

MINUTES
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Veneta City Hall – Council Room
88184 Eighth Street, Veneta

June 25, 2009 - 6:00 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Councilor Chris Pryor (Eugene), Vice-Chair	Commissioner Rich Cunningham (EWEB)
Councilor Darrell Carman (Veneta)	Board Member Tony McCown (LCC)
Councilor Lance Stoddard (Junction City)	Board Member Alan Laisure (School District 52)
Mayor Judy Volta (Coburg)	Director Jim Torrey (School District 4J)
Mayor Don Hampton (Oakridge)	Director Steve Recca (Fern Ridge Library District)
Mayor Phil Brubaker (Florence)	Director Penny Jordan (Emerald PUD)
Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove)	

Absent

City of Springfield Representative	Port of Siuslaw Representative
City of Dunes City Representative	Lane Library Representative
City of Westfir Representative	Siuslaw Fire District Representative
City of Creswell Representative	Willamalane Park & Rec. District Representative
City of Lowell Representative	Lane ESD Representative
Lane County Commission Representative	Western Lane Ambulance District Representative
School District 68 (McKenzie) Representative	River Road Park & Rec. District Representative
School District 19 (Springfield) Representative	

NON-VOTING MEMBER

Lane Transit District Representative - Absent

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

None

GUESTS

Sharon Hobart-Hardin, Mayor of Veneta; Marion Esty, Veneta City Councilor; Ric Ingham, Veneta City Manager; Juanita Eymann

LCOG STAFF

George Kloeppe, Jamon Kent, Kay Metzger, Ann Mortenson, Bob Swank, Byron Vanderpool

CALL TO ORDER

1. WELCOME - ROLL CALL - INTRODUCTIONS

Vice-Chairperson Chris Pryor called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors to order at 6:00 p.m. Board Secretary Ann Mortenson called the roll of members. Vice-Chairperson Pryor noted there was a quorum present.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Vice-Chairperson Pryor noted that he would be moving items 11 b, c, and d up to the front of the agenda. There were no other agenda changes or additions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Sharon Hobart-Hardin welcomed LCOG Board members to her city and wished them a productive meeting. She mentioned several current activities in Veneta, including the design and fundraising for a new city swimming pool. She also applauded recent state legislation that will require the formation of an Area Commission on Transportation (ACT) in Lane County. She said this will be a great opportunity to coordinate local transportation planning and said she will encourage communities with populations under 5,000, like Veneta, to participate.

There were no other public comments.

REPORTS

4. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Vice-Chairperson Pryor referred to agenda support material entitled "Report of the Executive Committee". He also noted that Chairperson Greg James had asked him to mention two things in his absence: a) the recommended appointments of Mayor Judy Volta, Mayor Brubaker, and Mayor Hampton to serve with him on the Nominating Committee, which was just approved, and b) the Executive Committee's decision to cancel the proposed Board planning meeting in July, because of attendance concerns, and to devote most of the scheduled September Board meeting to a planning session.

5. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Vice-Chairperson Pryor referred to agenda support material entitled "Advisory Council Reports". There were no additional comments.

6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Kloeppele thanked the City of Veneta for hosting tonight’s meeting and then referred to agenda support material entitled “Comments from the Executive Director”. He noted that the Lane County Board of Commissioners had adopted the Regional Population Forecast at its June 17 meeting. Mr. Kloeppele mentioned that LCOG had been awarded \$471,638 in funding by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to coordinate a ten-city upper Willamette River Basin project, which includes Cottage Grove, Creswell, and Lowell in Lane County. He pointed out that LCOG staff placed first in the Business Commute Challenge for large organizations (100-299 employees), which is sponsored by Commuter Solutions to encourage use of alternative modes of transportation. Mr. Kloeppele noted that the recent Town Hall meeting on transportation in central Lane County, which LCOG’s Central Lane MPO helped sponsor, was well-attended and productive. He also reminded Board members to review the attached schedule of meetings for the remainder of the year and to begin thinking about people in their communities and organizations to nominate for awards at the January 2010 LCOG Appreciation Dinner.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chairperson Pryor stated that the Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the April 23, 2009 Board meeting, appointments to the Senior Services Advisory Council, and the Chair’s appointments to the Nominating Committee, all of which are part of the agenda support material.

Mayor Hampton moved, seconded by Mayor Brubaker, to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion was adopted unanimously, 13:0.

