

Whatcom County Business and Commerce Meeting

Thursday, January 21, 2021 11-1230pm via Zoom

Voting members in attendance: Casey Diggs, Clark Campbell, Debbie Ahl, Troy Muljat, Sarah Rothenbuhler, Brad Rader, Paul Burrill, Gail Buce, Bob Pritchett (2nd half)

Non-voting members in attendance: Don Goldberg, Councilmember Rud Browne, CJ Seitz, Michael Jones

Public in attendance: Jennifer Noveck, Gina Stark, John Michener, Guy Occhiogrosso, Mauri Ingram, Pamela Jons, Commissioner Ken Bell, Commissioner Michael Shepard, Skip Sahlin, Emily Stone, Rob Lee

Call to order by Clark at 11:03am. Seconded by Troy.

Asked for public comments.

Don introduced Skip Sahlin.

My name is Skip Sahlin, VP of SSA Marine. Grew up in Bellingham, long history and roots in Whatcom County, invited to attend the meetings to find out a bit more about economic development in Whatcom County.

Clark: Great, welcome Skip! Any other members of the public?

Emily: Hi I'm Emily Stone, I am Alicia Rule's Legislative Assistant and will be attending while she is in session or meetings.

Clark: Do we have a motion to approve the meeting? Paul seconded. Vote to approve?

Clark: Looks like we have to wait to vote. Ryan won't be attending today.

Don: Got an email from Bob P. that he wouldn't be here until late.

Michael: Is quorum voting members only?

Rud: I think you are right but we will check.

Don: Let's just proceed.

Clark: So if we get a quorum later, will it be an official meeting? Are we just one short?

Don: Yes.

Clark: Holding on motion to approve the minutes until we have a quorum

Jenn explained how the voting proxies work.

Clark: So now we have Brad, now we have a quorum.

Clark: All those in favor of approving the minutes? All in favor. 7-0.

Clark: We do have applications open still. We have two open now. We still do have food processing as an open position.

Don: An update on that. Brad was added by the county to food processing from ag. Brad from what he's told me, he would prefer to represent the farming community. Please give us suggestions if you have them for food processing.

Rud: We did that because we are trying to get people on the committee but we didn't have the right categories. It doesn't have any influence on what he is able to do on the committee, it is just to get him on the committee.

Don: I've reached out to Borenstein. We will work with Brad and the Council for the other seats. We have a few others that fill in gaps. I think as Rud said

Ken: Would you consider Lynden Meat to be a processor?

Don: Sounds like they would be. If anyone knows of a recommendation, let us know. That's our last position that is open.

Clark: Any comments from the group?

Brad: I appreciate the discussion. Happy to be wherever, best used by the County. My two cents were that I do not want to forget about the farming we have here, I'm not going to forget and I do not want other people to. I did not know the parameters and am open to whatever works best.

Don: We had thoughts about reaching out to someone at the Lummi Tribe so we can bring someone with a tribal connection into the group.

Don: Do you want to introduce Gail?

Clark: Welcome Gail!

Don: Gail Buce is our newest committee member.

Gail: Thank you everyone, thank you for allowing me this opportunity. I've been a resident since 1973/4. I'm 20 years in retail experience, 20 years healthcare experience as a nurse. The last five years I am working in healthcare but started our own small business, Alabama Soap and Honey. I make goat milk soap. I use local resources, such as Brambleberry. I feel that my position really represents a lot of small businesses and crafters in the county. And also, I am a beekeeper with my husband and for the last 4 years and have been very involved in the MB Beekeeper Association and have been a board meeting, familiar with process. I'm here to help the community in whatever ways I can. Thank you for having me!

Don: Welcome!

Clark: Welcome! Great to have a representative from small business. It is good to have a diversity of sectors and business sizes on here and we look forward to having you. Turn it over to our county representative, Rud, I think the points we have up for discussion are update on the ordinance for amending the budget, update on discussion on the Cherry Point Amendments, update on strategies and other items for COVID-19. Turn it over to Rud.

Rud: Give me a second, will pull up Board minutes.

Clark: So Jenn has started to comb through agendas for relevant items for Business and Commerce from the County. Also the COB and POB. Then as the County rep, we'd like to get feedback and if there is a policy related question we could give advice on or bring a motion to bring something in front of County Council.

