

Become a Member!

Volume I, Issue I —Fall 2017

Become a Member!



The EDC attends meetings around the county and hosts local and state government representatives.

Always an ear to the ground

The EDC works with the state and the community to help keep our existing businesses open and able to grow as well as attracting new businesses to the community. Your EDC staff is active in communities around the county through:

- Merchants associations
- Tourism boards
- Chambers of Commerce
- Planning boards
- Workforce development agencies

This helps us stay current on the issues facing our business owners and helps us decide where to focus our efforts.



Marilyn Sheldon (Northern Oyster) testifies in October 2017 in favor of the use of Imidicloprid to control ghost shrimp that are devastating oyster beds.

Supporting continued oyster production

When oyster growers sought new means to control burrowing shrimp, the EDC wrote letters of support, and Executive Director Jim Sayce testified before the Department of Ecology along with industry representatives.

Helping keep your marine highways open to traffic

The EDC updated the report on Critical Marine Infrastructure in 2017. It was requested by the ports and federal representatives as support for funding requests. The report emphasizes Pacific County's dependence on accessible channels and marinas. Some of our findings:

- Pacific County is the fourth-most fishing intensive local economy in the nation by share of total earnings;
- The marine industry produces nearly one-fifth of a billion dollars annually;
- Our workforce, infrastructure, services, financial basis and commercial sector are directly or indirectly linked to maintenance dredging.



Wonders of Willapa

The 2017 EDC Farm Tour brought citizens, officials and Willapa Valley farmers together on Sept. 20.

We learned about the successes and challenges facing a tree farm, a dairy, an organic farm and an oyster plant.

The tour returns to the south end in 2018.

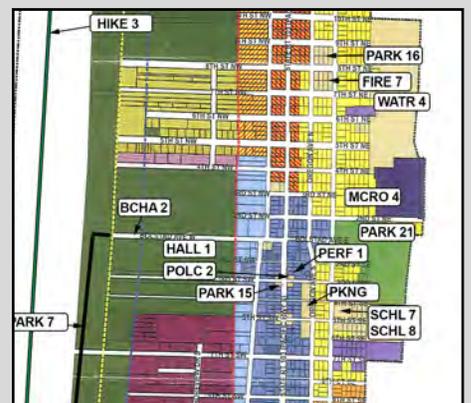


OEDP: Countywide planning

The EDC continues work on an Overall Economic Development Plan with Pacific County. This process started in 2016 and will continue well into 2018.

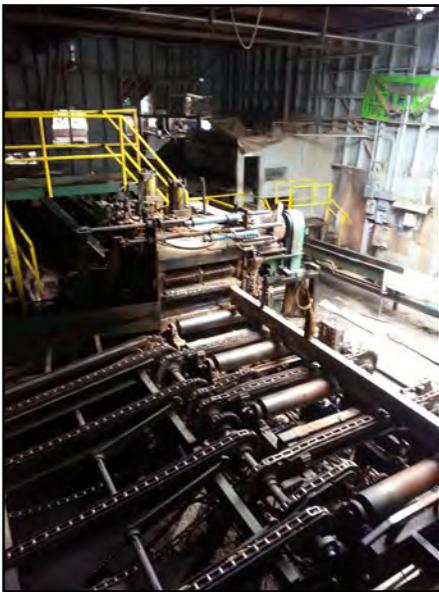
It will examine our strengths, weaknesses and assets to create a plan to help guide everything from zoning and building codes to business recruitment and lobbying efforts.

Look for community meet-



Asset map from the OEDP

ings and offer your input in this critical project.



Hardwood mill project progresses

The Alder/Hardwood mill (including the kilns at the South Fork Industrial Park) employed 50-plus workers at the time of the mill shutdown April 2017.

In the interim the EDC has worked closely with the Port of Willapa Harbor to organize the property under one lease agreement, coordinate with state officials on assistance/support, and

pitch the mill to investors.

The mill is a much-needed core operation with a sustainable future.



It's the 21st Century.

Do you know where your fiber optics are?

Modern life increasingly depends on Internet access. Your phone, many cars and even some refrigerators need access to the Web to operate as intended.

This dependence will only increase as autonomous vehicles, including freight trucks, become regular sights on the roads.

In addition, Pacific County has dozens of home-based businesses that derive their livelihood from the Internet.

All this means our telecommunications network will need to become more robust and accessible. The EDC is beginning to address these challenges now.

Project PCIBOO

Over the next few years **Project PCIBOO (Pacific County**



Internet Business Opportunity Organization) will bring together consultants, employees and entrepreneurs in Pacific County who use the Internet to conduct business.

We already have dozens of residents who work here for companies and clients based outside the county. We believe this sector represents an opportunity to expand our economy.

PCIBOO! We want to see you.

If your livelihood depends on fast, reliable Internet access, please contact us so we can add you to the growing list of Internet businesses in Pacific County. Call (360) 642-9330/(360) 875-9330 or email us at edcpcog@pacificedc.org.

Much of the county already has a strong fiber optic backbone. What's needed now is an affordable way to connect fiber to businesses.

PCIBOO will show Internet Service Providers that Pacific County needs improved fiber access. Individually, these Internet users have less influence; together they can advance, promote and support better access.

EDC brings officials, community together

Governor Jay Inslee meets EDC 2017 President Toni Williams.



The EDC hosts several officials and workshops throughout the year. In 2017 we welcomed:

- USDA
- Governor's Summit on Career Connected Learning
- Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz
- Governor Jay Inslee
- Lt. Governor Cyrus Habib

Economic Vitality Index

The EDC keeps statistics on Pacific County's economy. We have numbers on unemployment and sales tax revenue, building permits and population.

Look for an updated booklet describing the significance of all these numbers in late 2017.

