



Port of Whitman County

2023-2024 ADO REPORT CARD

In April 2023, the Port of Whitman County was named by the Whitman County Commissioners as the county's Associate Development Organization (ADO) for the period of July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025. ADOs are a key part of the economic development landscape in Washington State and aim to further their region or county's economic development goals.

We are grateful to everyone who engaged with the Port of Whitman County in our role as the ADO during the 2023-2024 fiscal year and to the County Commissioners for this designation. This marked our first year of serving in this capacity since 2010, and we are honored to continue this crucial work on behalf of the communities and businesses in Whitman County.

The Port's ADO work encompasses six elements, covering everything from small business support to infrastructure development to advocacy. The following pages of this report card describe the projects that were completed or initiated this year and how they relate to these elements.

Karl Webber
District 1

Kristine Meyer
District 2

Tom Kammerzell
District 3

1 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Supported the Washington State University Business Development Center (SBDC) in serving 101 clients, including 49 pre-venture and 15 start-up businesses
- Partnered with the City of Pullman to serve eight startups and 75 businesses in retention and expansion activities
- Supported the One Palouse Business Funding summit through advertising and business referral, serving nine businesses
- Shared export assistance programs with three Whitman County businesses



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Promote the utilization of the Washington State University Small Business Development Center (SBDC), contributing annually (\$35,000)
- Offer business planning resources and assistance
- Share virtual and in-person workshops with area business professionals through social media and email
- Meet one-on-one with businesses
- Create relevant trainings for businesses spanning a variety of topics
- Assist eligible businesses with obtaining certifications for minority, women, socially or economically disadvantaged, veteran, and/or small businesses

2 ECONOMIC PROFILING



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Established bimonthly Economic Development Informational Meetings (EDIMs) to relay information to regional government, businesses, and economic development professionals, hosting five in the first year
- Launched the Whitman County Trends website to showcase relevant local economic and community development data
- Created Port of Whitman County social media accounts on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter/X

SBDC Advisor Aziz Makhani presents at an EDIM:



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Maintain and promote the Whitman County Trends website
- Work with Eastern Washington University to develop a quarterly trends newsletter

Visit Whitman County Trends:



Follow the Port on Social Media:



3 EXISTING BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Submitted a successful Evergreen Growth Grant application to the Washington State Department of Commerce on behalf of Alternative Energy Materials, a Whitman County green hydrogen start-up (\$200,000)
- Signed a lease with Hefty Seed Company at Port's Tekoa industrial development site

*Alternative Energy Materials
Founder Dr. Dustin McLarty and
Commerce Director Mike Fong:*



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Explore feasibility of a childcare facility in Colfax as a strategy for workforce retention and recruitment
- Encourage business expansion and new business creation that would employ local talent
- Support regional efforts to establish workforce skills and training
- Profile local businesses at bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings
- Expand rail and water infrastructure at the Port of Central Ferry to support AGROW Solutions expansion
- Develop partnerships with workforce development organizations

4 BUSINESS RECRUITMENT, MARKETING & ADVERTISING



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Created an ADO marketing plan for the 2023-2025 fiscal years
- Supported the Palouse Scenic Byway Association's video campaign, highlighting 11 communities across Whitman County (\$5,000)
- Contributed to the new *Livability on the Palouse* magazine, highlighting the region through paid advertisement
- Launched a property search tool on the Port website which highlights community demographics and workforce data alongside available properties and vacant land in Whitman County



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Utilize the Washington State Department of Commerce and other business recruitment sources in obtaining appropriate business leads
- Share State of Washington Tourism resources with towns in county
- Continue industrial site planning for Port-owned site in Tekoa, identifying key industries and potential businesses to recruit
- Explore opportunities in the value-added agriculture and bioengineering sectors, with an emphasis in technology transfer
- Construct facility for Hunga Dunga Brewing Company
- Identify and market to emerging and expanding businesses and industries

5 SITE & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Developed a process in collaboration with the County Commissioners for ADO-recommended .09 Funds projects
- Assisted the City of Tekoa with the .09 Funds application process for Willard Field runway rehabilitation
- Administered Economic Development & Tourism Agreements with the Oakesdale Cemetery Association to build a cellular tower access road (\$13,000) and the Town of Uniontown to renovate the Holzer Park public restroom facilities (\$25,000)



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Identify existing underutilized, vacant, or brownfields properties and conduct community-wide brownfields assessments through Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funded project (\$500,000)
- Maintain an existing inventory of ready-to-go industrial and service-related buildings and land in Whitman County on the Port website through the property search tool
- Advocate for public infrastructure funding in Whitman County
- Secure suitable sites and/or buildings for development

6 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVOCACY



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Facilitated a Whitman County Public Records Act training
- Met onsite with all town governments to introduce the Port as the ADO
- Partnered with five regional ports to host a workshop on the M-84 Marine Highway Corridor and its journey toward a clean energy future
- Presented at Clearwater Economic Development Association's Dream It Do It conference, showcasing regional workforce opportunities for 87 students in Whitman County and 531 students regionally
- Advocated for economic development uses of the Snake River System through \$20,000 contribution to River Values campaign



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Develop and communicate positions on economic development issues important to the economic health of the region
- Participate in the Washington Economic Development Association, Washington Public Ports Association, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, state ADO meetings, and Washington Economic Development Association conferences
- Support Southeast Washington Development Association (SEWEDA) in regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy plan

*Port Executive Director
Kara Riebold at M-84
Marine Highway
Corridor workshop:*