Rud: The way the supplemental budget works. We go through the budget cycle every 2 years. We set the budget for next 2 years. Things change, we have to change the budget so there's really a couple ways that happen. First is an ordinance like this that says we are going to shift or allocate money from funds, money from county is put in different buckets (road fund, mental health fund). These supplemental about moving

money out of a fund to a place it can be expensed from. The first one is to say, we are authorizing moving the money. The second is how we physically spend the money on each item. A lot of this is fairly mundane. A dozen items here, I'd rather focus on what people would like to talk about rather than go through each one. I'm going to send everybody a link, we just put this in about 19 months ago. It's an online system that is a central repository for everything, everything we are going to vote on, videos to the meetings, votes taken, minutes when done. It's one place to find everything related to Council legislation.

Clark: I think when Jenn went through, she combed through pages on behalf of the group. She pulled either things that are specifically related to biz and commerce or whatever. Another is the CP amendments and things related to COVID.

Clark: So let's move on to the discussion related to Cherry Point.

Rud: We pushed that off until February. In future if we could have them in advance.

Don: We sent it out a week ago, as Jenn mentioned in the chat.

Rud: One of the sticking points at the moment is the issue of insurance. The industries of CP, I have personally been pushing for the fact that there are five scenarios where there could be a specific party liable for an accident. Four of those scenarios would be the responsibility of the refinery or railroad. Fifth is if the tankers themselves are found to be at fault. The tankers are leased from third parties and the title to the material is not held by the railroad or refinery til it gets to the refinery. So if there is a derailment and explosion, Quebec has shown us the consequences can exceed half a billion dollars, the problem is the responsible party is the person who owns the tank cars. The problem is they have limited assets, no visibility what level of insurance they have. The position I've been taking personally is because the refineries choose to transport the stuff, the refineries need to accept responsibility, if the person they select has inadequate insurance, the refineries will cover it. The refiners are pushing back because its too expensive. The problem with this is that you are asking the citizens of Whatcom County to be the umbrella insurance company. That's the biggest sticking point on this. I'd be interested in feedback. Do you think the County should become the refineries insurance or should they insure their own refineries?

Don: How can we protect the county and also move forward with development of other parcels that are not effected by fossil fuel development?

Rud: I do not think there is anything that prevents further development, unless it is a coal terminal or refinery. We are not discussing new rules.

Clark: Any issues with permitted for one use, what about change of use? That would be a loophole to consider in that scenario. If it got approved for biofuels, but 5 years down the line it wasn't viable, does change of use require a new process?

Rud: There is a change of use provision, refineries have an objection. The reason that was put in in the 1st place was there was a renewable facility where it was almost immediately permitted and then was converted immediately. Pissed people off because it looked like a bait and switch.

Clark; We have provisions saying that isn't a change of use.

Rud: To understand the fairness, if you do any industrial or residential development for which you have a CUP to have that use approved and then you want to change it to a different CUP you have to go through the process again. If it is not a permitted use, did you develop under one category to another category, that's trivial exercise. It's there for a reason.

Don: so the policy isn't in place yet. So a company like SSA, do they have a clear path as to how they'd go about that? Or would they get caught up in this conversation?

Rud: If it isn't fossil fuels, they are subject to existing rules. I'm not aware of anything any member is proposing to change or make more restrictive. There's no discussion I'm aware to make things more restrictive for stuff that isn't fossil fuel related.

Ken: An industry note. I would be hard pressed to find insurance for transporting hazardous waste. If I load a truck and something happens, I do not think I can get anything on the trucker. The county could add the additional insured to their policy. But if I had to insure truckers, I'd be hardpressed to find someone to write it, let alone make it economical. What you are trying to do is take liability for something you have control over and insurer has no control and disposal site has no control.

Rud: A couple problems. We have no authority. The nearest thing we have is the railroads. They have rights that are normally reserved for crowns in other countries. If the axel on the tank car broke, why should I as the railroad pay for that? That's a fair comment. The thing is the refinery chooses to use their own or a third parties tank car. If you look at the Herald pics of the derailment in Custer, seven tank cars derailed. The one that is perpendicular is owned by one company, the others are owned by Philips. If it is due to bad maintenance, Philips will say they aren't at fault. The railroad says they are not at fault.

120 businesses that were wiped out, 47 people were killed, 7 people were vaporized. The downtown was destroyed. Everyone just walked away and said it wasn't their responsibility. My view is this: if you do not know who liable in a disaster, the answer is its you. If you do not know who is going to pay, it will be you.

Clark: Current situation is moratorium extended to Feb. Then another discussion or its been moved?

Rud: Moratorium extended to June. That expires when the ordinance is put in place.

Paul: Rud, what we've done. Pollution insurance is tough thing right now. We are self insured on commercial fishing vessels. We've had to spread it out. Reinsurance policies. Is there anyway we could spread out the liability between railcar owners, railway, and refineries, so its not all on the refineries. Kind of like L&I tries to spread out, so it doesn't fall on one entity.

Rud: Liability falls on entity that makes a decision. If you choose a vessel that is good quality or a vessel that should have been scrapped 10 years ago, that is your decision. Refineries are saying they are putting money into various funds (for clean up and other activities). What ive said is that you are putting money into those funds, you should exhaust the funds before you pay. You pay for a policy, get the benefit of the policy. They aren't required to find insurance. They are just required to give us a personal guarantee. If all other forms of compensation are exhausted, you will not leave the community holding the bag because you are the one who chose to lease the tank car in the first place/

Paul: At this point have they failed to uphold their responsibility?

Rud: They are saying the liability is too great, we won't accept. My point is why should we? We don't personally profit from Philipos running a refinery, why should we pick up the liability? That's the logic behind it.

Ken: I get it. Just trying to figure out. I'm not sure they can buy a policy.

Rud: We said give us a letter, self-insurance, exhaust all other insurance and they pay the rest. If there is no accident it wont cost them.

Ken: You are asking for self insurance just for Whatcom County borders?

Rud: Yes, that's all we have authority for.

Skip: Well, there is a cost for them on their balance sheet.

Rud: Well, there's a cost for them and for us. The last thing we want to have to do is to ask for a personal guarantee. We avoid them.

Don: Are there any other items that are a hold up aside from insurance?

Rud: This doesn't affect existing operations. This is only if they want to expand beyond 110% existing capacity. So if we sign this tomorrow it has no effect. But if they want to expand the facilities, it triggers a CUP process and this is one of the reqs.

Ken: Would you consider a fund that would accumulate?

Rud: All the refineries do at the federal level. The Oil Spill Response Fund and has a cap of a billion. Everybody can draw on that in response to a spill. Remember, the spill in the Gulf was 50 billion minimum for clean up and economic damage.

Ken: For garbage industry we pay a surcharge for the county, to do education programs, so we did establish a fund through the county. So something like that doesn't hit their balance sheet as hard and typically passed through costs. I'm trying to come up with an idea that isn't insurance based.

Rud: that's the update on CP.

Clark: Regarding Feb vote, what is being voted on?

Rud: Not sure anything is going to be voted on, they are coming back to us with latest version based on discussion. The other thing is what defines the trigger point, complex calculation with confidential info, to measure the increase distillation capacity. Permitting staff do not have ability to measure that. We need a simple formula, I proposed, you increase the size of the tanks, which we can verify by google photos. That's an easy calculation. The other is fossil fuel by rail transportation and they have to report to state and feds anyway. I've said on multiple occasions I'd like to see new regulations with minimum administrative burden.

Don: We should move on here.

Clark: Do we want to move on the next point on anything related to COVID? County Health Board, anything since December, with vaccine roll out? Update there you can share?>

Rud: The big thing is the huge spike in infections in the Lynden and Nooksack School District. Bellingham Ferndale Mt Baker, have done their job at reducing the spread. The pushback in North county to masks and gatherings has caused an almost vertical line of growth and it is just because people are refusing to do what is requested. I've sent Don an email about what Skagit is doing, they have enacted civil penalties for failing to use masks and following regulation. I'd like some feedback on that.

Clark: Is that county?

Rud: It was done via Skagit Health, so done by Council, enforced by Health.

Don: I believe the 4 counties, San Juan, Island, Skagit, Whatcom will be joined together.

Don: How can Skagit take that action without other three counties?

Rud: It is apples and oranges. Region is about reporting stats.

Michael: Each county has authority to enforce rules. But four counties are joined for reopening.

Rud: Counties are pissed at the state, Counties are pissed off because state did the rules without any consultation of the counties. They did it without consultation.

Don: Gina has a radio show in 10 mins. I want to give her the ability to update you on the programs. Can we go to Gina?