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

9. GOVERNMENT SERVICES

None

10. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

11. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

A. Cancellation of Proposed July Planning Session

Mr. Kloeppele referred to agenda support material entitled “Cancellation of July Planning Session, Preliminary Design of September 24 Session”, explained the reasons for the

cancellation, and reviewed the Executive Committee and management team recommendations for conducting the September 24 session. These included: serving food at 5:00 p.m., holding a short business session starting at 6:00 p.m., and then devoting the rest of the meeting to planning tasks. He noted that a) Board members would receive background information from February's initial planning session well in advance, b) LCOG staff would phone each Board member individually before the meeting to determine the most important issues facing their communities/organizations, c) the results of this polling would be reported at the start of the September session, d) LCOG staff would record and facilitate the discussion at the September meeting, e) a small group discussion and report-back approach would be used to allow for more in-depth discussion of the identified issues, and f) if the Board is not able to complete the planning process at its September 24 session, then part of the scheduled December Board meeting could be used to finalize and polish the action plan.

Vice-Chairperson Pryor said the Board's key challenge now is to move on from identifying important regional issues to developing an action plan to address them. That's why the Executive Committee wants the issue identification work done before the September planning session; this will allow Board members to use that session to identify actions and tasks for themselves, their organizations, and LCOG staff to take on. He asked for Board members' input on the design of the planning session.

Mayor Judy Volta suggested that Board members identify not just the key issues to be addressed, but also the outcomes they would like to see in each issue area. This, she said, would make it easier to identify the needed tasks and actions.

Councilor Darrell Carman suggested it would be easier to connect with some Board members via e-mail, rather than telephone. Board Member Alan Laisure supported that idea and suggested that Executive Committee members, as well as LCOG staff, be involved in the collection and organization of the "issue" information. Director Torrey noted that it may be necessary to re-contact some Board members to clarify their issues as the information gathering proceeds. Vice-Chairperson Pryor assured Board members that the LCOG staff and Executive Committee members would "organize" the issue information, not "filter" it.

Mayor Brubaker said there should be an effort to include all LCOG Board members in this process, particularly those who rarely attend meetings. He offered to try to secure participation from those Board members "west of the tunnel". Mayor Hampton supported this approach and said he would contact the City of Westfir representative.

Mr. Kloepfel reminded the Executive Committee members that this planning session preparation work makes their scheduled August 13 meeting an important one to attend.

B. FY 2009-10 Work Program & Budget

Executive Director George Kloepfel referred to agenda support material entitled "FY 2009-10 Work Program & Budget", briefly described the budget development process, and explained its key elements. He noted that the Budget Committee had reviewed and approved the document, had distributed it to LCOG Board members more than thirty days

ago, had provided the necessary public notice that the budget would be considered at this Board meeting, and was recommending adoption. Mr. Kloeppele offered to answer any questions about the budget. Vice-Chairperson Pryor invited comment by Board members and the public on the recommended budget. There were no comments by Board members or the public.

Mayor Don Hampton moved, seconded by Commissioner Rich Cunningham, to adopt the FY 2009-10 Work Program and Budget as recommended by the Budget Committee. The motion was adopted unanimously, 13:0.

Mr. Kloeppele reminded Board members they will likely need to revise the budget as usual next spring based on actual revenues and expenditures. He also noted that, given the state's uncertain revenue situation and the fact that the State Legislature is continuing to meet, there may be a need to revisit the budget much sooner than that.

C. LCOG Bylaw Amendment

Vice Chairperson Pryor referred to agenda support material entitled "LCOG Bylaw Amendment" and noted that this amendment was being proposed on the recommendation of bond counsel to make it clear that any earnings on LCOG funds "cannot inure to the benefit of private parties".

Director Jim Torrey moved, seconded by Director Steve Recca, to adopt the proposed amendment to the LCOG Bylaws. The motion was adopted unanimously, 13:0.

D. Biennial Performance Review, Executive Director

Vice-Chairperson Pryor referred to agenda support materials entitled "Biennial Performance Review, Executive Director" and "360° Review Analysis" and described the review conducted by True North Consulting. This included a web-based questionnaire completed by 95 people who are LCOG staff members, elected officials, and employees of member agencies. Vice Chairperson Pryor felt the reviews, particularly by those who interact most often with Mr. Kloeppele, were very positive and showed improvement over the last performance review. He noted that the Executive Committee is very supportive of Mr. Kloeppele's performance and improvement efforts.

