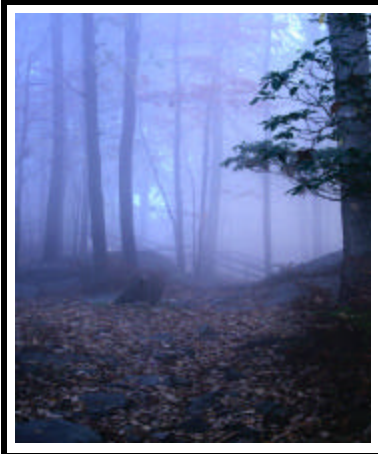


Connections



Published by the Northwest Cooperative Development Center

Spring 2004



Survey Response Positive for Forestry Workshops

Results from the online survey NWCDC conducted on cooperative development workshops for small forest landowners and industry professionals indicate a healthy interest in the educational events.

Of the 94 persons polled, 62 percent indicated they were interested in the workshops. The topics most frequently cited as high-interest items in the curriculum were rural economic development and gaining leverage through economy of scale.

The series of three workshops are slated to begin in late October 2004, and will be completed by June, 2005.

For further information or to be added to our database to receive updates on the series, please contact Eric Bowman at the NWCDC, (360) 943-4241, eric@nwcdc.coop.

The Community Store Goes Co-op

Ninety-three percent of voting members supported the transition to true cooperative status at The Community Store's 30th Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, March 7 in Astoria, Oregon. More than 150 members attended the event at the Duncan Law Seafood Center, which featured appetizers and dinner catered by local restaurants.

The vote in favor of becoming a co-op means that the Community Store will soon be selling membership shares, enabling members to effectively be joint owners in the former non-profit organization. For legal clarity, the store will also be transitioning to the name selected by members at the meeting: "The Astoria Cooperative."

"The change will be gradual," assured Board Chair Brad Alstrom. "It's not like we'll be taking down the 'Community Store' sign tomorrow. All the things people like about the store will remain the same; people will just have an opportunity to become

owners, giving the co-op equity." A membership kick-off is the next slated event.

"This was by far the largest membership meeting I've seen — the organizers did a great job!" said Board Secretary Audrey Petterson.

Local businesses contributing to the event included The Seafood Center, The Cannery Café, The Shoalwater, Home Spirit Bakery, the Ark, Fulio's, The Wombat Moon, Bill's Tavern, Clatsop Distributing, and The Community Store.

"All the things people like about the store will remain the same; people will just have an opportunity to become owners."

Brad Alstrom, Board Chair,
The Community Store, Inc.



The Board of Trustees enjoys a casual co-op moment. Pictured from left to right are Tracy Erling, Brad Alstrom, Lucien Swerdloff (kneeling), Chris Goad and Audrey Petterson. Not pictured is Michael McGonigle.

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NWCDC is an association of consumer, producer and worker cooperatives in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho and Hawaii. Formerly known as Puget Sound Development Foundation, NWCDC was founded by cooperatives in 1979. The mission of the NWCDC is to foster community economic development, primarily through use of the cooperative business model.

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*Nurturing
Cooperative
Growth*

Mariposa Images Reinvents Itself

In 2000, a group of 20 Mexican farmworker women living in Mattawa, a small farm town in Central



Pictured are a few Steering Committee members gathered for strategic planning.

Washington State, teamed up with a local Catholic Sister to get help starting their own marketing cooperative. The group planned to sell their handcrafted products made during the winter when work in the

orchards was finished. The women viewed this activity as an opportunity to supplement their income by working year-round. Unfortunately, their marketing successes were few and far between and membership had dwindled to three.

This winter, they decided to reorganize and held a meeting at the Town Hall, inviting women of the local Hispanic community to attend. The turnout of 20 women was encouraging. Interestingly, at that meeting they discovered that most of the women wanted the co-op to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) classes as a first step toward their ultimate goal of learning the technical and business skills needed to start home businesses. They also indicated that they needed the co-op to provide child care and to be flexible with class times.