Gina: I'm going to do this at a high level. Then you guys are welcome to reach out for further questions. I'm just going to do a high level on PPP and apologize if you know. The federal govt came out with the new PPP money, first round and second round, both rounds are open. For those who have gotten a 1st round, you are eligible for a 2nd round. They changed the rules. One of the significant things is that businesses need to show a 25% of reduction in gross revenue to qualify. For most businesses, the calculation is still the same, 2.5x payroll. They made a specific change to restaurants and it is 3.5x the payroll. So that's a change. So both are open. Go to local lenders. Other thing they did is carved out money for minority businesses, underserved businesses, money for CDFIs to reach out to local communities. They also opened a grant program called the Shuttered Venue, that is \$15 billion. It is a grant program for music venues. But that's also for theaters. Those that have been closed throughout, this is really important, significant grant program. If they are thinking about PPP, they should get Shuttered Venue first. It can be 45% of gross earned revenue that was lost. That is a lot. That could be millions for some. That's a great program. Tell them to contact their SBA. More money funneled into EIDL program. The change is that before EIDL and PPP were connected. They disconnected those. As a former LA, they have a lot of information that others do not. We hear all kinds of stuff. Excited to have Emily here. Hopefully the governor will be able to get stuff moving. Rumor has it he is going to use the rainy day fund. Emily, have you heard anything about that getting to the floor soon? It is exciting that Rep Rule is on an economic development committee, which is new. She is the Chair. We are going to be watching that committee closely.

Don: I think we should move on. We are doing our general work. Everything from homelessness to childcare to working with our businesses.

Clark: What about Safran?

Don: It doesn't look good at all. The Safran building is the only building large enough and they need to triple their operation in the next three months and our county can't accommodate that. As of this moment, it looks like Silfab's growth will be in Skagit County. Troy you have anything to add?

Troy: No, it's a sad situation.

Rud: Who is Silfab?

Don: Silfab is our solar manufacturers. We got them grants. They want to stay here, but the success of their operation requires growth and we have nowhere to put them.

Clark: And the existing facility is POB?

Don: they leased the building from the original company, it's a 60,000 sq ft building, they need a lot more.

Clark: And safran won't be available?

Don: We've talked to Commerce, France, everything, timing is too quick. Someone needs to buy it and lease it to Silfab and they cannot afford to lose the 200,000 ft building in Burlington. The good news is that they will stay in Skagit. A lot of employees will stay employed because it is 25 miles away. It is going to hit us in the future. They will eventually close this operation and move down there. The goal is to operate both for two

years. It is a shot across to our bow as to bringing new companies without having buildings to accommodate them. If they can't grow, they will leave.

Sarah: It also has to be housing for staff growth.

Don: In this case, it was the industrial building.

Clark: Do we know if that factored in?

Troy: It was just the building.

Don: He was willing to do anything. We tried everything. Troy and I talked three times a day. To me, it's a real hit against me, our job to grow companies, it shows our weakness and we need to make some changes. So you want to move into our next section?

Clark: Sector updates. Any updates Debbie? We had a discussion with our group to look at mission and direction for each year. Where we are at? Jump straight to that or jump to sector updates? Sarah spearheaded a financial working group. That group is Sarah, Debbie, myself, with support from Don and Jennifer. Just trying to get understanding of what the drivers are from County Revenue budget looking at revenue and expenses. This can inform policy suggestions, not about guidance on how to manage the budget. What is the budget and what's the opportunity in that? Constraints in that? So that we can make recommendations based on data. Sarah, do you want to give a quick update at all?

Sarah: Troy is on it as well. At this point we can have an update next meeting where we talk about the global revenue. Versus just the general fund.

Don: And Clark, I do think.

Debbie: One of the items that isn't always addressed. For those of who you know me, I was an insurer with a lot of employees. I have a focus on social determinants of health. I like to look at things very holistically. I wondered if we could use the chat box and go through on the chat box on the 1st bullet point, what does the first bullet point mean?

Whatcom County Visions

Better paying jobs will be created and retained. What would that mean for this committee?

Don: As Jenn said, the EDA part is not the focus. We see the CEDS as an architecture. We have broken the CEDS down into high level goals, the sixth is resiliency. We know that our CEDS will be influenced by resiliency, like COVID, some natural disaster. We see this as a real strategy for the next five years plus for how we

Clark: Quick question? Request to do something with chat. Tactics or outcomes?

Debbie: What are the elements that this group should focus on to help achieve better paying jobs? Housing would be one. What are other areas? Sounds like space for companies to expand.

Don: finished residential and industrial land, public infrastructure, Michael noted workforce housing, Gail noted education and training. Ken noted trade schools and apprenticeship programs.

Debbie: So a lot on how do we create a skilled workforce.

Rud: County govt has no role in education in terms of funding and curriculum.

Debbie: Good for us to be aware of.

