



Puget Sound Regional Council

MINUTES

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

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

To watch a video of the meeting and hear the discussion, go to www.psrc.org/watch-meetings

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 Dave Morell, EDD President. To determine attendance and a quorum was present, a verbal roll call was conducted by staff.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Morell thanked PSRC leadership for the economic sector panel hosted during the PSRC 2026 General Assembly.

STAFF REPORT

Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, updated the board on PSRC projects and events. This section was shifted to the beginning of the Regional Economic Strategy Update discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board Meeting held March 4, 2026
- b. Approve Vouchers dated February 28, 2026, through March 31, 2026, in the Amount of \$963.83

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

STAFF REPORT

Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, updated the board on the Opportunity Zones 2.0 Selection Process and a notice from the U.S. Department of Commerce, announcing a \$25 Million Notice of Funding Opportunity to upskill American workers in using artificial intelligence. He then asked Andrea Chartock, with the Washington State Department of Commerce, for a brief update on the department work program. He also reminded members that PSRC holds quarterly TOOLBOX webinars, with the upcoming June webinar, Local Approaches to Housing and Supportive Services, open to registration.

ACTION ITEM: ESTABLISHMENT OF BYLAWS & MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

President Morell asked for EDD Board approval to form an ad hoc committee to review the EDD bylaws and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the EDD and PRSC and to make recommendations for changes. Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, provided additional background and context for the present agreement.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Simpson/Keller) to approve the establishment of a board committee to review the EDD bylaws and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the EDD and PSRC and make recommendations for changes. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM: REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY UPDATE

Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, Stephanie Formas, Challenge Seattle, and Charlie Davis and Kenyon Shultz, Boston Consulting Group, provided an update on the development of the Regional Economic Strategy and Challenge Seattle's development of a regional economic development plan.

DISCUSSION ITEM: MILITARY & DEFENSE SECTOR IMPLEMENTATION

Katie Enders, Associate Planner, provided background and then facilitated a conversation with the EDD Board to discuss identifying the Military & Defense sector as an implementation area for the new Regional Economic Strategy.

NEXT MEETING

The board will meet on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Adopted this second day of September 2026.

Signed by:

Dave Morell

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Councilmember Dave Morell, President
Central Puget Sound Economic Development District

Signed by:

Josh Brown

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ATTEST: _____

Josh Brown, Executive Director
Puget Sound Regional Council

ATTACHMENTS

- a. Attendance June 3, 2026

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board					
Voting Members			Voting Members		
King County	2	EXEC Girmay Zahilay	Ports		
		Vacant Alt	Port of Bremerton	1	COM Axel Strakeljahn
		Erin Auzins Alt			COM Cary Bozeman Alt
		CM Reagan Dunn	Port of Everett	1	COM David Simpson
		Vacant Alt			COM Glen Bachman Alt
		Cody Eccles Alt	Port of Seattle	1	COM Sam Cho
Seattle	2	CM Alexis Mercedes Rinck			Vacant Alt
		CM Debora Juarez Alt			Annie Tran Alt
		Vacant	Port of Tacoma	1	COM Deanna Keller
		Vacant Alt			COM Kristin Ang Alt
Bellevue	1	CM Claire Sumadwirya	Commerce		
		CM Lynne Robinson Alt	WA Dept. of Commerce	1	Andrea Chartock
		Corbin Hart Alt			Kirk Esmond Alt
Cities/Towns	2	CM Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way	Chambers of Commerce	1	Vacant
		CM James Alberson, Renton			Vacant Alt
		CM Tracy Taylor-Turner, Auburn Alt	Economic Development		
		CM Michelle Evans, Woodinville Alt	EDC - Seattle & King	1	Joe Nguyen
Kitsap County	1	COM Oran Root			Lynnette Buffington Alt*
		COM Christine Rolfes Alt	KEDA - Kitsap	1	Joe Morrison*
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler			James Davis Alt
		CP Jane Rebelowski Alt	EASC - Snohomish	1	Ray Stephanson*
Cities/Towns	1	MYR Ed Stern, Poulsbo			Daniel Tappana Alt
		CM John Morrissey, Port Orchard Alt	EDB - Tacoma & Pierce	1	Michael Catsi*
Pierce County	1	CM Dave Morell*			Betty Baublits Alt
		CM Bryan Yambe Alt	Workforce Development Councils		
Tacoma	1	CM Olgy Diaz	WDC - Olympic	1	William Dowling
		CM Latasha Palmer Alt	WDC - Sea-King		Marie Kurose Alt
Cities/Towns	1	Mayor Dave Olson, Edgewood Alt	Organized Labor		
		CM Greg Reinke, Sumner Alt	WSLC	1	April Sims, WSLC President
Snohomish County	1	CM Jared Mead			Chelsea Mason-Placek Alt
		CM Megan Dunn Alt	Presidential Appointments		
Everett	1	CM Ben Zarlingo		1	Julien Loh, Puget Sound Energy
		Vacant Alt			Matt Perry, Puget Sound Energy
		Dan Eernisse Alt		1	Stacey Crnich, Goodroots Northwest*
Cities/Towns	1	CM Jason Moon, Mukilteo		1	Maria Tobin, SSMCP*
		CM Chris Eck, Edmonds Alt		1	Nikki Malcom, PNAA
Federally Recognized Tribes			Non-voting Members		
Puyallup Tribe of Indians	1	Vacant	PSRC President, Ex-Officio		Bob Drewel
		Vacant Alt	PSRC President		EXEC Dave Somers
Suquamish Tribe	1	CHR Leonard Forsman	Navy Region NW		Bill Bulis, Executive Director
		CM Jay Mills Alt			Russell Byrd, CPLO Alt
			Abbreviations		
			CM Councilmember		* Executive Committee
Voting	32	(Quorum = 13) Quorum Total	26	COM Commissioner	1 = Voting Member for Meeting
				CHR Chair	