Mayor Phil Brubaker moved, seconded by Mayor Gary Williams, to adopt the biennial performance review of Executive Director George Kloeppele with commendations. The motion was adopted unanimously, 13:0.

Mr. Kloeppele thanked the Board members for their support. He said he would study the full performance review carefully and in September offer the Executive Committee his "reflective analysis" and a proposed set of personal goals for the coming year.

MEMBER AGENCY CHECK-IN

12. Member Agency Check-In

Board Member Tony McCown reported that, because of budget concerns, Lane Community College administration had discussed reduced step increases and Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) and possible furlough days with employees and their unions. Fortunately, the state budget is turning out better for the college than they had expected, so the negative impacts on employees will not be so severe. The best news is that the State of Oregon will be providing an \$8 million match to the college's bond levy, which will allow LCC to work with the City of Eugene to construct a new LEED-certified building and "fill the pit downtown".

Councilor Lance Stoddard reported that the budget process in Junction City was fairly smooth this year. They didn't have to make any cuts and the prison pass-through funding from the state is secure.

Mayor Volta said they had a fairly good budget process in the City of Coburg this year. She also is pleased with the population count adopted by the Board of Commissioners. She noted that Coburg depends on tourism and invited Board members to attend several events scheduled this summer.

Director Torrey noted that School District 4J managed to avoid serious cuts this year due to the availability of some one-time funding. Still, he noted, the district ended up dropping 8 tenured teachers and 58 people in non-tenured positions. He is particularly worried about the impact of PERS costs 2-3 years down the road.

Mayor Williams said the City of Cottage Grove's budget process went pretty well. They closed out their urban renewal district, which freed up about \$360,000 for the city and school district. These funds will allow the city to keep its swimming pool open this year. They also managed to commit \$150,000 to renovate their jail and create four new beds.

Veneta City Councilor Darrell Carman said city officials felt blessed this year, because their swimming pool bond measure passed and they have several downtown projects planned.

Commissioner Rich Cunningham noted that EWEB is on a calendar year budget, so their process is just getting started. EWEB is committing \$4 million to its Customer Care program to assist those having trouble paying their utility bills. Those who are unemployed can simply fill out a form and get a \$200 credit toward the amount of their utility bill. Mr. Cunningham reported that EWEB is also looking into increasing its grants to school districts this year from \$600,000 up to perhaps \$1 million.

Mayor Hampton reported that the City of Oakridge's health insurance costs have doubled this past year, yet they managed to fund their budget with only one layoff out of a staff of 30.

Mayor Brubaker reported that the City of Florence has had to make painful increases in water (8%) and sewer (22%) rates this year. They have held a series of six public hearings to make sure residents had the opportunity to hear directly from city representatives about why the increases are needed. Mr. Brubaker anticipates the city will adopt its budget on June 29.

Director Penny Jordan stated that Emerald People's Utility District's electricity sales are down significantly across the board. Sales to industry, for example, are down 70%. Sizeable numbers of people are moving out of the district. As a result, more and more budget items are being deferred until there is revenue to fund them. EPUD is also having trouble selling bonds, so it must hold nearly \$7 million in reserves. The utility recently increased rates for the first time in a long time. No one showed up to testify at any of the public hearings.

Board Member Laisure said the Bethel School District faced many of the same challenges as the Eugene district. They also used one-time revenues and were able to limit impacts on the classroom. Mr. Laisure noted that things worked out this time only because there was a great deal of cooperation among all involved parties, but he, too, expressed much concern about the next two years.

Director Recca reported that the Fern Ridge Library District had successfully renewed its serial levy for another five years in the election last November, so their budget process went well this year. Readership is up 50 – 60% and computer use is climbing, much of it attributable to patrons doing online job searches.

Vice-Chairperson Pryor reported that the City of Eugene is looking to cut \$12 million from its budget and is still in negotiations with represented employees to secure these funds. He expects the city will need to cut an additional \$3.5 – 4 million in the next budget year. Mr. Pryor noted that the city will not easily be able to raise revenues and that future reductions will force real program priority choices. Transportation costs will be a significant concern. At the same time, he feels the City Council is working well as a body to address these problems.

INFORMATION ITEMS

13. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Legal Counsel Solicitation

Ann Mortenson reported that LCOG solicited eight law firms to submit proposals on providing the organization with legal counsel. So far, three proposals have been received. LCOG will determine the selection methodology in early July. Director Cunningham suggested there might be a way to use supervised University of Oregon law students to assist with the more mundane legal work. Mr. Kloeppel expressed a willingness to look into this approach.

B. Collective Bargaining Report

Bob Swank indicated there are tentative agreements with both the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) that represents most S&DS employees and with the association that represents most Park Place employees to forego COLAs and accept some furlough days. SEIU members will vote on the agreement next week, so Mr. Swank expects to know more after that.

C. Economic Development Summit Proposal

Mr. Kloeppe referred to agenda support material entitled “Economic Development Summit Proposal” and reviewed its contents with the Board. The summit is now tentatively scheduled for October.

D. Audit Committee Report

Mr. Kloeppe reported that the audit process is just starting. Two committee members, Mayors Brubaker and Volta, met with the auditors from Jones & Roth prior to the Board meeting. The auditors will perform their work during the summer and fall and meet with the Audit Committee in November.

E. OAA 2009-10 Contract Services

Kay Metzger referred to agenda support material entitled “Older Americans Act Contracts for Services FY 2009-10” and reviewed its contents with the Board.

F. Status of S&DS State Funding

Ms. Metzger referred to agenda support material entitled “Status of S&DS State Funding” and reported that, while some budget areas are being restored, others will likely see significant reductions. Home care workers, for example, will be able to hold onto their health insurance and Oregon Project Independence has been budgeted for \$10 million, statewide, which is a \$3 million reduction, but a much higher level of funding than had been anticipated.

On the other hand, Ms. Metzger noted, there is still a cost of living freeze and a hiring freeze, which will cut \$100,000 from the local S&DS operations budget. She is working hard to prevent any layoffs. Assuming the SEIU concessions vote is successful, it will likely mean that S&DS branch offices will close one Friday each month. Ms. Metzger reported that the SEIU-represented employees have also agreed to move to the same health reimbursement account arrangement that other LCOG employees have, which will save additional funds.

G. Oregon Planning Institute

Byron Vanderpool reminded Board Members that LCOG already provides some legal services to its member organizations and said he would look into the possibility of utilizing supervised law students. He also reported that the Oregon Planning Institute will be held at the University of Oregon on September 16-18.

H. 2010 Census – PO Box Address Issue

Ms. Mortenson reported on a meeting she had with US Census staff about whether or not census forms can be delivered to post office boxes, particularly in rural communities where this is the only delivery service available for some addresses. Her understanding is that local postmasters are telling census staff they have received no orders allowing them to put

census forms in post office boxes, but that the regional postmaster is telling them there is an agreement permitting such delivery. Census staff are attempting to locate this agreement. At a minimum, cities will be allowed to request and local post offices will permit the setting up of information tables outside post offices for three days next March to alert patrons about the arrival of census forms.

Mr. Brubaker reiterated the importance of this issue. He said he and many others in Florence were not counted 10 years ago for this very reason. He has spoken to the postmaster in Florence and believes she will do whatever she can to ensure census forms are delivered. He noted that the delivery of census forms to post office boxes is complicated by the fact that one box is often shared by several people.

Mr. Hampton said Oakridge faces the same problem. They have 1,600 post office boxes and their postmaster refuses to deliver census forms to them. He also was not counted last time.

Mr. Vanderpool noted that LCOG staff is working with census staff to correlate post office boxes with physical addresses.

I. Lane Area Commission on Transportation

Mr. Vanderpool referred to agenda support material entitled “Transportation Legislative Update” and highlighted several items. Oregon SB 944 mandates the Lane County Board of Commissioners to set up an ACT. Mr. Vanderpool noted that creation of the ACT will not eliminate the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which has federally-mandated responsibilities in the metropolitan area. He also pointed out that HB 2001, the Oregon Jobs and Transportation Act, will require MPOs to develop transportation-related land use proposals, even though they are federally-sanctioned bodies. In addition, HB 2186 will set up an Oregon task force – with MPO representation – to study land use plans that will help reduce greenhouse gases (GHG). Mr. Vanderpool reported that the status of the federal transportation bill remains uncertain, but it appears the bill may be delayed for 18 months.

J. Federal EPA Grant Award

Mr. Kloepfel referred to agenda support material entitled “Federal EPA Grant Award” and noted that he had already reviewed this in his report. Mr. Brubaker mentioned that the City of Florence had received an EPA grant to study ways of testing water quality in the kind of sole source aquifer that supplies his city’s drinking water.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

(Recorded by Kurt Willcox)