

Agenda Item Number 14.a.

County Assistance to Rural Communities

Presenter: George Kloeppe

Action Recommended: None. Information

Background:

Lane County has entered into a service contract with **Glenda Poling**, most recently of Liberty Bank and previously a long-term staff member with the Lane Metro Partnership. Glenda's scope of work, initially for a nine month period, calls for her to serve as an **Economic Development Specialist**, working "collaboratively with the County and the rural cities...key business leaders and critical area partners to strategically focus on the economic development in the rural cities." She is to identify economic development projects, assist in the preparation of physical infrastructure, support existing local businesses to create jobs, support the "development of wealth generating sectors," and support the growth of emerging "opportunity areas" within the local economy.

In the context of her work toward these objectives, she asked if LCOG could accommodate her space needs (as an independent contractor working for Lane County). Her inquiry appeared to be an opportunity for the COG, since her focus on assisting rural cities is consistent with a significant part of LCOG's work program, and because working closely with LCOG's Loan Program seemed a good fit. Glenda and LCOG have entered into a rental contract for an office on the fifth floor of the Park Place Building. While she is not an LCOG employee, support from and interaction with the staff should enhance her ability to achieve the objectives that the County has set for her.