

MINUTES

Lane Economic Committee
Lane Council of Governments
859 Willamette Street, 5th Floor
Eugene, Oregon

November 15, 2010 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: Rob Scoggin, Chair; Lawrence Brice, DeAnn Cherbas, Mike Galvin, Jacque Morgan, Robin Scott, Mike Sullivan, John Tamulonis, Ellen Teninty, members; Kari Westlund, *ex officio* member; Tony McCown, Barry Miller, Howard Schesser, Ray Woods, Mike McKenzie-Bahr, alternate members.

Steve Dignam (LCOG), Glenda Poling (Lane County).

ABSENT: Pat Albright, Mike Blommé, Bill Fleenor, Chuck Forster, Philip Hudspeth, John Sullivan, Lynnette Wikstrom, members; Jay Bozievich, Deb Schmidt, *ex officio* members; Chuck Forester, Jack Roberts, alternate members.

GUESTS: Diane Wiley.

Chairperson Rob Scoggin called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Lane Economic Committee (LEC) to order at 11:05 a.m. He invited those who were present to introduce themselves and determined that there was no one present wishing to make Public Comment. He said he had no comment as Chair.

1. Staff Comment

LCOG Program Manager Steve Dignam reported that LEC members whose terms expired on December 31 included Ellen Teninty, DeAnn Cherbas, Rob Scoggin, John Sullivan, and Lynette Wikstrom. He requested that those who wished to be re-appointed so inform him. He reported that applications from others interested in serving were also being received.

Mr. Dignam asked for volunteers to serve on an *ad hoc* committee to recommend persons for appointment to the LCOG Board of Directors. He said it was possible that the group would meet via a conference telephone call. Mike Galvin, Mike McKenzie-Bahr, and John Tamulonis offered to participate.

Mr. Dignam reported that he had been in contact with Alex Pawlowski, former Chairperson of the LEC. He said he had learned that Mr. Pawlowski was employed as manager of an area governmental business loan program in southern Oregon.

2. Minutes

Tony McCown requested that the Minutes of the October 18 meeting be changed to reflect that he was absent, not present. Chairperson Scoggin determined that there was no objection and the minutes were amended.

Ray Woods moved, seconded by DeAnn Cherbas, to accept the minutes of the October 18, 2010, as amended. The motion was adopted unanimously, 14:0.

3. New Development at Riverfront Research Park

University of Oregon Riverfront Research Park Director Diane Wiley reviewed recent economic developments. She described and showed architectural renderings of a planned facility to be mostly occupied by the Oregon Research Institute (ORI), a non-profit organization conducting scientific investigations into behavioral problems in children, chronic physical illness in adults, teen substance abuse, and adolescent depression. She said the facility was estimated to cost \$18 million and would provide needed space for the Institute which employed 300 persons. She explained that the building would also be occupied by the Educational Policy Improvement Center which conducts research studies focused on increasing the success of students underserved in public schools and had 75 employees. She said the current permitting stage of the development would likely be completed in time to allow construction to begin in January and be finished by December 2011.

Ms. Wiley described the status of a new Research Park facility at 1700 Mill Race. She said it would provide offices and laboratory space for a new generation of research companies. She said it was in the early stages of design and that its construction could begin as soon as fall 2011.

Members discussed the developments with Ms. Wiley – the use of local contractors, riparian setback issues, cooperation with the City of Eugene, and urban renewal district questions.

4. Targeted Economic Development Strategies

Barry Miller referred to Agenda support material entitled “Top Five Economic Development Strategies Sub-Committee Report.” He reviewed information it contained related to previous considerations of the Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) adopted by the Cascades West Economic Development District. He said the Sub-Committee agreed upon five strategies to recommend for presentation to the LCOG Board of Directors:

1. Develop one-stop consultation centers to link existing small businesses with sources of economic and work force development.
2. Provide technical assistance to small and rural communities to develop community projects and access grant funding sources.
3. Target public investment in telecommunications, transportation, water, wastewater, passenger, and freight rail and other infrastructure.
4. Support existing businesses and attract new businesses that operate in key industry clusters, including:

- a. Forest Products
- b. Transportation Manufacturing
- c. Health Care
- d. Clean Tech/Renewable Energy
- e. Advanced Manufacturing
- f. Software
- g. Biomedical

5. Support and increase various government loan programs.

Members discussed the strategies.

Mike McKenzie-Bahr said that Lane County would support the identified strategies. He said they included strategies identified by the Joint Elected Officials (JEO) group.

Lawrence Brice suggested that the role of the University of Oregon as an “economic development engine” was not clearly identified in the strategies and should be somehow incorporated.

Kari Westlund said she believed the identified strategies were sound, but suggested that the role of the hospitality industry was overlooked. She suggested that various industry sectors be identified as priorities.

Tony McCowan commented that the strategies would inform the LCOG Board of what was being done and could be done. He suggested that Lane Community College be identified as an additional valuable “handle” that could give direction to economic development.

Ellen Teninty suggested that adding an overview opening statement would improve the recommendations. She proposed that such a statement could endorse strategies and investments which support the work force and expand the middle class.

Various other members made suggestions for inclusion with the strategies and their use.

Ellen Teninty moved, seconded by Tony McCowan that the LEC endorse the recommendations of the Sub-Committee and present them and comments made by members during the meeting to the December LCOG Board meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously, 13:0, Ray Woods having left the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

5. Economic Development Projects in the City of Springfield

Springfield Economic Development Director John Tamulonis described current projects within the City:

- Projects related to the Peace Health Medical Center
- Various mixed use developments
- Infrastructure projects
- Gateway Hilton Gardens Hotel
- Travel Lane County Adventure Center
- Cabela’s Outdoor Store
- New Gateway Restaurant
- Downtown to Peace Health through Gateway EMX Line
- Various relocations from Eugene

- Interstate 5 Bridge over Willamette River
- Downtown low income housing for homeless and chronically ill
- Gateway and Beltline intersection.
- Armed Forces Reserve Readiness Center
- New Enterprise Zone
- Urban Renewal Areas
- Re-establishment of two way traffic on main streets
- Glenwood Re-development/Refinement Plan

Chairperson Scoggin announced that the next LEC meeting scheduled for January 10 might be changed to avoid possible conflicts with other meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)