

February 9, 2006

To: LCOG Executive Committee

From: George Kloeppe

Subject: Agenda Item 5, Tribal Membership

Considering the possibility of LCOG membership by the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw last month, the Committee asked about the relevant policies of other Oregon regional councils. In response to that inquiry, I asked my counterparts if the tribes in their regions were represented. Apparently, three of our sister organizations do have tribal members.

At COIC in Redmond (Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook Counties), the Warm Springs Tribe has an ex officio spot on the board. Tom Moore, Executive Director, notes that the tribal representative was very active for a time, but of late less so. COIC focuses on cities and counties (not special districts) and also has private sector representatives on its board to support the requirements of the economic development district.

At the Mid Willamette Valley C O G in Salem (Yamhill, Polk and Marion Counties), whose structure is more similar to ours, the Grand Ronde tribal organization is represented on the board.

At Oregon Cascades West COG in Albany (Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties), also similar to LCOG in structure, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz are members.

So, there certainly is precedent within the state. I would reiterate that there has not been a formal request, nor has membership by the Confederation been solicited from our end. Hence, at this preliminary stage, the question might be: Would the membership and participation of the Confederated Tribes be consistent with, and constructive toward, our mission within the region. In my view, the service relationship is probably secondary. The Committee's further consideration and direction on this is urged.