



CONNECTIONS

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NORTHWEST COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Minority Leader Meeting Follows NWCDC Board Meeting

The July 9 Board Meeting in Yakima was followed by a gathering where invited guests from minority communities met with NWCDC staff, the Board and Chris Cassidy and John Brugger, USDA officials. The purpose was to learn about USDA funds available through NWCDC that are specifically designated for minorities interested in starting cooperatives or in fueling existing cooperative ventures.



NWCDC Board Members (from left to right): Arthur Siegal, Leslye Teuber, Mark Johnson and David de la Vergne.

Guests included Luz Bazan Gutierrez, Rural Community Development Resources, Yakima; Dr. Malaquias Flores, Center for Latino Farmers, Yakima; Dr. Alfonso Garcia, The Yakama Nation, Toppenish; Virgil E. James, The Yakama Nation, Toppenish; Dante L. Montoya, Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, Richland; and John Duncan, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem, WA.



Other participants (left to right): Luz Bazan Gutierrez, Laura Aymond, Dr. Alfonso Garcia, Chris Cassidy and Dr. Malaquias Flores.

Some potential cooperative projects discussed included a community development financial institution (CDFI); a cooperative effort between two tribes to expand arts and crafts sales through a museum retail outlet; a salmon marketing cooperative; a feedlot cooperative for ranchers and a child care cooperative for employees.

Forum For Small Growers

Small producers in the Yakima Valley are looking for ways to market their products to governmental and private institutions as part of a diversified marketing strategy.

Schools, prisons, international markets, and corporations are looking for ways to buy more Washington grown products to enhance local agriculture and improve sales by showcasing fresh local products.

There are many barriers that limit the ability of small producers to market to institutions. These barriers include the ability to gather volume, distribution systems, collections, quality maintenance, exports, language barriers as

well as the complexity and format of government forms and regulations.

This Forum will bring institutional buyers together with small producers to discuss barriers and explore strategies to help small producers market to institutions. The Forum will provide an opportunity for networking, the sharing of success stories, as well as marketing skills workshops. Simultaneous interpretation from English to Spanish will be available for the entire Forum.

Funding for organizing the Forum is made possible through USDA, NWCDC, and in-kind contributions of the sponsors: Center for Latino Farmers, Heritage College, Governor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Program, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and others.

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**Northwest Cooperative
Development Center**

NWDC is an association of consumer, producer and worker cooperatives in Washington, Oregon, Western Montana, Alaska, Idaho, Northern California and Hawaii. NWDC was founded by cooperatives in 1979 with the mission to promote and strengthen cooperatives in the Northwest. NWDC was formerly known as Puget Sound Development Foundation. In the spring of 2000, NWDC was reorganized and renamed in order to include a broader geographical area. The mission of the NWDC is to foster community economic development, primarily through cooperative business models.

NWDC Board of Directors

Aaron Jones, Chairman - WA Rural Electric Co-op Association
Mark Johnson, Treasurer - Group Health Cooperative
Art Siegal, Secretary - Group Health Cooperative
Al Ochoa - Ochoa Ag Unlimited Foods
Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney - District 46 State Representative
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David de la Vergne - Group Health Cooperative
Dan Coyne - WA Council of Farmers Cooperatives
Ken Duft - WA State University

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WIND NEWS

NW Small Wind Project Receives Budget Increase

The DOE recently increased the budget for the National Renewable Energy Laboratories Small Wind Project (Our Wind Co-op) from \$200,000 to \$300,000. Partners on the project include NWDC, NW SEED, LMEC, Bergey Windpower and



others. The project's purpose is to demonstrate that distributed, locally owned wind turbines producing power to meet local loads are feasible and cost-effective. To accomplish this, the co-op will coordinate the installation of at least ten small wind turbines on farms, ranches and rural facilities services by public utilities in the Northwest.

To participate in the project as a turbine host, utility, installation contractor, investor or Green Tag Buyers' Co-op member, download a pre-application at <http://www.nwseed.org/nswtc.asp>

Harvesting Clean Energy III Setting the Stage

Organizers for the 2003 *Harvesting Clean Energy* conference have met for their initial planning meeting. In late July, organizers travel to Boise, the expected venue of the event, to meet with potential sponsors, co-hosts and accommodations personnel for further planning of the conference. Tentative dates for the event are set for January 27 and 28, 2003. To get

an update, please call NWDC at (360) 943-4241 or email to nwcdc@qwest.net

Last Mile Electric Co-op Update

The LMEC hosted its first annual meeting in Moses Lake, and was attended by about 60 people. New officers were elected and a new member—Kittitas County PUD—was welcomed into the fold. Franklin and Klickitat PUD's are potential new members as well. LMEC presented its story before an audience of several hundred at the American Wind Energy Association's Annual Meeting in Portland, which resulted in many favorable comments and questions. Inquiries from farms and co-ops from Minnesota to Colorado were generated because of this presentation.

Other NWDC News

United Co-op Appeal Approves NWDC for 2002 Campaign

United Co-op Appeal (UCA) Board of Trustees recently selected the NWDC as a recipient organization for the fall 2002 fund-raising campaign. UCA is a project of the Cooperative Development Foundation. The NWDC raised \$22,000 during 2001, and looks forward to another successful campaign this year.

NWDC Board Chairman Leaves WRECA

For the last two years, NWDC has shared office space with Washington Rural Electric Co-op Association (WRECA) in Olympia, WA. WRECA General Manager, Aaron Jones, who is also Board Chairman of NWDC, has accepted a new position in California and will be relocating soon.

Aaron is one of the founders of NWDC. He provided NWDC with guidance and has been a driving force for some of our projects. We'll miss his positive, can-do attitude, his humor and his cooperative spirit.

UP-COMING CONFERENCES

Third World Congress on Rural Women - Madrid, Spain, October 2-4, 2000

The Conference will be held in Madrid, Spain, on October 2-4, 2002. The conference will bring together women leaders from around the world to discuss new alternatives in areas critical to rural communities, such as access to resources, the impact of new technologies, economic, social and cultural development, poverty and food safety, the formation of cooperatives and international cooperation, and leadership and policy formation.



Who should attend: US and Canadian women leaders from rural-based cooperatives, rural development, research, finance and policy formation.

Co-op Tours: Two optional European co-op tours are being organized prior to the conference, one to the value-added agricultural co-ops in the Netherlands and the other to the workers co-ops of Mondragon and the rural manufacturing networks of northern Italy. Both tours will take place 7 days before the conference.

Registration and most of the meals are free. Participants are responsible for airfare and room and board.

For registration information and other questions, please contact Audrey Malan, Executive Director, CooperationWorks! at cw@vcn.com or 307-655-9162

2002 Western Worker Cooperative Conference

The 2002 Western Worker Cooperative Conference is scheduled to take place on October 20-23, 2002, at

Breitenbush Hot Springs & Retreat Center in Detroit, Oregon.

For more information, please contact Kirsten Marshall at (415) 775-0124 or email: kirstenmarshall@sbcglobal.net

Cooperatives & Communities Conference

Cooperatives & Communities Conference, November 1-2, 2002 is organized by Center for Cooperatives, University of California. The conference will be at Preservation Park, Oakland, CA.

Highlights include:

- Board Education;
- Special track of workshops on cooperative development;
- Panel: Cooperative strategies for economic development.

For more information, please call (530) 752-2408 or email: centerforcoops@ucdavis.edu

One-Day Forum: Local Farms, Local Success

Local Farms, Local Success: Exploring Opportunities And Strategies To Market To Institutions is scheduled for November 2, 2002 in Yakima, Washington.

The Forum will provide examples and strategies for producers to market to institutions through cooperatives, farmers markets, Internet sales, direct individual sales, and community supported agriculture. Registration deadline is October 18, 2002.

For additional information, please contact Peri Jude Radecic, USDA Rural Development State Civil Rights Manager, at (360) 704-7722.

Welcome aboard, new NWCDC Members!

The NWCDC Membership Drive has produced 20 members since its inception.

Membership benefits will include an annual membership directory, co-op financial news, NWCDC and other cooperative publications, a link to member organizations from the NWCDC website and invitations to NWCDC events.

Organizational Membership:

- Benton Rural Electric Association,
- Bonneville Power Administration,
- Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association,
- Sunshine Propane,
- Morrow County Grain Growers,
- Montana Credit Union League,
- Washington Credit Union League,
- Cowiche Growers, Inc.,
- Community Food Co-op,
- Mariposa Images,
- Peshastin Hi-Up Growers,
- Washington Credit Union League,
- Hazelnut Growers of Oregon.

Business Associate Membership:

- Aubrey Davis, Group Health Cooperative Board Member,
- Nespelem Valley Electric Co-op.

Individual Membership:

- Ken D. Duft, WSU Professor,
- Tim Hughes, Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative,
- Art Siegal, Group Health Co-op,
- Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney, Washington State Representative,
- Aaron Jones, Washington Rural Electric Co-op Association.

Thanks to all our members for their generosity and support.





**Northwest Cooperative
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Yes! I want to be in the cooperative loop

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Please send me dues information for organizational membership

Please send me dues information for individual membership

Enclosed is a tax-deductable gift for the NW Co-op Development Center

Please send me a receipt

Please detach and send to: NWCDC, 1050 Capitol Way South, Ste. B, Olympia, WA 98501