

FRIDAY WITH *Friends*

Experience Chehalis

Date: 4/8/2022

Attendees: Michael Ervin, Terry Harris, David Hartz, Brian Wilkins, Bill (Twin Transit), Justine Pense, Larry McGee, Brandon Rakes, Eric Sonnenberg, Joanne Schwartz, Kenmore Trucking, Susan DeLaire, Tony Ketchum

Twin Transit

- New transit station has been opened
- Expanded route to Olympia
- Dial-a-ride available Winlock to Olympia. Inexpensive option and funded through state grant subsidizing 500 rides a month
- Hydrogen is more expensive than electric at this point
- Diversifying fuel sources. Some airlines are doing testing of new fuel sources. Our location could play a key role with future development.

Economic Alliance of Lewis County - Eric Sonnenberg

- Name change last year from Lewis County Economic Development Council has been well received. The new name sends a message of cooperation.
- Recruitment to the area is in full swing
 - Ryerson Steel in Centralia hopes to be open by July bringing 85-90 jobs to the area.
 - Working on wage scale
 - Georgia Pacific in Centralia
- First golf tournament last year was a great success. Planned this year.
- The Alliance's Business Development Center has helped 13-15 businesses to date
- Alliance membership is a priority. Three year ago there were 50 members, now 160 members
- Both local ports are very busy with a lot of interest from new companies right now
- First Mode Hydrogen out of Seattle is interested in testing their trucks here
- Other hydrogen-focused projects are in the works

Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum - Joanne Schwartz

- Working on getting liability insurance and passenger insurance
- CCRM has added Bill Deutscher as a new volunteer risk manager
- Looking at their current structure and enlisting the help of Tobey Altborst leading a new citizens group to evaluate the structure.
- Pursuing FEMA funding to fix damage caused by flood.

Larry McGee – United Learning Center & Twin Cities Rotary

- United Learning Center bid packages out next month
- Twin Cities Rotary have sent funds to Ukraine with other Rotary organizations