

UCEDC Today!

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Union County Economic Development Corporation

Anderson Perry & Associates

Measuring 40 years of business

Anderson Perry & Associates Inc. (AP) is a consulting engineering firm that was incorporated in La Grande, Ore., in 1975, and includes a branch office opened in 1978 in Walla Walla, Wash. As a Subchapter S Corporation, the new firm began with just two partners. The ownership of the firm is now spread among 16 actively working professionals as shareholders. Over the years, the firm has experienced steady growth and now provides more than 70 family wage jobs in eastern Oregon and Washington. For the firm, growth has not been the objective, but rather the growth has been a result of the firm's commitment to create a reputation founded upon high ethical standards, quality engineering work, and exceptional service to its clients.

The seeds of the business were planted in the spring of 1973, when Steve Anderson, P.E., left his job as the Superintendent of the Ladd Canyon Freeway Project to start his own engineering practice because of his love of the Grande Ronde Valley's rural environment, Eastern Oregon University and the surrounding recreational opportunities. His first employee, Howard Perry, a La Grande native, decided to move his small family back to La Grande from Utah in the spring of 1974 because of his desire to get back home and raise his family around rural values. Their partnership as AP began just a year later. The firm's approach to the engineering business in this rural area immediately gained the support of several local communities, including the cities of Elgin and Heppner that had previously sought their engineering services from firms located in Boise, Portland, or the Tri-Cities, and the firm began to grow.

Over the years, AP has been involved with numerous projects throughout northeast Oregon, southeast Washington, and central Idaho. Projects that the firm has participated in range from those in Hood River, Oregon, to the west, Pierce and Elk City, Idaho, to the east, Othello, Washington to the north, and Harney County, Oregon, to the south. All of these projects have provided a direct benefit to the communities throughout the area, such as cleaner drinking water, better wastewater collection and treatment, safer streets, roads, and bridges, and more environmental enhancement. In the mid-



2000s, AP added water resources engineering, permitting, and environmental services to the firm's offering, and in 2014, archeology services were also added. Co-founder Howard Perry states "It is rewarding to look back and recognize how our work efforts have helped benefit all these communities and other municipal and private clients in a positive way."

Locally, some of the municipal projects handled by the firm have included both municipal water and wastewater improvement projects for the Union County communities of Elgin, Union, La Grande, North Powder, and Cove, and a municipal water improvement project for the City of Imbler. The firm has also done numerous projects for Union County, including the development of the Airport Industrial Park and UCEDC Business and Technology Park and many roadway and bridge improvement projects including Pierce Road, McAlister Road, South 12th Street, Grande Ronde River (McKennon Lane and Rinehart Lane) Bridges, Catherine Creek (Miller Lane and Badger Flat Lane) Bridges, and many others.

AP has received both regional and national recognition and attention for their approach to problem solving, and has received seven Engineering Excellence Awards from the American Council of Engineering Companies. These award winning projects include the City of La Grande's Wastewater System Improvements, City of Baker City's Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project, the City of Stanfield's Stage Gulch Flood Control Project, and the City of Rufus' Wastewater System Improvements.

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UCEDC Board of Directors

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 The Observer
 Oregon Trail Electric Co-op
 Oregon Trail Seeds, Inc.
 Pendleton Grain Growers, Inc.
 Dr. Joseph Petrussek
 Dr. Wesley Rampton
 Red Cross Drug Store*
 Reed & Associates
 Roger's Asphalt
 Sandridge Agriprises
 Scott's Heating & Air Conditioning
 Ed Staub & Sons Petroleum, Inc.
 Tri County Equipment
 Training & Employment Consortium
 Umpqua Bank
 Union County Chamber
 Valley Realty
 Wheatland Insurance Center
 Bill Whittemore
 WC Construction
 Williamson's Insurance Service
 * Indicates Recent New Business Members

New Member

Red Cross Drug

Red Cross Drug Store was first founded in La Grande back in 1903. Bob Coulter and his wife Sue have been the owners of the store for the past 32 years. Their daughter, Leah Lester, is their General Manager and works with a management team that



Bob and his General Manager and daughter Leah Lester standing next to their Robotx counting machine.

includes three Licensed Pharmacists, a front-end manager, as well as an office manager. The store's staff includes 18 full time and 8 part-time employees. Bob says that Red Cross Drug joined UCEDC this past year "to strengthen and broaden the county's economic base, and to participate in creating jobs".

The business provides over 600 patients with their monthly maintenance medication on what they call a "synchronized refill service" using their computer systems. This service encourages patients to adhere to the medications their provider prescribed them and saves them both time and money in trips to the pharmacy to pick up one prescription at a time. Instead, they can pick everything up one day a month. To help them do this, they also have the areas only "Innovations Robotx" a remote dispensing system that counts, bottles and labels about 75 common medications. The pharmacy also provides "Custom Medications" also known as compounding. They take various raw chemicals and make custom formulations to meet a wide variety of needs not available commercially. They are able to provide compounds such as life sustaining medication for children in liquid forms, pain and comfort creams for hospice patients, hormone replacement with hormones that are identical to what the human body makes and many different pain creams that treat a wide variety of aches and pains. Using four part-time drivers working two shifts, the business delivers 40 to 60 prescription orders per day directly to their customers, whether they are at home or at work.

In addition to his own efforts to support the local economic base through his leadership at Red Cross Drug Store, Bob has another "claim to fame" when back in the mid 80's he introduced Dale Young, who was then Executive Director of the newly formed UCEDC, to his friend Greg Barreto, who had started an equipment manufacturing business in the Willamette Valley a couple of years earlier. Greg struck a deal with UCEDC, moved his business over here, bringing the Hot Lake Industrial Park its first business, and the rest is history. ☺

UCEDC members and guests tour plywood mill

On June 23, 2015 the Membership Committee of UCEDC conducted a tour of Boise Cascade's Elgin Plywood Mill. About 25 people attended the event, including local Business Members, as well as elected officials from the County and cities in Union County.



Manufacturing plywood is an interesting process, with 100% of each log being utilized in some way. This is a mill that employs 210 people, working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year at full of capacity. The mill is shut down just 8 hours each week for maintenance. The recent recession had no significant impact on the mills production.

The tour began with a briefing by the Boise Cascade staff on safety, as well as the current lack of local timber supply, and how far they now have to go to get enough logs to keep the mill running at 100% of capacity. People broke up into three groups that then walked through the mill where they observed a number of different stages in the plywood



Observing the layering and lamination process for each sheet of plywood.

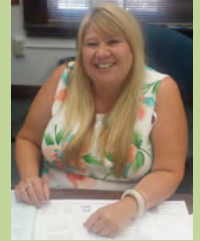
production process. The group watched as the primary lathe, spinning at a rate of 1400 ft/min. sliced an 18" log into thin sheets of veneer in just 15 seconds. This lathe peels 2,000 logs in each 8-hour shift (4 per minute).

Each group also passed by the three sets of driers that turned the green veneer into dry sheets, and the processes for grading and sorting each sheet coming out of these driers. Two of the Lay-up Lines in this process include computerized "Automated Veneer Graders." In addition to photo scanning for defects and automatically grading and sorting each sheet of veneer that goes thru them, they also check each sheet for proper moisture content.

The groups then observed the layering and laminating process that takes place just prior to pressing these layers

New LG economic development director

Christine Jarski began work as the City of La Grande Economic Development Director in early July. Her previous experience included working for the Idaho Council of Governments (formerly Ida-Ore) on its community development team, as well as at the Idaho Department of Commerce, where she served on both the Business Attraction and Business Development teams and the newly created Idaho Main Street program. She has also worked as the economic development coordinator in Columbia County, WA. In addition to her experience in economic and community development, she has many years of non-profit fundraising and communications experience.



"For many years, I have wanted to live and work in La Grande. My family and I visited the area frequently when I was growing up and I have always been drawn to the outstanding recreational opportunities, as well as the friendliness and size of the community." Christine loves the outdoors. Her hobbies include swimming, hiking, horseback riding, antiquing and reading. She also enjoys going to rodeos and attending performing arts productions and visual arts exhibitions. "La Grande has so many community assets and a strong vibrancy. I already love the Farmer's Market, visiting the shops and restaurants downtown and playing Glow Golf at Riverside Greens. I look forward to continuing to explore the area and excited to be working with community leaders to grow the economy in La Grande. I am thrilled to make it my home!" #

into a final plywood sheet, and then the edge and end cutting of these sheets just before the final visual inspection of both sides of each sheet. We were told that the mill produces about 100,000 4' x 8' panels of plywood each week, much of which is shipped to the East Coast and sold to Home Depot.



One of two automated graders at work, scanning each sheet of veneer as it passes.

After the tour, a hosted members appreciation reception was held in the mill conference room, where drinks and snacks were served. #

Director's Corner

UCEDC Update

The UCEDC Board of Directors adopted the Corporation Goals & Activities at its April 9th Board meeting. The Goals & Activities identify the work plan for the Corporation for the fiscal year beginning on July 1.



The adopted Goals & Activities are:

- Continue the Business Retention & Expansion Program focusing on opportunities to strengthen local business competitiveness through such actions as developing a career technical education center in Union County.
- Continue to implement an efficient and effective Business Recruitment Program with emphasis on supporting Boise Cascade through recruitment of manufacturers utilizing particleboard and by developing a formal Targeted Industry Analysis giving greater focus to recruitment targets and activities.
- Market the La Grande Business & Technology Park in partnership with the City of La Grande Urban Renewal Agency.
- Provide economic development program assistance to the Union County Board of Commissioners and work to make economic development activities inclusive of all communities in Union County.
- Identify strategies to strengthen UCEDC's ability to meet the challenges facing economic development activities in Union County.

As UCEDC works to implement the Goals & Activities, it will continue to foster the partnerships in the community essential to a viable economic development program. Periodic progress reports will be provided to membership and the general public.

