

MINUTES

Lane Economic Committee

Lane Council of Governments – 5th Floor Conference Room
859 Willamette Street, Suite 500 – Eugene

April 19 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: Rob Scoggin, Chair; Mike Blommé, Mike Galvin, Phillip Hudspeth, Robin Scott, John Sullivan, Mike Sullivan, Lynette Wikstrom, Ron Woods, *members*; Jay Bozievich, *ex officio members*; Mike McKenzie-Bahr, Barry Miller, Jack Roberts, Howard Schesser, *alternate members*.

Steve Dignam (LCOG).

ABSENT: Pat Albright, DeAnn Cherbas, Bill Fleenor, Chuck Forster, Jacque Morgan, Greg Rikhoff, John Tamulonis, Ellen Teninty, *members*; Deb Schmidt, Kari Westlund, *ex officio members*.

GUESTS: Glenda Poling, Jim Lindley.

Chairperson Rob Scoggin called the meeting of the Lane Economic Committee (LEC) to order at 11:30 a.m. He invited those who were present to introduce themselves. He determined that a quorum was present.

Mr. Scoggin determined that there was no one present wishing to make Public Comment. He said neither he nor Committee Staff Steve Dignam had comments.

1. MINUTES

Lynette Wikstrom moved, seconded by Mike Galvin, to accept the minutes of the March 15, 2010, meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously, 10:0.

2. REGIONAL PROSPERITY SUMMIT STRATEGIES

Jim Lindly, Director of LCC's Business Development Center, provided an overview of the Center's business services. Mr. Lindly stated that the Center is a 501(c)3 and assists entrepreneurs with business plans, evaluation of industry service to avoid unnecessary duplication or to prevent gaps in service, and employee training.

Mr. Lindly stated that LCC is excited about the prospect of a new building to be located across from the Eugene Library. He said that the structure would include student housing and classrooms on upper floors with the Business Development Center on ground floor.

Mr. Lindly listed several of the Center's partnerships that have been developed since it opened in 1984: SCORE, several Chambers of Commerce in Lane County, Business Capital Resource Center, OSU Extension Service, U of O Climate Master, OBDD, Riverfront Research Park, Lane Workforce Partnership, MOOT (Florence), Lane Metro Partnership, and the Cities of Eugene and Springfield.

Mr. Lindly stated that the current goals for the Center is to categorize local resources, develop marketing branding, gain support from community resources through focus groups, and improve upon an economic development referral system.

Mike Sullivan mentioned that phone networking – using a single phone number that can move on a rotational basis to various locations – has been successful. He stated that the Center should strive to be “the place” to call.

Barry Miller suggested that the Center’s Vision and Mission Statements be more visible in the literature.

Mr. Sullivan provided a follow-up status report on the Economic Summit and on which tactics listed in the summit’s summary were currently being addressed.

3. LANE COUNTY PROJECT

Mike McKenzie-Bahr announced that County staff was readying a federal grant application through Rural Strategies for Success. This funding would assist entrepreneurs in rural areas and promote coordination among rural partners. In conjunction with this effort, Lane County has contracted with Glenda Poling to serve as an Economic Development Specialist to work collaboratively with the County and the rural cities. Mr. McKenzie-Bahr introduced Ms. Poling who stated that she has met with organizations in Florence (Siuslaw Fisherman’s Association, Port of Siuslaw, and a childcare provider); Lowell, Junction City, and Cottage Grove. Ms. Poling stated that these areas exploring several opportunities and submitting applications.

Mr. McKenzie-Bahr said that the County has been working on the community development side and is now focusing efforts on the economic development side. As an example, he stated that Junction City has an RV manufacturing incubator where the owners have permits, intellectual property, coach designs, and own the buildings and equipment. He said the next step is to contract with manufacturers of coach parts and detail specialists. Mr. McKenzie-Bahr stated that the manufacturer would produce about 50 coaches per year and employ approximately 120 people.

4. CLIMATE OF PROSPERITY TASK FORCE

Rob Scoggin provided an overview of LCOG’s recent task force sub-committee focusing on economic development goals for the region and how LCOG can play a role in the effort. Mr. Scoggin stated that the group identified a need for a mechanism for small city support, to restore LEC to the role it once held in reviewing applications, and to develop an inclusive decision-making body to develop a county-wide strategy.

5. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

John Sullivan reported on the most recent Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and stated the substantive planning portion was well done. He recommended that a sub-committee be formed to respond to the Strategy’s questionnaire to promote economic development strategies and how best to impact the CEDS process. Mr. Sullivan stated the response are due Friday, April 23.

Steve Dignam will send the CEDS document to members of the LEC and will work with Mr. Sullivan to form the sub-committee and set a meeting.

Mr. Dignam noted that the next meeting would be held on May 17, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

(Recorded by Ann Mortenson)