



October 1 2009

To: LCOG Executive Committee
From: George Kloeppe
Subject: Item No. 4, Board Meeting Content

Under this item the Committee is asked to consider our Board meeting format and to provide counsel to the Chair Elect and staff regarding possible changes. A copy of the June 2009 agenda is attached for reference. With the exception of the suggestion below, staff has no particular ax to grind on this issue. But, I believe that there is always room for improvement. My sense is that, with five Board meetings a year and often new faces at the table, the interaction of elected officials may be the most valuable outcome of the time spent. Yes, there are some decisions to be made, approvals to be voted upon, and officers to elect. But our meetings have substantial added value in the communication and relationship-building they make possible. Your views as to the order and format of the meetings would be most welcome.

One specific area that I would like the Committee to consider relates to information about the work of the agency. From some of the discussions at the Planning Session last month, I conclude that LCOG's work and services are not universally understood by the Board. We have had information items on the Board's agenda for some time. But items included there usually reflect topical events or issues, rather than ongoing services. We have talked about this in the past and I understand that too much "show-and-tell" can wear thin very quickly. The goal would be to find the right balance. At the staff level, we can easily identify 8 or 9 programs of the agency that could be given some air time—one per meeting—to enhance the level of familiarity of the members with where time and dollars are being spent. We've even considered utilizing (and paying for) Metro TV to produce some short pieces of less than ten minutes that might convey the message. The Committee's views on this would be welcome.