order to implement local plans," and the 6 regional goals, which include:

1. Attract businesses that offer higher wages
2. Retain and expand existing Utah businesses
3. Build on and improve the region's growth centers
4. Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation
5. Increase economic development capacity
6. Maintain and improve our high-quality of life

Davenport highlighted the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which is overseen by the Strategy Committee, and identifies our region's economic strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats/challenges and uses them to create a regional economic roadmap to secure funding opportunities. The CEDS covers our entire region, including Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Tooele, and Weber Counties. She reminded the committee that the final five-year CEDS will be adopted by the Strategy Committee in May 2018. She explained that this strategy opens the door for federal funding opportunities, and brings together community and economic development goals.

There was discussion held among the committee.

Roundtable Updates [Recording 1:51:50]

LaNiece Davenport informed the committee that Megan Townsend is the program lead for the Transportation and Land Use Connection (TLC) program. She said that if anyone is interested in developing a plan or a vision within your community, please reach out to Megan for further information.

Commissioner Milne reminded the committee that the next WFEDD meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2017, but proposed that this meeting be moved to November 20, 2017. The committee agreed to meet on November 20th. An updated calendar invitation will be sent out.