

# MINUTES

## Lane Economic Committee

Lane Council of Governments – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conference Room  
99 E. Broadway, Suite 400 – Eugene

January 28, 2008 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: DeAnn Cherbas, Acting Chair; Pat Albright, Scott English (for Ellen Teninty), Philip Hudspeth, John Sullivan, *members*.

Steve Dignam (LCOG); Bob Warren (Oregon Economic & Community Development Department).

ABSENT: Rob Scoggin, Tim Black, Mike Blommé, Jay Bozievich, Denny Braud, Chuck Forster, Mike Galvin, Faye Stewart, John Tamulonis, Lynnette Wikstrom, *members*; Jim Ramseyer, Deb Schmidt, Kari Westlund, *ex officio members*;

Ms. Cherbas called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Lane Economic Committee (LEC) to order at 11:30 a.m. She noted that a quorum was not present and invited those who were present to introduce themselves.

### 1. Public Comment

None.

### 2. Comments from Staff

Mr. Dignam presented a well-quauffed lesson in English vocabulary, showing that malaprop use of language was frequent.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

No action for lack of quorum.

### Membership

Mr. Dignam referred to a document entitled “2008 Membership Actions” and noted that the terms of four current members expired December 31, 2007, and that they had requested reappointment – DeAnn Cherbas, Robert Scoggin, John Sullivan, and Lynette Wikstrom. He noted that DeAnn Cherbas had agreed to select Scott English as her Alternate. He also noted other proposed membership changes:

- Pat Albright appointed to seat formerly occupied by Glenda Poling, with term to expire December 21, 2009.

- Ric Ingham appointed to seat formerly occupied by Jenny Ulum, with term to expire December 31 2008, representing small cities.
- Philip Hudspeth appointed to *ex officio* seat to represent Lane Metro Partnership.
- Faye Steward appointed by the Lane County Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Warren asked why Mr. Hudspeth had not been appointed to the seat formerly held by Glenda Poling. Mr. Dignam replied that he felt that a gap in representation in the past had been that small cities had no official representation on the LEC.

Mr. Sullivan said he agreed with the implication of the question of Mr. Warren. He said he recommended that Commissioner Faye Stewart be encouraged to choose Mike McKenzie-Bahr as his alternate.

Mr. Dignam explained that the current LEC bylaws limited membership to 15 members who were appointed by the LCOG Executive Board. He said there was no limit on the number of *ex officio* member were added.

Mr. Sullivan suggested that the status of the membership of Jay Bozievich be changed to *ex officio*, allowing the appointment of Pat Albright to be to represent education and Philip Hudspeth to represent business.

Ms. Cherbas determined there was consensus of those who were present to accept the recommendations for membership appointment made by Mr. Dignam, as amended by Mr. Sullivan.

Mr. Dignam said the election of 2008 LEC Officers should be postponed until the February meeting. He reported that Mr. Scoggin had expressed a willingness to continue to serve as chairperson, if he was chosen.

Mr. Sullivan suggested that Ms. Cherbas be considered for election as vice chairperson.

## **5. 2008 Work Plan - Economic Development Issues**

Mr. Dignam reviewed LEC efforts to work with Cascades West Council of Governments and the Benton-Lane-Lincoln-Linn Regional Investment Board (BL<sup>3</sup>). He said he would like to focus more effort on the way local priorities were determined and a desire to better identify Lane County Economic Development opportunities.

Mr. Dignam referred to Agenda support material entitled “Discuss 2008 work plan item to develop an economic development issue list.” He said the purpose of the proposal was to generate a regional approach to problem solving, solicit funding from federal and state resources, provide input to the prioritization of local economic development resources, determine highest priority issues, and determine issues on which realistic influence was possible. He reviewed suggestions for possible consideration of issues and ways to deal with obstacles to the process.

Mr. Warren explained the State of Oregon used such prioritizations in its overall economic planning, in developing legislative priorities, and staffing. He said there was concern that priorities reflect widespread needs.

Mr. Dignam said that a concern felt in Lane County was that certain pertinent issues with local importance were not being fully recognized statewide. He suggested that a more extended and inclusive process would benefit all participants. He added that Lane County staff Mike McKenzie-Bahr had expressed an opinion that its Community & Economic Development Program would also benefit from such a process.

Mr. Dignam referred to a draft document entitled "Issue List – Barriers to Economic Development in the Region." He suggested that the proposed project could concentrate efforts on such topics over a series of meetings.

Mr. Hudspeth said he believed it was important to address issues about which progress could be made, such as workforce readiness and small business development. He suggested that a major regional concern should deal with infrastructure issues.

Mr. Sullivan suggested that workforce issues could be divided into segments, such as the need for "skilled up" workers, using educational and workforce training programs available. He said he believed that if the LEC "drilled into" such issues, ways to deal with them could be identified.

Mr. Albright said Lane Community College had enough flexibility in its programming to meet identified needs by building supportive education courses.

Mr. Sullivan observed that interests in Lane County held a variety of understandings about economic development and that it would be best to concentrate on issues that could be affected.

Mr. Albright suggested that the City of Springfield demonstrated strong evidence of commitment to economic development. He suggested that its success was due, in part, to its cooperation with developers, avoiding "turf-building," and to having identified a significant resource of buildable lands.

Mr. Sullivan said he believed economic development efforts would have more success if focus were given to medium to large industries, in addition to current efforts with small businesses. Mr. Hudspeth added that the Metro Partnership did concentrate its effort on such development. Mr. Dignam added that supporting small businesses becoming larger would also be a positive goal.

Mr. Dignam suggested that it might also be important to address code issues restricting development.

Ms. Cherbas determined there was consensus to continue the discussion at the next meeting of the LEC, scheduled for February 25.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

*(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)*

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