

Lane Economic Committee

DATE: Monday, October 21st, 2019

TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Lane Council of Governments, Park Place Building, 5th floor, Buford Meeting Room,
859 Willamette St., Suite 500, Eugene, OR 97401

CONTACT: Dan Betschart, 541-682-3359. dbetschart@lcog.org

1. Agenda: October 21, 2019

Documents:

[OCTOBER 21 LEC AGENDA.PDF](#)

2. Minutes: 9-16-2019

Documents:

[LEC 190916.PDF](#)

3. Complete Packet

Documents:

[LEC COMPLETE PACKET.PDF](#)

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859 Willamette Street, Suite 500
Eugene, Oregon 97401

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dbetschart@lcog.org dwalters@lcog.org
Lunch will be ordered for LEC Members unless you notify us of your inability to attend

All individuals are expected to observe respectful behavior and decorum during this public meeting. Anyone acting in a disruptive, disorderly or threatening manner will be asked to leave, and may be precluded from participating in future opportunities for public comment. Please be courteous and respectful. Please turn off or mute all cell phones and pagers.

1. Welcome / Introductions / Changes to the Agenda (5 minutes) Rob Scoggin
2. Public comment (5 minutes) Rob Scoggin
3. Comments from the Members, Chair & Staff (2 minutes) Rob Scoggin
4. Review minutes from September 16, 2019 (5 minutes) Rob Scoggin
Action item: Approve minutes
5. Oregon 2021 – City of Eugene – Planning/Preparations (25 - 30 minutes) Stephanie Scafa
2021 Project Manager
6. Discuss 2020 LEC membership and officer appointments Dan Betschart
Action item: Appoint membership subcommittee (15 minutes)
7. Set next meeting date: November 18, 2019 Rob Scoggin

Adjourn

MINUTES

Lane Economic Committee

Lane Council of Governments (LCOG), Fifth Floor Conference Room

859 Willamette Street -- Eugene

September 16, 2019
11:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Rob Scoggin, Dan Betschart, Rick Wiemholt, Corey Deel, Ric Ingham, Barry Miller, Mike Eyster, Ashley Espinoza, Kathy Holston, Greg Ervin, Mark Bodie, Paul Berger, Larry Brice, Anne Fifield, Jason Koenders, Matt Sayre, Howard Schussler, Courtney Griesel

GUESTS: Robert Killen, Marilyn Cross

1. Welcome/Introductions/Changes to the Agenda

Rob Scoggin, Chair, convened the Lane Economic Committee (LEC) at 11:35 a.m. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Comments from the Members, Chair & Staff

None.

4. Review minutes from May 20, 2019 and June 17, 2019

Action item: Approve minutes

Mr. Eyster moved, seconded by Mr. Berger, to approve the May 20, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Eyster moved, seconded by Mr. Berger, to approve the June 17, 2019 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Small Business Development Center Overview

Robert Killen, Director of Lane SBDC, presented this overview. He first provided a brief history of the Lane SBDC. Pursuant to a federal mandate from 1980, the SBA ordered every state to create SBDC's. The universities in Oregon were not initially interested in incorporating SBDC's, and in 1983, Eugene citizens proposed that SBDC's be attached to community colleges. Now there are nineteen SBDC's around the state attached to community colleges, with Lane SBDC connected to LCC. 19 centers around the state attached to community colleges.

Mr. Killen then explained the three parts of the SBDC's work:

1. The SBDC provides advising similar to SCORE, but the advisors are paid. They advise businesses at any point from pre-launch to exit about what is going on in their businesses. This service is free.
2. It offers a series of classes from pre-startup onward, including many one-off classes on specific topics, such as understanding financials and social media. There is an excellent course on developing business plans. The SBDC's capstone program is the small business management program.
3. It provides specialized services, such as the Capital Access Team in Portland (which helps a business find the best capital solution), the Global Trade Group in Portland (which helps any business interested in going global), and the SCALE program (which offers free consulting to traded sector companies that meet certain revenue and size requirements).