To date, a survey has been conducted which reinforced this plan and a feasibility study is underway.

Donation Wish List

NWCDC projects are in need of the following items:

- * Copier/printer
- * Computer
- * Computer desk & chair
- * Spanish/English translation software
- * Cash register

If you would like to donate, please call us at 360-943-4241.

UCA Campaign Healthy

Donations to the national United Co-op Appeal (UCA) campaign this year were healthy despite an ailing economy. The donors below pledged a total of \$10,938.07.

Cheryl Scott, Group Health Cooperative; Benton Rural Electric Assn.; Aubrey Davis; Art Siegal; Dave Howard; Aaron Jones; Mark Johnson; Leslye Teuber; David de la Vergne; Ken Duft; John Brugger; Mountain. Community Co-op; Mariposa Images; Cowiche Growers; Tim Hughes.

Many Thanks for Your Generosity

Co-op Develops Utility-Scale Wind Project



The mission of the Last Mile Electric Co-op (LMEC) is to provide affordable, reliable, renewable cost-based electricity to rural and urban consumers through use of the non-profit co-op business model.

In operation since 2001, the LMEC membership is grouped in two classes: publicly owned utilities and non-profit, governmental and for-profit organizations. At least two-thirds of members must be publicly-owned utilities. The co-op currently has a membership of 11 organizations.

The LMEC uses a three-pronged approach to cooperative development in their field of expertise:

- Assist consumers in member service territories to develop small, farm-sized wind projects.
- Assist LMEC members to re-

search possible renewable electricity projects.

- Develop utility-scale renewable electric projects by and for the benefit of LMEC members.

In late 2003, the LMEC acquired lease and option rights to develop a utility-scale site in south central Washington by and for participating members. This effort was christened the Roosevelt-White Creek project.

The project is situated along the Columbia River in the town of Roosevelt, east of Golendale. The project site encompasses 28,000

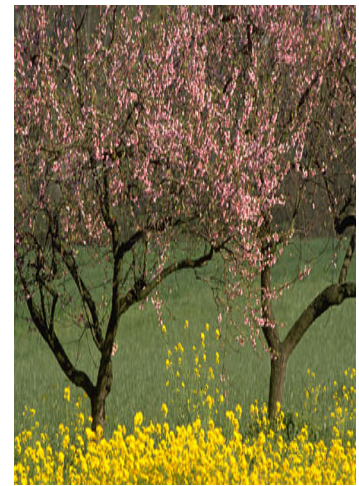


acres. Eight of the 11 LMEC members are currently participating in the project.

The site's wind resource capacity is expected to be comparable to other wind projects in the area. To date, participants have not discovered major barriers to developing the site for a utility-scale wind project.

Project participants have voted to proceed with the permitting process for Phase I of the project, slated to develop 50 to 100 MW of installed wind capacity. The target on-line time for phase I is June 2006.

For more information about the Last Mile Electric Co-op, contact Deborah Ross, Manager at 360-705-8800, lastmileelectric@msn.com. For information concerning the Roosevelt project, contact Project Manager Allen Barkley at 541-298-0864, abb@nwaluminum.com.



"Concern for Community"

**The Seventh Cooperative
Principle**

Co-op Calendar

Apr. 29-May 2
Parent Co-op Int'l
Annual Meeting
WA, D.C.

May 24-26
Nat'l Worker Co-op
Conference, Minn.



Northwest Cooperative
Development Center
1050 Capitol Way South
Olympia, WA 98501
www.nwcdc.coop

NWCDC Annual Membership 2004

Membership Directory Website Links Publications Event Invitations

Name _____ Date _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Individual Membership: \$25

Business Associate Membership: \$100

Co-op Organizational Membership:

\$50 My organization's membership is under 500;

\$100 My organization's membership is 500 – 999;

\$1,000 My organizations' membership is 5,000 plus.

Please return this form with your check to *NWCDC, 1050 Capitol Way South, Olympia, WA 98501*

Thank you for your support!