



Puget Sound Regional Council

MINUTES

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Hybrid Meeting – PSRC Board Room: 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98101

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Councilmember Conrad Lee, President. To determine attendance and a quorum was present, a verbal roll call was conducted by staff.

To watch a video of the meeting and hear the full discussion, please go to:
<https://www.psrc.org/boards/watch-meetings>.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Lee shared that today members would ratify a Nominating Committee for the election of officers. The remainder of the meeting would be focused on discussion groups about the Regional Economic Strategy update.

STAFF REPORT

Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, updated the board on PSRC projects and events. He was joined by Wes Cochran and Sharon Metiva, from the U.S. Department of Commerce EDA, and they provided an overview of the work of the Seattle Regional Office, including the three pathways for funding and the FY 2025 Disaster Supplemental NOFO. Suzanne Dale Estey, with the Washington Economic Development Association, also provided an update on the organization's 2026 legislative agenda and work program. Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, provided a short legislative briefing to the board on federal and

state government updates. To conclude, Jason thanked outgoing board members for their service, and especially highlighted the work of EDD Board President, Councilmember Conrad Lee.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Meeting held September 3, 2025
- b. Approve Vouchers dated August 29, 2025 through October 20, 2025 in the amount of \$2,161.72
- c. Approve 2026 Economic Development District Board Meeting Calendar

ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Simpson/Alberson) to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: RATIFY NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Lee appointed a Nominating Committee for board ratification. The Nominating Committee will present nominations for President and Vice President to the EDD Board at its March 2026 meeting for board action. The nominating committee members include:

- Mayor Greg Wheeler, City of Bremerton
- Mayor Dana Ralph, City of Kent
- Mayor Elect Ed Stern, City of Poulsbo
- Ray Stephanson, Economic Alliance Snohomish County
- Michael Catsi, Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County

ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Buffington/Rhyne) to ratify the Nominating Committee. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM: REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY WORKING SESSION

PSRC staff facilitated a working session with EDD Board members to help inform the new Regional Economic Strategy and future economic development implementation efforts at PSRC.

During these breakout sessions, the following themes emerged from discussion among board members and staff:

Industry Focus:

1. **Industry Sectors & Technologies:** Strengthen regional industry sectors and emerging technologies, advocate for trade policies that help export Washington goods, support entrepreneurship and startup ecosystems. Industry sectors identified include Artificial Intelligence, Military & Defense, Shipbuilding, Aerospace, Space, and Energy.

Foundational Areas:

2. Business Climate: Improve regional business and tax climate, regulatory framework, and permitting processes, support business technical and financial needs, support business recruitment, retention and expansion efforts.
3. Local Economic Development: Support economic development efforts of local jurisdictions and Associate Development Organizations, support funding for economic development programs.
4. Critical Economic Sites: Preserve and support regional ports, industrial lands, military installations and maritime sites.
5. Transportation & Infrastructure: Strengthen regional transportation, freight mobility, and inter-regional transportation options, increase electrical power capacity.
6. Cost of Living: Increase regional housing options, address cost of living issues, expand access to childcare services.
7. Economic Pathways: Increase access to opportunity for regional residents and workers, support and expand post-secondary training opportunities.

During the working session, the EDD board also discussed the following roles in regional economic development:

- Amplifying Regional Economic Development Efforts: Establishing a vision for regional economic development. Advocating for regional economic development priorities. Promotion of opportunities for regional collaboration and their benefits and sharing of best practices. Storytelling around regional assets and industries, benefits of economic development, and success stories.
- Coordinating Analysis & Strategy Development: Coordinating regional data and analysis on economic trends, industry sectors, business climate, and regional strengths and challenges. Convening regional stakeholders across sectors and subject areas to identify common issues and opportunities through meetings, events, or an ongoing organizational structure. Identifying areas for regional collaboration and supporting development of funding through contributions or grant funding.
- Providing Technical Assistance: Performing technical assistance to local jurisdictions to support their economic development planning goals. Facilitating the development of economic development data and planning resources.

The Regional Economic Strategy update will continue to be discussed at the March 4 meeting of the Economic Development District Board.

NEXT MEETING

The board will meet on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Adopted this 4th day of March 2026.

Signed by:
Dave Morell

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Councilmember Dave Morell, Vice President
Central Puget Sound Economic Development District

Signed by:
JCB

ATTEST: _____
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Josh Brown, Executive Director
Puget Sound Regional Council

ATTACHMENT

- EDD Member Attendance for the December 3, 2025, Meeting

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board			
Voting Members		Voting Members	
King County	2	EXEC Girmay Zahilay	Ports
		Vacant Alt	Port of Bremerton
		Ashton Allison Alt	1 COM Axel Strakeljahn*
		CM Reagan Dunn	1 COM Cary Bozeman Alt
		Vacant Alt	Port of Everett
		Cody Eccles Alt	1 COM David Simpson
			1 COM Glen Bachman Alt
Seattle	2	CM Alexis Mercedes Rinck	Port of Seattle
		CM Cathy Moore Alt	1 COM Ryan Calkins
		Vacant Alt	Vacant Alt
			Annie Tran Alt
		Vacant Alt	Port of Tacoma
		MYR Bruce Harrell	1 COM Deanna Keller
		Vacant Alt	1 COM Kristin Ang Alt
		Markham McIntyre Alt	Commerce
Bellevue	1	CM Conrad Lee*	WA Dept. of Commerce
		MYR Lynne Robinson Alt	1 Grace Yoo
		Corbin Hart Alt	Chambers of Commerce
			1 Keith Swenson Alt
			1 Vacant
Cities/Towns	2	MYR Dana Ralph, Kent	1 Vacant Alt
			Economic Development
		CM Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way	EDC - Seattle & King
		CM James Alberson, Renton Alt	1 Rachel Smith
		CM Tracy Taylor-Turner, Auburn Alt	1 Lynnette Buffington Alt
Kitsap County	1	COM Oran Root	KEDA - Kitsap
		COM Katie Walters Alt	1 Joe Morrison
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler	EASC - Snohomish
		CP Eric Younger Alt	1 Ray Stephanson
Cities/Towns	1	CM Ed Stern, Poulsbo*	EDB - Tacoma & Pierce
		CM John Morrissey, Port Orchard Alt	1 Daniel Tappana Alt
			1 Michael Catsi
			1 Sarah Bonds Alt
Pierce County	1	CM Dave Morell*	Workforce Development Councils
		CM Bryan Yambe Alt	WDC - Olympic
Tacoma	1	CM Joe Bushnell	1 William Dowling
		CM Kiara Daniels Alt	WDC - Sea-King
Cities/Towns	1	Mayor Jason Whalen, Lakewood	1 Marie Kurose Alt
		Mayor Dave Olson, Edgewood Alt	Organized Labor
Snohomish County	1	CM Jared Mead	WSLC
		CM Megan Dunn Alt	1 April Sims, WSLC President
Everett	1	CM Paula Rhyne	Chelsea Mason-Placek Alt
		MYR Cassie Franklin Alt	Presidential Appointments
		Dan Eernisse Alt	1 Brian Surratt, President & CEO, GSP*
Cities/Towns	1	CM Jason Moon, Mukilteo	Rebecca Lovell, COO, GSP Alt
		CM Erin Murray, Mountlake Terrace Alt	1 Tom Florino, Amazon*
			1 Michael Greer, President & CEO, ArtsFund
Federally Recognized Tribes			Non-voting Members
Puyallup Tribe of Indians	1	Vacant	PSRC President, Ex-Officio
		Vacant Alt	Bob Drewel
Suquamish Tribe	1	CHR Leonard Forsman	PSRC President
		CM Jay Mills Alt	EXEC Dave Somers
			Navy Region NW
			Bill Bulis, Executive Director
			Russell Byrd, CPLO Alt
			Abbreviations
			CM Councilmember
			* Executive Committee
Voting	31	(Quorum = 13) Quorum Total	23 COM Commissioner
			1 = Voting Member for Meeting
			CHR Chair