

MINUTES

Lane Economic Committee

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

April 23, 2007 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: Rob Scoggin, Chair; Tim Black, DeAnn Cherbas, Chuck Forster, Mike Galvin, Glenda Poling, John Sullivan, Jenny Ulum, Lynnette Wikstrom, *members*; Kari Westlund, *ex officio member*; Lawrence Brice, Leah Carter, Don Lindsey, Brett Yancy, *alternate members*.

Steve Dignam, Milo Mecham (LCOG);

ABSENT: Mike Blommé, Jay Bozievich, Denny Braud, Bill Fleenor, John Tamulonis, Ellen Teninty, *members*; Jim Ramseyer, Deb Schmidt, *ex officio members*; Paul Alexander, Betsy Boyd, Joshua Greene, Ric Ingham, Jack Roberts, Robin Onaclea, Hal Reed, Howard Schesser, Mike Sullivan, *alternate members*; Mike McKenzie-Bahr (Lane County);

Mr. 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.

1. Public Comments

Mr. Forster distributed copies of a document entitled “Southern Willamette High Performance Consortium.” He reviewed the information in the document.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Ulum moved, seconded by Ms. Poling, to accept the minutes of the March 19, 2007 meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously.

3. Review of Regional Investment Board

Mr. Galvin provided an overview of the RIB (Regional Investment Board) and BL3. He stated that they are responsible for administering funds provided by the State. Grants are made to various economic development projects, with emphasis on projects providing job creation and economic development. He provided various statistics of the program and commented that the Ways and Means Committee has recommended no funding going forward.

Ms. Poling commented that Lane County has received a significant share of the money out of the four counties involved with the RIB. Mr. Sullivan inquired about what LCOG’s board’s response is to losing the money, if the Ways and Means Committee’s recommendation stands. Mr. Mecham suggested that the LEC make a statement to the LCOG board and Lane County Commissioners that they feel it is a bad idea to lose the funding. Mr. Dignam

suggested a resolution from the LEC to keep the RIB going by proposing a letter to the LCOG board indicating the LEC's support of restoring funding of the RIB.

Ms. Ulum moved, seconded by Mr. Forster, to write a letter to the LCOG Board and Lane County Commissioners that the LEC resolves to support restoring funding of the RIB. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dignam made a comment that the LEC can not lobby and the appropriate channel is the letter to the LCOG Board.

4. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Mr. Mecham distributed copies of documents entitled "Cultivating the Seeds of Economic Prosperity" and "Rating and Ranking, Proposed ED Forum Initiatives." He indicated that an Economic Development Forum will be held the last week of May or the first week of June. The forum's goal is to provide specific steps to improve the economy of the region. Mr. Mecham discussed the contents of the two documents and asked the committee for comments on the rating and ranking of the objectives.

Members provided comments, as follows:

- Concerns over staffing and funding (Forster)
- Ranking the objectives first and then working on initiatives (Scoggin)
- The ultimate idea is to identify within the 4 county region where efforts should be focused for economic development. (Mecham)
- Concern that some of the priorities are already done or are being worked on already by other agencies. (Westlund)
- Support for objectives, but not necessarily the initiatives (Poling)
- Would like to see some sort of score card for accountability (Sullivan)
- Identify roadblocks that are in place to achieving objectives (Sullivan)

Members provided individual written feedback to Mr. Mecham regarding the initiatives at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mr. Scoggin announced that the next LEC meeting is scheduled for May 21st.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00p.m.

(Recorded by Kim Voorhies)

*LCOG: L:\ECODEVO\LEC\MINUTES\LEC070423.DOC
Last Saved: April 23, 2007*