



## BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

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July 22, 2021

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To: Gary Schmidt, County Administrator  
From: Sarah Eckman, BCS Interim Director

RE: Request for Mt. Hood Economic Alliance Board member renewals discussion at Administrator's Issues

Administrator Schmidt,

**Summary:** I respectfully request to add a Mt. Hood Economic Alliance (MHEA) discussion item to the Administrator's Issues agenda on July 27, 2021. The purpose of this item is to place the new slate of MHEA Board members on the BCC agenda for approval.

While the Board of County Commissioners does not review or approve MHEA projects, per the Intergovernmental Agreement approved by the BCC on August 18, 2005 establishing the MHEA as an ORS 190 entity, "Clackamas County shall appoint six (6) people plus one alternate".

**Background:** MHEA provides gap financing loans for businesses in Clackamas, Hood River and Wasco counties. MHEA provides secondary financing for businesses unable to secure (enough) financing through conventional banking means. A regional economic development partnership, the Alliance seeks out and invests in projects that create jobs and leverage additional investment for the three counties. Priority is given to those business development projects that create or retain better than average wage jobs in the agriculture, light manufacturing, recreation equipment, technology or tourism industries.

The former Executive Director of the MHEA has retired and the MHEA Board is now contracting with the Mid Columbia County Economic Development District (MCEDD) to provide administrative support to MHEA. The change in leadership for MHEA prompted the need to also revisit the terms of current MHEA board members.

The proposed new/renewal MHEA Board members to represent Clackamas County include:

- Renate Mengelberg, retired former Economic Development professional (renewal)
- David Snider, City of Sandy, Economic Development (renewal)
- Michael Wells, Cedar Glen Sales, Welches (renewal)
- Jerry Smith, retired former business owner (renewal)
- Bob Degnan, retired former business owner (renewal)
- Matt Lorenzen, City of Estacada, Economic Development (new)

Upon your direction, we can either move this slate of proposed officers forward for approval by the BCC, or schedule a policy session for a full update on the MHEA program.