Debbie: What could this committee look at related to creating a more stable, balanced, and diversified economy? A lot are the same but are any specific?

Don: Opening the border would be a start.

Debbie: I do not think we influence it. Well, if we all wore our masks? In terms of time, what about natural resources used in a sustainable manner?

Debbie: Our fishing industry?

Don: Green energy, a lot of things.

Michael: That's a big goal if you are talking about natural resources holistically? Our carbon based economy is not sustainable? Are we being sustainable in our crop land locally, are we managing our forests correctly?

Debbie: And what do we really mean by quality of life? When I look at QoL in some programs locally, there was a huge impact on our homeless population impacting the cities economy, impacting the services provided. It broke my heart when the library had to close. There's childcare, it is one of the key community health improvement goals in terms of ec dev, having childcare available is a big deal, the wait lists are long. What else is needed to make sure we have a workforce? How do we get kindergarten students ready to learn? There is a new taskforce by ordinance and a lot of work is focused on those areas. What does that mean for a quality of life for all residents?

Don: Some people may define this differently as we become a wealthy retirement community. Some communities want to be that. I do not see that as our future and I will do everything in my power to make sure that this isn't what happens to Whatcom County.

Rud: Childcare is something we have influence over.

Debbie: How do you measure family and child wellbeing? You can look at child abuse and other data but one of the best One of the best is WAKids data, which does provide data over time. Only 50% of our kids are ready to learn per 8 measures, and we still project the need for jail capacity based on learning criteria at the 3rd grade level. That impacts our workforce and community. Those things are critical. Childcare, early learning, affordable housing. This is a working population but homeless is families that are under sheltered. Families stacked up in the same home, creates problems with internet. They are ALICE families, so they are working but still cannot afford housing and childcare.

Rud: One of the most shocking stats for me, 42% of people in our county jail are illiterate. That means we failed them, they didn't learn how to read.

Debbie: That's an important comment. When you look at the cost of kids who do not graduate HS, the costs are pretty high. Project 90, they interviewed the 90 kids who did not graduate. Started with their parents inability to engage them in school (music, sports). All of that is holistically important. Trying to share that related to economy, the economy is based on so much else, not just what businesses comes to town. It'd be great to come up with a list

Michael: There's something called EDI. There is the EDI board. This is city and county officials and business. The County Exec is the chairperson. There is a mechanism in the county government to allocated tax money to give out grants and loans, protocol for what that looks like. That is related to this because the project that is proposed for funding must be included so that is part of the strategy. EDI criteria for inclusion on that list. It is important from that regard. I've been thinking a lot about that lately. This committee has identified housing as a primary issue. Workforce housing is putting wage pressure on businesses. Housing is inhibiting people and businesses from moving to the county. Related to that, how can we take some hurdles

away from housing development, has to do with infrastructure costs and sometimes those are intersections, infrastructure, then anyone who needs to build there, the costs go up. There are hurdles in place just because we want to maintain quality of life, like traffic flow. The existing EDI program doesn't lend itself well to increasing housing capacity. There are opportunities to help housing capacity. Because it doesn't contribute to jobs or long term jobs, doesn't fit well to spend money in that way. Might be a good talk – what would the change to EDI look like? We might be asking.

Don: I'm working with Tyler with revamping the EDI application process, what the funds would be used to. We are tying EDI to the CEDS report. We want it to be strategic for just one project.

Rud: Under state law, we collect the money. It can only be used for public infrastructure and economic development offices. It is open to other ideas but it is restrictive.

Don: Currently there is a 500k fund that goes to affordable housing and the housing takes 30% of that fund for general economic development within the county. It has a lot of restrictions so we have to be smart with how we use it.

Don: I did want Brad Rader to give us a sector update. If we have time?

Clark: Like with many of these meetings, we have a lot on the agenda. Let's try to wrap this up. Give a quick one, apologize for letting it run long.

Brad: No problem, thank you for the opportunity to give an update on farming. The quick lookback at the last year from a dairy perspective, the main crops most know, berries, dairy, seed potatoes are what we have in Whatcom. We do have beef cattle, but that's the meat of it. Dairy is our largest and it is a struggle. They are having low prices, costs going up, looking at paying overtime now, which is something they are facing in the past 4-5 months, that is being looked at very seriously. On the berry sides, decent berry prices. Blueberry market was okay. Decent crops, weather cooperated. Seed potato guys, that business continues to do well. We have a few thousand acres, two or three main growers of seed potatoes. For all farming right now the biggest issue with water and access tow ater down the road for many generations. You may or may not know about the adjudication process. We could spend a lot of time on that issue. It could cause a major change for farming in this county, in Yakima, 20-40 years where everyone has to go in front of a judge to prove your right to water. We should be able to figure this out, so doing everything from an ag perspective, organized with Whatcom farmers, different water improvement districts, and water board. We will need a lot of support to figure this out. What will happen is if we cannot afford to go to battle for water rights, we will see some farmers develop their land or go bankrupt. The process is tough and is the biggest and scariest issue facing the sector. Any quick questions, happy to answer.

