

MINUTES

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

March 7, 2011 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: Rob Scoggin, Chair; Pat Albright, DeAnn Cherbas, Don Hampton, Greg Rikhoff, Ben Sappington, Ellen Teninty, Shawn Winkler-Rios, members; Lawrence Brice, Robin Scott, Howard Schesser, Mike Sullivan, John Tamulonis, alternate members.

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

ABSENT: Chuck Forster, Mike Galvin, Philip Hudspeth, Jacque Morgan, John Sullivan, members; Deb Schmidt, Kari Westlund, *ex officio* members.

GUESTS: Ellen Kaufman, Ric Ingham

Chairperson Rob Scoggin called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Lane Economic Committee (LEC) to order at 11:35 a.m. He invited those who were present to introduce themselves. He determined that there was no one present wishing to make a public comment.

LCOG Staff Steve Dignam welcomed Ben Sappington and Sean Van Gordon to their first meeting as official LEC members.

Ben Sappington moved, seconded by Pat Albright, to accept the minutes of the January 24, 2011, meeting.

Robin Scott requested that her attendance be corrected in the minutes by using her “new” name, replacing her “old” one.

Ellen Teninty requested that her presence recorded in the minutes be corrected to show that she was absent.

Mr. Scoggin determined that there were no objections to the requests and stated that the minutes were amended.

The amended motion was adopted unanimously, 11:0.

1. Economic Development in the City of Veneta

Veneta City Manager Ric Ingham distributed a document entitled “City of Veneta – Economic Development Focus 2010-2011” and reviewed information it contained. He discussed the importance of infrastructure improvement to the city – upgrades to Highway 126, water pipeline and water plant crea-

tion, and natural gas connection. Members discussed the value and complications of the developments.

Mr. Ingham described “place making” and “amenity development” in the Veneta downtown business district, Lane Transit Center/Park and Ride facility, senior center and food bank, community swimming pool, farmer’s market site and community plaza, and the feasibility of a golf course.

Mr. Ingham discussed tourism and business development in Veneta – winery facilitation, annual festivals, bird viewing, Long Tom Country Trails, upgrades to Bolton Hill Sports Complex, downtown farmers’ harvest festival, Veneta Business Park, industrial lands certification, Community Development Block Grant funding, and Small Business Development Center workshops and training programs.

Members discussed the presentation.

2. eDev (Micro Business Center) Services and Loans

Shawn Winkler-Rios explained the operation and standards for service of eDev. He said the agency had served approximately 500 small businesses with 50-60 development assistance courses a year. He emphasized that the service did not simply dispense advice, but engaged in “experiential learning” – entrepreneur development, not training.

Mr. Winkler-Rios described federal technical assistance resources available through the eDev micro-loan program. He said the initial grant received for the program was exhausted in less than half the time it had been anticipated and that a second grant application was being prepared. He also described the Rural Micro Assistance Program of the United States Department of Agriculture and how eDev incorporated its resources into its services. He stated that lending programs dovetailed into training for new business developers and that technical assistance was tied to loan funds. He explained that most loan applications were made by service oriented businesses in Lane County.

3. Small Business Administration Loans

Mr. Dignam described a newly developed federal Small Business Administration commercial loan program that was usable for refinancing existing debt. He explained that many area banks and local businesses had expressed interest in accessing its resources.

Greg Rikhoff distributed copies of a University of Oregon publication entitled “Powering the State’s Economy 2011,” emphasizing its economic impact and attraction of additional resources.

Mr. Scoggin announced that the next meeting of the LEC was scheduled for April 18.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)