Courtney Griesel arrived at 11:41 am

The Lane SBDC is located at LCC, and LCC is its primary funder, with other funds coming from the SBA and Business Oregon. It serves all of Lane County. Mr. Killen's goal is to make sure all businesses in Lane County know that the SBDC is there and is a resource.

Mr. Killen shared his own background. He was with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce most recently, and before that, he was a commercial banker and branch manager, and he ran some non-profits. Prior to his banking work, he was an artist and then a commercial designer. He came to Lane SBDC as someone who knew the community and had the connections to spread the word. He wants to make sure that everyone in the economic development community knows about Lane SBDC's resources.

Howard Schussler arrived at 11:47 am.

Mr. Berger asked about the type of businesses that the SBDC serves. Mr. Killen replied that, historically, the SBDC mostly served businesses that have been in business for a few years. However, due to lack of awareness in that community in the last few years, the SBDC now helps more startups. They would like to get back to helping more existing businesses as well. However, the Small Business Management program has been consistently booked. Nationally, SBDC's feel that numbers have been dropping because businesses are doing well and do not need services as much.

Mr. Eyster inquired what the SBDC's services cost. Mr. Killen responded that classes cost anywhere from \$19 to \$579 for the year-long Small Business Management class. Most classes are \$45 or \$99. Many classes are offered in the evenings, and some in the afternoons.

Mr. Miller added that one advantage of the Small Business Management program is that the class is offered twice a week; once in the afternoon and once in the evening.

Mr. Killen asked that anyone who works with organizations in economic or business development to bring him in to speak to their groups about the Lane SBDC and what it offers.

Ms. Espinoza asked if the Lane SBDC has any bilingual employees, and Mr. Killen replied that there is one such employee who might be leaving, but he intends to bring on a Spanish-speaking advisor soon. They have Spanish-speaking advisors who can provide translation via phone.

Mr. Wiemholt wondered if the SBDC has a connection to RAIN. Mr. Killen remarked that since RAIN is positioned well for startups with a product that is innovative or novel, the SBDC will point people to RAIN if their startup fits that description. SBDC is a better fit for more traditional businesses.

In response to a question from Mr. Brice, Mr. Killen clarified that to access the Capital Access Team in Portland, a business comes to the SBDC to ask for advising. The local advisor will identify that this business needs capital, and that advisor will set up a direct appointment with that client and the Capital Access Team. That team advises the client in determining what will be their best source of capital. Mr. Brice wondered if this advice is predominantly geared toward banks or venture capital, and Mr. Killen explained that they look at venture capital the least, and only if it is a good fit. The team are part of the capital scan, which looks at all capital available to business. They know about all channels, including banks, community lending works, and venture capital. The SBDC is hoping to have a representative from the Capital Access Team at the Eugene office in the near future.

Mr. Scoggin asked if the SBDC works more with retail or manufacturing, and if it has a specialty. Mr. Killen replied that they work with anyone, and there is no specialty, but they do have specialists within the team (for example, food and restaurants). Most advisors are generalists.

6. Bridging the Digital Divide - Internet Fiber

Matt Sayre, of the Technology Association of Oregon, filled in for Raymond Hardman in this presentation. Mr. Sayre explained that Raymond Hardman has an internet service provider called Emerald Broadband, located in the LCOG building. They are a B corporation, which allows them to have financial priorities that put the public interests and community benefit first. Emerald Broadband provides wireless service in Westfir using fiber optic connectivity from LCOG to Westfir, and then wireless technology to other rural communities

Mr. Sayre began by explaining the Digital Divide, which is an opportunity gap. Rural residents are being held back by lack of affordable broadband access. Many rural communities do not have the proper internet access required to participate in a modern economy. Mr. Sayre shared some stories he heard at a town hall meeting in a rural area in South Lane County. These included an entrepreneur running a furniture company out of his house who had to drive into town to get internet access in order to process orders and update his website, and an elderly couple talking about lacking access to healthcare through telemedicine. There is also a homework gap, in that 70% of homework requires internet access. In 4J and Springfield schools, community investments have provided good internet access at schools. However, some students in outlying area schools who live in rural communities do not have good internet access at home and cannot complete their homework properly.

According to the FCC, 24.7 million people in the US do not have broadband. According to a

study by Microsoft, 162.8 million people (half of the US) do not have broadband. Mr. Sayre explained that right now, the definition of “broadband” is at least 25 mbps (megabits per second) download, and 3 mbps upload.

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Mr. Sayre then spoke about apps that use crowdsourced data. Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch challenged our local tech community to figure out how to use crowdsourced information to inform consumers about broadband options available, i.e., figure out the digital divide so that funding for broadband could be targeted effectively to areas that need it. This was pitched at Hack for a Cause, and the tech community built a tool called SpeedUpAmerica, available at speedupamerica.com.

Mr. Sayre explained that SpeedUpAmerica starts with a speed test, and then compares it. He then performed a speed test, which showed that the speed at that location was only 4.27% faster than other work and public connections in the area. The map also showed that the median speed in the 97401 zip code is 24 mbps, which is almost broadband speed. He demonstrated how to use the speed data and the maps, including looking at the speeds by internet provider.

Mr. Sayre remarked that investments in internet structure provide a high return on investment. Recently the City of Eugene, through a project called EugNet, invested a lot in internet infrastructure in the downtown core, which worked as gravity for tech companies. Over the last couple years, downtown Eugene has added about 25 tech companies, which came here at least in part because of world-class internet access. This translates to about 200 jobs, with an average salary of \$74,000. Eugene has a good track record of investments in internet infrastructure, and many other communities are seeing that to remain relevant, internet infrastructure matters.

Mr. Sayre shared that based on speed tests done, about 45% of residents in the 97477 zip code in Springfield do not have access to broadband. About 51% of residents in the 97401 zip code in Eugene do not have broadband.

Mr. Ervin asked what these numbers are based on, and if they include people who want to purchase internet service and do not have broadband. Mr. Sayre said that there are a few variables, but these numbers are statistically significant and close to reality. The numbers of people who do not have broadband include people who do not have internet at all.

Mr. Eyster wondered what is preventing more widespread broadband access. Mr. Sayre responded that while there has been a lot of progress in this area to drive down costs and increase speeds, there is a need for continued investment, especially in underserved areas. There are pilot projects, including 161 households in Springfield that will be connected to sub-fiber. It is important to recognize continued investment in internet as a priority.

In response to a question from Miller, Mr. Sayre confirmed that broadband is the same as the speed of 25 mbps download and 3mbps upload, as defined by the FCC.

Mr. Berger wondered if the data regarding internet speed includes connectivity through cell phones. Mr. Sayre shared that due to Western Oregon's geography with hills and valleys, some places not only do not have internet coverage, but cell phone service is almost nonexistent. The speed for cell service providers is different, but it is included in the data measured by SpeedUpAmerica. This tool can break out individualized providers, including cell providers.

Ms. Griesel remarked that the people they're trying to reach with broadband level speeds cannot access those speeds on cell phones.

Mr. Brice wondered where the SpeedUpAmerica tool is available, and Mr. Sayre replied that it is currently available in Oregon, Washing, and Idaho and will soon be available in Mississippi. Mr. Brice then asked what research shows about rural Lane County regarding speeds. Mr. Sayre showed that one can look at those areas by viewing the data by zip code or census tract, but partnered projects also geolocate the data with greater precision, such as by census block. He also responded to another question, stating that the speed test servers for SpeedUpAmerica are located in the same places where people get their content. It is therefore, arguably, a better representation of a person's true internet speed based on the location of the test servers.

Mr. Brice wondered what the recommended technology fixes are for underserved areas, such as students who live in Noti. Mr. Sayre replied that community conversations looking towards the coast. Providing extension of great internet service on the publicly-owned open access network here. This could empower smaller communities such as Noti to do last-mile fiber builds, public or private, to the homes (or, as Emerald has done in Westfir extend off that fiber and use wireless deployment to the home).

Mr. Brice wondered if in applying for infrastructure grants, one has to show a deficiency in speed. Mr. Sayre explained that the model of federal grants recognizes the FCC's self-reported data from ISP's. Mr. Ingham noted that because of the FCC map and definitions, since the FCC's data is generated by the ISP's self-reported data rather than actuals, Veneta is not eligible for grants. Ms. Fifield added that the FCC's data overstates broadband service due to the reporting techniques.

Mr. Sayre noted that a Senator from Mississippi is on the Federal Infrastructure subcommittee, and there is a federal conversation around improving broadband mapping.

Ms. Cross shared that in other counties in Oregon, cooperative utilities have been supportive in bringing broadband and high speeds to the home. On the McKenzie, there are multiple electrical providers, including EWEB, and they have no incentive to help that population get internet access. She wondered what can be done at the county level to work across the many utility companies to get support to help solve this problem. Mr. Sayre replied that LCOG recently convened a number of regional stakeholders who agreed that they need to work together to identify ordinances that allow putting in fiber and conduit at the same time as they dig up the street for electrical work. This helps bring different parts of the government sectors together.

Ms. Cross also wondered how people who have no internet access because it just is not available are counted in speed test data. Mr. Sayre responded that speed tests can be done with different tools, and data can be included from cell phones where there is no service. Blank spots on the maps indicate no service.

Mr. Ervin wondered about satellite connection and if there is a push for that. Mr. Sayre explained that while speeds for satellite connections are decent, the catch is latency (stuttering speech, lagging video, etc.), and there are also data caps on satellite. There are conversations regarding low earth orbit satellites with certain companies, but that is a long way away.

Mr. Scoggin commented that in Cottage Grove, he has 100 mbps in one location where he does business, and he has 60 mbps at home, as long as no one else is using the connection. When others are using it, the speed drops down significantly. Mr. Sayre explained that connectivity there is oversubscribed. This happens less in markets where there is competition and more than one provider. SpeedUpAmerica shows a large number of tests from all times during the day, and that number is indicative of what people experience on average in a location. In addition to raw speed test numbers, the map includes consumer sentiment. People can rate their service with a number of stars. An investor might look not only at areas that are underserved in terms of speed, but also areas in which consumers are saying they are not happy with their service providers. New service providers will do the same.

7. Opportunity Zone Funding Request for Information (RFP) 10/18/19 deadline

Mr. Scoggin reported that there is an RFP deadline of October 18th for the Opportunity Zone Funding Request.

Mr. Betschart said he will be sending information out to everyone. An Opportunity Zone map is included. The EDA is looking for feedback as to which areas could use the funding.

Mr. Scoggin said that the application deadline is October 18th if you are a business in that zone.

Ms. Griesel asked if they are soliciting existing projects, and Mr. Betschart said they are.

Ms. Fifield clarified that all opportunity funds are in Eugene and Springfield.

8. LEC Membership Committee - Discussion

Mr. Scoggin remarked that with some turnover in the LEC over the past year, there are a couple of alternates they would like to move into permanent positions, and they need to make recommendations to the LCOG Board to do so. He named Ray Hardman only one at this time who has been chosen as a permanent member.

Mr. Eyster moved, seconded by Mr. Ervin, to recommend to the Board that Ray Hardman be added as a permanent member of the LEC. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Scoggin then mentioned that several members would like to change the monthly LEC meeting to the second Monday of the month, rather than the third Monday, since the third Monday, since the third Monday coincides with several holidays. This would also need to be done through a recommendation to the LCOG Board for their approval.

Mr. Berger moved, seconded by Mr. Eyster, to recommend to the Board that LEC meetings be changed to the second Monday of the month. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Scoggin noted that the change probably will not happen until November or December.

Mr. Scoggin then spoke about the new round of the CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) coming up. He mentioned that in order to make the CEDS more meaningful, members of the Board would like the whole four-county region to list the top five projects on which they would like to focus, prioritizing them by economic good, different areas, etc. LEC has been asked to do this for Lane County.

In response to a question from Mr. Schussler, Mr. Scoggin said that Phil from Cascades West COG will present to this group about how to go through the process. He added that we want an active Lane County representation so that Lane County's items will have a good chance of being worked on by the CEDS.

Ms. Griesel remarked that CEDS is an important document because the regions are required to have it, and it is a good place to prioritize projects for funding.

Mr. Schussler added that Lane County is part of a four-county federally recognized economic development district.

Mr. Berger asked if in the CEDS process, LCOG would send out a questionnaire to cities and municipalities in Lane County to come back with their five highest priority projects. He also wondered what the LEC would do with that information. Mr. Scoggin explained that the LEC will take those priorities and break them down into different groups and then rank the projects overall for Lane County.

Mr. Schussler said he would send the current CEDS to everyone to review.

Mr. Scoggin noted that the last CEDS was a big change from the past, and there were not many actions seen as the result of this current CEDS, so they need to go back to the previous process to make sure projects will get done.

Ms. Holston clarified that the CEDS expires in 2020, and a new 5-year plan needs to be made. She wondered if there will be an assessment of what actually came to fruition from this current CEDS. Mr. Scoggin replied that they are trying to get the items that are seen as necessary for the entire region on a list so that government agencies can help move forward with those. There will be an assessment of which projects have been picked up.

Mr. Ervin asked who gets the document to then take action, and it was explained that it will

become part of the CEDS, and the Oregon Cascades West COG will send it in. It will provide funding for economic development groups in all the counties, including the LEC. Ms. Fifield added that the CEDS is also important documentation of our region's priorities to use when seeking federal grants.

Ms. Griesel noted that the CEDS is a high-level document. Each council adopts their priorities.

Mr. Ervin used an analogy of the city process of establishing a set of goals, which are then used in the grant process to show that a project is in line with those goals.

Mr. Scoggin used specific examples of economic development projects needed in Cottage Grove, which would then be put into the bigger barrel of Lane County's priorities, and then the four-county region's priorities.

Mr. Ervin asked who picks the projects that actually get done, and Mr. Scoggin said that LEC helps by prioritizing projects in Lane County. Ms. Griesel added that the county plays a substantial role, and there are many different committees that come together.

Mr. Schussler noted that there is CWEDD Board that serves the whole Economic Development

Ms. Fifield inquired about the timeline for the CEDS, and Mr. Scoggin replied that it is supposed to be finished by the end of 2020, and it will serve 2021-2026.

Mr. Eyster asked if regional broadband access could be included in the CEDS, and Mr. Scoggin replied that it is a high priority for all of Lane County.

Mr. Schussler said that he will reach out to Phil Warnock and ask him to come and explain the CEDS process.

9. Set next meeting date: October 21, 2019

Mr. Scoggin adjourned the meeting at 12:57 pm.

(Recorded by Rachel Burstein)

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Mr. Sayre shared that based on speed tests done, about 45% of residents in the 97477 zip code in Springfield do not have access to broadband. About 51% of residents in the 97401 zip code in Eugene do not have broadband.

Mr. Ervin asked what these numbers are based on, and if they include people who want to purchase internet service and do not have broadband. Mr. Sayre said that there are a few variables, but these numbers are statistically significant and close to reality. The numbers of people who do not have broadband include people who do not have internet at all.

Mr. Eyster wondered what is preventing more widespread broadband access. Mr. Sayre responded that while there has been a lot of progress in this area to drive down costs and increase speeds, there is a need for continued investment, especially in underserved areas. There are pilot projects, including 161 households in Springfield that will be connected to sub-fiber. It is important to recognize continued investment in internet as a priority.

In response to a question from Miller, Mr. Sayre confirmed that broadband is the same as the speed of 25 mbps download and 3mbps upload, as defined by the FCC.

Mr. Berger wondered if the data regarding internet speed includes connectivity through cell phones. Mr. Sayre shared that due to Western Oregon's geography with hills and valleys, some places not only do not have internet coverage, but cell phone service is almost nonexistent. The speed for cell service providers is different, but it is included in the data measured by SpeedUpAmerica. This tool can break out individualized providers, including cell providers.

Ms. Griesel remarked that the people they're trying to reach with broadband level speeds cannot access those speeds on cell phones.

Mr. Brice wondered where the SpeedUpAmerica tool is available, and Mr. Sayre replied that it is currently available in Oregon, Washing, and Idaho and will soon be available in Mississippi. Mr. Brice then asked what research shows about rural Lane County regarding speeds. Mr. Sayre showed that one can look at those areas by viewing the data by zip code or census tract, but partnered projects also geolocate the data with greater precision, such as by census block. He also responded to another question, stating that the speed test servers for SpeedUpAmerica are located in the same places where people get their content. It is therefore, arguably, a better representation of a person's true internet speed based on the location of the test servers.

Mr. Brice wondered what the recommended technology fixes are for underserved areas, such as students who live in Noti. Mr. Sayre replied that community conversations looking towards the coast. Providing extension of great internet service on the publicly-owned open access network here. This could empower smaller communities such as Noti to do last-mile fiber builds, public or private, to the homes (or, as Emerald has done in Westfir extend off that fiber and use wireless deployment to the home).

Mr. Brice wondered if in applying for infrastructure grants, one has to show a deficiency in speed. Mr. Sayre explained that the model of federal grants recognizes the FCC's self-reported data from ISP's. Mr. Ingham noted that because of the FCC map and definitions, since the FCC's data is generated by the ISP's self-reported data rather than actuals, Veneta is not eligible for grants. Ms. Fifield added that the FCC's data overstates broadband service due to the reporting techniques.

Mr. Sayre noted that a Senator from Mississippi is on the Federal Infrastructure subcommittee, and there is a federal conversation around improving broadband mapping.

Ms. Cross shared that in other counties in Oregon, cooperative utilities have been supportive in bringing broadband and high speeds to the home. On the McKenzie, there are multiple electrical providers, including EWEB, and they have no incentive to help that population get internet access. She wondered what can be done at the county level to work across the many utility companies to get support to help solve this problem. Mr. Sayre replied that LCOG recently convened a number of regional stakeholders who agreed that they need to work together to identify ordinances that allow putting in fiber and conduit at the same time as they dig up the street for electrical work. This helps bring different parts of the government sectors together.

Ms. Cross also wondered how people who have no internet access because it just is not available are counted in speed test data. Mr. Sayre responded that speed tests can be done with different tools, and data can be included from cell phones where there is no service. Blank spots on the maps indicate no service.

Mr. Ervin wondered about satellite connection and if there is a push for that. Mr. Sayre explained that while speeds for satellite connections are decent, the catch is latency (stuttering speech, lagging video, etc.), and there are also data caps on satellite. There are conversations regarding low earth orbit satellites with certain companies, but that is a long way away.

Mr. Scoggin commented that in Cottage Grove, he has 100 mbps in one location where he does business, and he has 60 mbps at home, as long as no one else is using the connection. When others are using it, the speed drops down significantly. Mr. Sayre explained that connectivity there is oversubscribed. This happens less in markets where there is competition and more than one provider. SpeedUpAmerica shows a large number of tests from all times during the day, and that number is indicative of what people experience on average in a location. In addition to raw speed test numbers, the map includes consumer sentiment. People can rate their service with a number of stars. An investor might look not only at areas that are underserved in terms of speed, but also areas in which consumers are saying they are not happy with their service providers. New service providers will do the same.

7. Opportunity Zone Funding Request for Information (RFP) 10/18/19 deadline

Mr. Scoggin reported that there is an RFP deadline of October 18th for the Opportunity Zone Funding Request.

Mr. Betschart said he will be sending information out to everyone. An Opportunity Zone map is included. The EDA is looking for feedback as to which areas could use the funding.

Mr. Scoggin said that the application deadline is October 18th if you are a business in that zone.

Ms. Griesel asked if they are soliciting existing projects, and Mr. Betschart said they are.

Ms. Fifield clarified that all opportunity funds are in Eugene and Springfield.

8. LEC Membership Committee - Discussion

Mr. Scoggin remarked that with some turnover in the LEC over the past year, there are a couple of alternates they would like to move into permanent positions, and they need to make recommendations to the LCOG Board to do so. He named Ray Hardman only one at this time who has been chosen as a permanent member.

Mr. Eyster moved, seconded by Mr. Ervin, to recommend to the Board that Ray Hardman be added as a permanent member of the LEC. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Scoggin then mentioned that several members would like to change the monthly LEC meeting to the second Monday of the month, rather than the third Monday, since the third Monday, since the third Monday coincides with several holidays. This would also need to be done through a recommendation to the LCOG Board for their approval.

Mr. Berger moved, seconded by Mr. Eyster, to recommend to the Board that LEC meetings be changed to the second Monday of the month. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Scoggin noted that the change probably will not happen until November or December.

Mr. Scoggin then spoke about the new round of the CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) coming up. He mentioned that in order to make the CEDS more meaningful, members of the Board would like the whole four-county region to list the top five projects on which they would like to focus, prioritizing them by economic good, different areas, etc. LEC has been asked to do this for Lane County.

In response to a question from Mr. Schussler, Mr. Scoggin said that Phil from Cascades West COG will present to this group about how to go through the process. He added that we want an active Lane County representation so that Lane County's items will have a good chance of being worked on by the CEDS.

Ms. Griesel remarked that CEDS is an important document because the regions are required to have it, and it is a good place to prioritize projects for funding.

Mr. Schussler added that Lane County is part of a four-county federally recognized economic development district.

Mr. Berger asked if in the CEDS process, LCOG would send out a questionnaire to cities and municipalities in Lane County to come back with their five highest priority projects. He also wondered what the LEC would do with that information. Mr. Scoggin explained that the LEC will take those priorities and break them down into different groups and then rank the projects overall for Lane County.

Mr. Schussler said he would send the current CEDS to everyone to review.

Mr. Scoggin noted that the last CEDS was a big change from the past, and there were not many actions seen as the result of this current CEDS, so they need to go back to the previous process to make sure projects will get done.

Ms. Holston clarified that the CEDS expires in 2020, and a new 5-year plan needs to be made. She wondered if there will be an assessment of what actually came to fruition from this current CEDS. Mr. Scoggin replied that they are trying to get the items that are seen as necessary for the entire region on a list so that government agencies can help move forward with those. There will be an assessment of which projects have been picked up.

Mr. Ervin asked who gets the document to then take action, and it was explained that it will

become part of the CEDS, and the Oregon Cascades West COG will send it in. It will provide funding for economic development groups in all the counties, including the LEC. Ms. Fifield added that the CEDS is also important documentation of our region's priorities to use when seeking federal grants.

Ms. Griesel noted that the CEDS is a high-level document. Each council adopts their priorities.

Mr. Ervin used an analogy of the city process of establishing a set of goals, which are then used in the grant process to show that a project is in line with those goals.

Mr. Scoggin used specific examples of economic development projects needed in Cottage Grove, which would then be put into the bigger barrel of Lane County's priorities, and then the four-county region's priorities.

Mr. Ervin asked who picks the projects that actually get done, and Mr. Scoggin said that LEC helps by prioritizing projects in Lane County. Ms. Griesel added that the county plays a substantial role, and there are many different committees that come together.

Mr. Schussler noted that there is CWEDD Board that serves the whole Economic Development

Ms. Fifield inquired about the timeline for the CEDS, and Mr. Scoggin replied that it is supposed to be finished by the end of 2020, and it will serve 2021-2026.

Mr. Eyster asked if regional broadband access could be included in the CEDS, and Mr. Scoggin replied that it is a high priority for all of Lane County.

Mr. Schussler said that he will reach out to Phil Warnock and ask him to come and explain the CEDS process.

9. Set next meeting date: October 21, 2019

Mr. Scoggin adjourned the meeting at 12:57 pm.

(Recorded by Rachel Burstein)