

OREGON CLUSTER NETWORK LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING 1/15/2008

For more information please visit www.oregonclusters.org.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

II. CLUSTERS DEBRIEF FROM LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AND SHARE 2008 PRIORITIES: CLUSTERS ANSWER 3 QUESTIONS:

- a. WHAT IS THE CLUSTER'S TOP PRIORITY FOR 2008?
- b. FROM WHICH ORGANIZATIONS OR PEOPLE WILL YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE OR PARTNERING FOR SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION
- c. WHERE CAN CLUSTER NETWORK PARTICIPANTS BE OF GREATEST VALUE IN HELPING YOUR CLUSTER?

TOP PRIORITIES BY CLUSTER

- **NW Education Cluster-Jim Snyder**

1. Better connect private sector companies to Oregon public sector opportunities
2. Host a summer educational Summit

- **General Aviation Cluster**

1. Improve the status of private sector involvement with the FAA

- **Defense Cluster-Bryce Barrett**

1. Extend PNDC reach beyond the Portland Metro Area
2. Better marketing of PNDC capabilities, especially to small businesses.
3. Work with OECCD on education field reps on defense companies-who they are, what they do and what they can offer the public sector.
4. Work with the state on marketing materials
5. Help other entities with technical assistance for getting government contracts and grants. (A 3 day seminar is coming up).
6. Explore opportunities with the state: how can a trade association be used as a delivery mechanism for services

- **Wave Energy- Rick Williams**

1. Execute the Oregon Innovation Plan Wave Energy Initiative
2. Assist the Maritime transportation and operations industry with workforce challenges. Can we help them with Cluster Development?

- **Forest Products Cluster—Linc Cannon and Leslie Lehman**

1. [Forest Restoration Initiative](#). Senator Wyden is moving forward on this and there is a well established working group
2. Green Building/Forestry: Working groups of principals from forest products and green building industry working together with some academics and nonprofit folks to find areas of mutual benefit. The dialogue has been very productive. The question now is whether it should stay a dialogue or if the group should look for a specific charge from the Governor's office, the Oregon Business Plan or another group

3. Carbon Management—Continue to work with policymakers on the forest sectors role in meeting our Greenhouse Gas Reduction goals in Oregon and through the Western Climate Initiative.
 - **Bioscience Cluster--Bob Lanier**
 1. Replace aging workforce
 2. Create more wetlab space
 3. Access more investments funds for startups
 - **Green Development Cluster—Glenn Montgomery**
 1. Regulatory and Permitting Issues: Building Codes (state vs. local), product approval, and impediments to incenting green building. The state is doing a pretty good job but some developers would like to see more ability to push this at the local level. Product approval is really hard. Industry leaders and regulators are planning on having a Charette. Will establish 2008 goals at February Green Development Cluster meeting (February 8)
 - **Environmental Technology and Services Cluster—Robert Grott, NEBC**
 1. Create an environment for innovation at DEQ: Help Create a DEQ Office of Technological Innovation
 2. Address gap for funding demonstration projects in renewable energies. Looking for ways for the state to help out.
 - **Biofuels Cluster—Robert Grott, NEBC**
 1. Outreach and Education: Biofuels industry needs to help create a mechanics certification program. Industry needs to work to dispel certain myths about the industry as well as improve outreach to community colleges.
 2. Work with BEST. Major opportunities are small-scale ethanol and cellulosic ethanol.
 - **Regional Clusters—Mid Columbia Economic Development District-Amanda Remington**
 1. Gorge Technology Alliance: companies need a resource in order to come together. The PDX Metro areas is too far away. The GTA focuses on networking and is designed according to workforce and transportation limitations.
 2. English as a Second Language: Hindrance to innovation
 - **Energy Efficiency Cluster—Stan Price, NW Energy Efficiency Association**
 1. Workforce—need people to populate jobs that are coming. The average age in the industry is 52 years. The industry needs help from the Governors office and education resources. The cluster wants to articulate the skill sets, talk to providers and begin to systematically address the needs.
 2. Spread the word about the opportunities that the energy efficiency cluster can provide to companies in other clusters in terms of improving the triple-bottom line, meeting carbon reduction goals, etc. Energy Efficiency is the first fuel in a clean-energy economy.

III. STATES UPDATE ON OREGON’S VISION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- a. **NGA Policy Academy, Cluster Alignment and Vision for OECDD:** The state is working to align agencies with clusters and is one of seven states participating in a National Governor’s Association Policy Academy on Clusters. The state is working on combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches. There is also money that will be becoming available to assist in this cluster alignment. It will be important for the clusters to tell the state what they need. Representative David Edward is on the Cluster academy team.

- b. **Cluster Investment Fund RFP:** The 2007 legislature did not fund the 15 million request for the Cluster Investment Fund. However, in a budget note they did direct OECDD to set aside \$1.5 million for cluster partnerships that address workforce challenges. The RFP is available at www.worksourceoregon.org, www.oregonclusters.org and on the ORPN website at [//orpin.oregon.gov/](http://orpin.oregon.gov/). For the most up-to-date information and changes to the RFP, you will need to access the ORPIN website, which requires creating an account if you don't already have one. The deadline for the RFP is February 11th. The criteria include public/private partnerships. The RFP is to incent cluster-based approaches and is more likely to go toward organizing, planning, convening, curriculum development, survey etc. Rather than for actual training. Grants will be awarded in amounts ranging from \$20K - \$200K. Successful implementation of Cluster Investment Funds could help create momentum for additional investments in cluster development by the 2009 legislature.
- c. **Oregon Innovation Council:** Oregon Inc will be primarily focusing on the successful implementation of the 2007 funded initiatives of the Oregon Innovation Plan, as well as leveraging existing Oregon capital to increase deal flow in the state and promote business formation, continuing to work on streamlining statewide university-commercial technology transfer and aligning the three Oregon signature research centers with additional economic development efforts to benefit the Oregon economy. The council will also be seeking new proposals for both emerging and established industries. The Council plans on including new proposals in the 2009 innovation plan, although no signatures research centers and many fewer proposals than in 2007. The criteria for proposals will be similar to last year with the addition of a criterion addressing plans for weaning off of state funding. Also, its important to note that proposals do not need to be for funding, but can be for statutory, administrative or other changes.

IV. OREGON CLUSTER NETWORK STRUCTURE AND NEXT STEPS

- a. How can the Cluster Network most effectively organize to add value and support clusters?
- b. What topics should it cover? Is anything/ anyone missing?
- c. How can we more effectively use the www.oregonclusters.org website and information gathered through the focus groups & roundtable discussions?

Group Discussion:

- Duncan Wyse described CNLC meetings as they currently exist: Report in on cluster progress, have technical experts address specific issues, systems, etc., announcements rfps, etc; Learn, share information, plan for Summit. Participants were generally pleased with this format.
- Rick Williams suggested that we have different clusters list their activities on the cluster network sites. OECDD will help with this.
- An interest in more topic-specific meetings was expressed, as long as it doesn't preclude the networking/sharing component of the meeting.
- Encourage more cluster-cluster interaction, partnership and opportunities
- Interest in addressing unique challenges of a trade association-its different than your typical nonprofit. We should hold a breakfast on this issue.

V. OTHER CLUSTER RESOURCES AND NEWS

- a. OECDD will be hiring a cluster coordinator. BEST will be convening groups and issuing an RFP.