



12:00 PM — *Working Lunch*

Lunch -The Bells Buffet: *Caesar and Potato Salads. Turkey Pesto Wrap, Chicken/bacon wrap. Fries. Water, Iced Tea, Lemonade. Small Bite Desserts.*

Table Conversations: Choose a Table based on a Topic. Be sure to have **One NWCCOG Program Director** and **One Executive Committee Member** at each table discussing What Makes NWCCOG Distinct? Each table takes one of the topic sets below — tables may choose on arrival, or the Chair may assign to spread coverage. **Choose a participant to report out for the entire table after lunch.** Begin with assigned topic, cover others as desired.

Materials: [This document is also a stand-alone document online.](#)

ALL TABLES Topic — Our Distinctive Value

- What do we do, or focus on, that other organizations are not?
- Where do we add value that no one else does?

Table Topic A — Where We Lead vs. Where We Are One of Many

- Action Sectors: What issues are we best positioned to lead on?
- Where are we simply one option among many, and is there a narrow lane for us in, for instance tracking sustainability/climate change efforts across region, more economic development coordination across region, more topic-focused gatherings?

Table Topic B — Tools & Direct Services to Members

- What Member Services tools are the most impactful? We publish reports regularly, write and report on topics related to local governance, facilitate, assist manager services, present to councils; what should we do more of and why?
- What opportunities exist for providing direct services to members?

Table Topic C — Entrepreneurial Spirit & Where It Could Grow

- Many programs have an entrepreneurial spirit, leadership recognized by state and national peers, and have high-performing teams (Energy, VINTAGE, Broadband, Elevator come to mind) — where else in the organization could that develop, and how?

Table Topic D — A Deeper Dive on Behavioral Health, and Economic Development / CEDS

- Review Phase 2 actions in BH report, talk about NWCCOG .
- What active role should NWCCOG play in this sector: convene, coordinate, deliver, or step back? What does that role ask of members?
- What additional resources (funding, staffing, member commitment) for that role to work?
- If we do not take this on, who does, and what is lost for the region if no one does?

Table Topic E — Our Convener Role in the Region

- When is convening the highest-value thing we do, versus delivering a service ourselves?
- Which emerging regional issue most needs a table that only NWCCOG can set?
- Do the peer groups for Managers and Planners point to a model we should expand?

Table Topic F — What Would Make Showing Up Worth It

- What would make a member representative rearrange their calendar for a Council meeting?
- What do you need to take back to your (home) board or council to justify membership in NWCCOG, and the dues?
- What would make the biggest difference NWCCOG could make to improve member engagement, awareness of the organization?

All Tables — Closing Question

- Takeaways from the retreat so far.

Note Space: