

MINUTES

Lane Economic Committee

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

July 21, 2003 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: John Tamulonis, Vice-Chair; DeAnn Cherbas, Hal Reed, Jim Ramseyer, Anna Morrison, Don Hampton, Rob Scoggin, Charles Spencer, Lynnette Wikstrom-Smith, members; Jay Bozievich, Kari Westlund, *ex officio* members; Howard Schesser, Mike Galvin, John Sullivan, Joshua Greene, alternate members.

Steve Dignam, Staff

ABSENT: Glenda Poling, Tim Black (for Michael Redding), Chuck Forster, Scarlet Lee, Mike Sullivan, members; Deb Schmidt, *ex officio* member.

GUESTS: Talal Arahbi, Peter Thurston, Milo Mecham, Chris Nystrom, Bob Warren, Sandi Young.

Mr. Tamulonis called the meeting of the Lane Economic Committee (LEC) to order at 11:35 a.m. He invited those who were present to introduce themselves.

1. Public Comment

Milo Mecham spoke in favor of the LCOG economic development proposal.

2. Comments from the Chair

None

3. Staff Comments

None

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Sullivan nominated Mr. Tamulonis as chairman, seconded by Mr. Reed. The motion passed unanimously, 10:0.

Ms. Wikstrom-Smith nominated Mr. Reed as vice chairman, seconded by Mr. Ramseyer. The motion passed unanimously, 10:0.

5. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ramseyer made a correction to reflect that he was in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Hampton moved, seconded by Mr. Forster, to accept the minutes of the June 23, 2003, meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously, 10:0.

6. USDA Rural Development economic strategy and priorities

Pam Swires stated that she represented the USDA Rural Utility Services. Her agency has \$17 million of grants and loans available to Oregon during the current fiscal year. Ms. Swires distributed materials explaining her programs and encouraged LEC members to refer eligible projects to her for consideration.

7. LEC Comment on Lane County Video Lottery Strategic Investment Allocation

Mr. Dignam stated that 5 LEC members (John Tamulonis, John Sullivan, Scarlet Lee, Deann Cherbas, Kari Westlund) met in subcommittee on July 15, 2003 to review the 10 proposals received from Lane County. Mr. Dignam distributed a spreadsheet which included the subcommittee's ranking of the proposals. Mr. Dignam also distributed a draft letter from the LEC chair to the Lane County Commissioners. Mr. Dignam explained that the subcommittee ranked the proposals on a scale of 1 to 4 based on the following three criteria: 1) Project Readiness, 2) Leverage / Match, and 3) Job and Economic Impact.

Members discussed the 10 individual projects.

Mr. Tamulonis concluded that the only proposal recommended for funding by the LEC subcommittee was proposal #1 from the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce. He indicated that no other proposals had a strong and direct link to significant job creation, relative to the cost and effort of the project.

Mr. Spencer suggested that additional work may need to be done in order to more clearly specify the relationship between Workforce Development and Economic Development.

Ms. Morrison indicated that the County could hold some of these funds in reserve in anticipation of future higher impact proposals.

Mr. Reed suggested that the draft LEC letter to the Board of Commissioners be reworded in order to more strongly endorse the reserve concept.

Mr. Spencer moved, seconded by Mr. Reed, to accept the ranking of the subcommittee and to forward the letter, as amended by Mr. Reed, to the Lane County Board of Commissioners. The motion was adopted unanimously, 10:0.

Mr. Dignam announced that the next LEC meeting was scheduled for September 22.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.