Paul: I want to add one thing, with potential loss of ag land could spell doom for some in the salmon industry. That is another problem downstream. It's really important that we all support ag so that we can maintain our environment, they are really trying out there.

Clark: Do you see something from a policy perspective that we could bring to the County that would help? Or is this tied up with historical water rights?

Brad: We could spend a lot of time on this question. If the question is do we support ag and can we support ag and fish at the same time? They all work together, I do not see how a person could argue otherwise. Asphalt isn't as good as soil for moving water. It is a tough topic because not everyone is on the same page. Like a lot of topics not everyone is on the same page. It is a major concern. Could be the biggest thing we see her. If you look at west side ag, Whatcom is still thriving, it could be the best county on this side. We are under siege now. We moved our business to Puyallup valley. It's changed a lot in 40 years. We need to be thinking about it, whoever could stand with us, we could use it.

Clark: Thanks for the update, we should spend more time on and have a smaller group to see if there's something we could bring before the County that would be in support of the ag sector here.

Clark: Any further comments, we are 4 minutes over. Appreciate patience, I want to make a motion to close unless further comments.

Rud: If people have things they want me to talk about, send it to me 48 hours before the meeting and I'll be prepared.

Clark: Other comments?

Don: Second for closing?

Clark: Second to close? Troy seconded. Meeting closed at 12:35pm.

From the Zoom chat log:

From Me to Everyone: 11:22 AM

<https://whatcom.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

From Emily S., Rep Rule's LA to Everyone: 11:52 AM

You can reach our office at Emily.stone@leg.wa.gov

From CJ Seitz to Everyone: 11:54 AM

Overview of the new legislation: <https://sbdc.wvu.edu/business-continuity-resources>

From Michael Jones (City of Blaine) to Everyone: 12:10 PM

The committee could help define "better paying" It could be a problem if the county only seeks to bring in jobs with high wages. My impression that wage pressure is causing challenges for some industries.

Workforce housing

From Gail Buce to Everyone: 12:10 PM

Education and training

From Ken Bell to Everyone: 12:11 PM

Trade schools

Apprenticeship programs

From SDR to Everyone: 12:11 PM

streamlined timelines for permitting

From Troy Muljat to Everyone: 12:11 PM

Finished buildings; permitted business parks; Infrastructure; ability to bond infrastructure; increased density; annexation of Bellingham

From Debbie Ahl to Everyone: 12:12 PM

open the border

From ccampbell to Everyone: 12:12 PM

1) Worker Housing, 2) Industrial / Light Mfring Lands and built out infrastructure for expansion and relocation 3) Zoning to allow for mixed use (particularly within the urban growth boundaries of Bellingham)

From Michael Jones (City of Blaine) to Everyone: 12:13 PM

Determine if we have "missing sectors" that could be filled and could contribute to synergy. If they are missing, then they should be actively recruited.

From SDR to Everyone: 12:13 PM

encouraging a diversity of business types

From CJ Seitz to Me: (Direct Message) 12:14 PM

supporting ethnic business owners

From Michael Jones (City of Blaine) to Everyone: 12:18 PM

Quality of life - access to healthcare, access to recreation, minimized person risk/low crime rates, manageable traffic volumes, access to cultural opportunities, healthy food available to all

This committee could help the CEDS be targeted, so that projects do actually encourage economic development and are uniquely fit to each local jurisdiction.

From ccampbell to Everyone: 12:19 PM

Quality of Life: Basic Needs met by all citizens, Access to Parks / Open Space, Infrastructure for walkable neighbors (transit lines / bike / walking), Access to child care, vibrant arts / tourism sector, Address food deserts

From SDR to Everyone: 12:24 PM

Encouraging high schools, trade school and colleges to help local businesses connect to our local kids- highlighting the plethora of excellent opportunities with Whatcom County businesses

From CJ Seitz to Me: (Direct Message) 12:31 PM

Should we talk about what COVID has done to women in the workforce?