UCEDC Completes the 2015 BR&E Business Survey

UCEDC is in the process of conducting the 2015 Business Visitation/Survey, an important element of the Business Retention & Expansion Program. The 2015 visitation/survey replicates the survey conducted in 2011. The 2015 survey provides valuable, updated information from local businesses, allowing us to assist Union County firms individually and collectively by identifying trends in the local economy and specific issues that need to be taken into consideration as we work towards our goal of assuring businesses stay local, grow and prosper.

The visitation/survey program involves community volunteers visiting with local businesses to identify specific business concerns and needs. The visits take approximately 45-60 minutes and involve a short survey to gather the information. Specifically, the survey provides the opportunity to:

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"Measuring 40 years" continued from page 1

In addition to the rewards of the actual work being done by the firm on a daily basis, the firm's leaders have always strived to provide a rewarding and positive work environment for the staff, while fostering an attitude of continual professional improvement. AP has continued to keep pace with technology changes in the engineering field and has an impressive array of modern survey, design, and modeling hardware and software that the staff uses to efficiently complete their work.

Brad Baird, AP's President since 2008, in talking about the firm's services stated, "Our goal is to provide the services our client's need so they don't have to seek professional assistance from outside of the area. As for the next 40 years, our goal is to continue to support the region's economy by finding and employing people who share our



Current A&P Shareholders: **Rear, left to right:** Adam Schmidtgall, Dave Wildman, Andy Lindsey, Brad Baird, Troy Baker and Dave Jepsen. **Front, left to right:** Eric Zitterkopf, Jake Hollopeter, Mike Posada, Chas Hutchins, John Wells, Brett Moore and Andy Perry.

love for the region and rural lifestyle, and who want to work hard to keep communities healthy and viable. It is always a satisfying feeling when we can offer a good secure job to a young man or woman who wants to come back to our rural area to raise their family."

AP's staff can be found serving through their respective communities, and they are involved in many civic, church, and service organizations. Howard Perry said, "We have always encouraged our employees to be involved and engaged in their communities. After all, making life better for us, our children, and our neighbors has always been one of the firm's key objectives." As a supporting Business Member of UCEDC since its inception in 1983, both Steve and Howard have served terms on the Board and as respective Presidents of the Board of Directors. AP is proud to be part of such an organization that helps develop economic opportunities and promotes economic development in our area. ☪

- Understand local business viewpoints on the economic vitality of Union County.
- Identify business concerns related to economic development.
- Provide local business with information on current state & local development programs.
- Establish or maintain a channel of communications between business and local business assistance resources.

Questions on the survey include the following topics:

- Products & services
- Changes in the past three years
- Buyer/supplier linkages
- Expectations for the next 3 years
- Employment & workforce issues
- Local business climate

Information specific to a business is kept confidential and is aggregated with the responses from other businesses.

The 2015 Business Visitation/Survey project will interview up to forty local businesses. The findings are being aggregated and compared with those obtained in 2011 and a formal report will be available later this summer.

The 2011 Business Visitation/Survey report can be found on the UCEDC website at www.ucedc.org or you can contact us and we will provide a printed copy.

We welcome your comments and suggestions and encourage you to be engaged with the economic development activities in Union County. Please contact us with any questions.

AWFS Trade Show with Boise Cascade

I will be attending the Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers (AWFS) trade show in Las Vegas July 21-25 as a guest of Boise Cascade. The AWFS is the largest national trade association in the U.S. representing the interests of the broad array of companies that supply the home and commercial furnishings industry. At the trade show I will be marketing Union County as a prime location for companies to relocate or expand. In particular, we will be focused on companies that utilize particleboard in their production and the benefits of locating adjacent to the Boise Cascade particleboard plant. This will be the third year of joining Boise Cascade at the show. Persistence is the key to business attraction. ☩

Board Member Profile

John Lackey

John Lackey has served on the Union County Economic Development Corporation Board as a representative of the La Grande City Council for the past two years. He is currently a member of the Communications and Marketing and Property committees.

John is the former owner/operator of Lackey Insurance Agency, and more recently the owner of Source One Consulting LLC, a business



consulting firm. Source One provides business funding, market plans, human resource management, feasibility studies, assistance with business funding, insurance analysis and the application of lean technology.

John has served on the Union County Planning Commission for seven years, with four of the years as Chairman. He also served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Shrine Hospital in Portland. He is a long time member of Rotary International and a Paul Harris Fellow.

John received his formal education at Cal Poly University majoring in farm management. He served for seven years in the US Army Medical Corp and as an Infantry Battalion Operations NCO. He moved his family to La Grande some 20 years ago. He has owned a commercial mortgage company and been involved in real estate development.

John's family includes his wife, Virginia of 51 years and his son Brian, daughter-in-law Aynn, and grandsons Harris and Andrew. ☩

About UCEDC Today!

UCEDC Today! is being sent to you as a supporting member of the Union County Economic Development Corporation. The publication is produced by the membership committee: Steve Anderson, Tim Seydel, Carrie Brogoitti, Jeff Crews, Greg Barreto, Dan Stark and Mandi Case.

- UCEDC is a public-private partnership.
- Our primary goal is job retention and creation.
- UCEDC manages and markets its own and other "shovel ready" industrial sites.



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