

# MINUTES

## Lane Economic Committee

Lane Council of Governments – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
859 Willamette Street – Eugene

October 17, 2011 – 11:30 A.M.

**PRESENT:** Rob Scoggin, Chair; Pat Albright, Jacque Betz, DeAnn Cherbas, Mike Galvin, Barry Miller, Greg Rikhoff, Ben Sappington, John Sullivan, Mike Sullivan, Ellen Teninty, Sean Vangordon, members; Deb Schmidt, Kari Westlund, *ex officio* members; Howard Schesser, alternate member.

Steve Dignam (LCOG).

**ABSENT:** Chuck Forster, Don Hampton, Robin Scott, John Tamulonis, Ron Woods, members; Glenda Poling, Faye Stewart, *ex officio* members.

**GUESTS:** George Kloeppel, Jae Pudewell, Petra Schuetz, Mike Duncan.

Chairperson Rob Scoggin called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Lane Economic Committee (LEC) to order at 11:30 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.

### 1. Staff Comment

Steve Dignam reported that the LCOG Business Loan Program had assisted in the origination of four Small Business Administration (SBA) loans for local commercial enterprises since the last meeting of the LEC. He said they were twenty-year fixed rate at slightly over four percent. He explained that they were made possible by a new SBA policy allowing their funding to be used for refinancing. He described how the loans would be funded by local lenders, allowing lower loan to value ratios, packaged, and sold to investors. He suggested that the new practice could help stabilize the local business real estate loan market.

### 2. Minutes

*Greg Rikhoff moved, seconded by Mike Galvin, to accept the minutes of the September 19, 2011, meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously, 12:0.*

### 3. Coburg Economic Development Activity

Jae Pudewell stated that he was President of the Coburg City Council and introduced Coburg Planning Director Petra Schuetz. He began their presentation with a comparison of pictures showing historic and current residential areas. He suggested that the pictures looked similar, identifying a characteristic of the City.

Ms. Schuetz described an Urbanization Study made of Coburg which estimated that 90 additional residential acres and less than 20 commercial and industrial acres were anticipated to be needed for its expected growth in population of 2,000. She said City goals included management of the tripling of the size of the City while retaining its small town feeling and lifestyle.

Mr. Pudewell explained that the largest impediment to Coburg growth was its lack of a wastewater/sewer system. He described the funding, plans, and status of development of the Coburg Wastewater Project, a Septic Tank Effluent Pumping (STEP) system.

Ms. Schuetz and Mr. Pudewell described other Coburg Projects – an Interstate 5 Interchange Oregon Department of Transportation project and a public/private project Coburg Loop Multi-Use Path system.

Members discussed the presentation.

#### **4. Lane Economic Committee Coordination with LCOG Board of Directors**

LCOG Executive Director George Kloeppe described the 60 year history of LCOG. He said its continuing purpose was to help area governments operate more efficiently with cooperation. He reviewed its activities of Government Services, Senior and Disabled Services, and Administration and Business Services. He explained that it was a voluntary organization with no taxing power, 233 person employees, and a \$3.4 million annual budget.

Mr. Kloeppe described LCOG economic development involvement through its Business Loan Program and other services – a broadband fiber optic network, natural resources enhancement, and local government operation services. He said the LCOG Board of Directors had adopted a goal of bringing LEC more into a policy development relationship.

Members discussed the presentation and the potential for increased communication between the LEC and the LCOG Board of Directors plus the Lane County Economic Development Standing Committee.

#### **5. Matthew Knight Arena**

Mike Duncan stated that he was programming manager for the University of Oregon Matthew Knight Arena. He described his decades of experience in similar positions in other areas.

Mr. Duncan explained that the Arena had been built anticipating its use for non-athletic events – portable wood floor, retractable seating, curtaining system, and ceiling rigging. He said it was not intended to compete with other entertainment venues in the area, but add the capacity for events designed for large arenas, such as the recent presentation of the Ringling Brothers Circus, and the soon to be held Miranda Lambert Concert and Michael Jackson Immortal World Tour by the Cirque du Soleil.

Mr. Duncan discussed plans for future events at the Arena, its participation in a Western Arena Association, its use for local events, and availability for rent.

Members discussed the presentation, including a suggestion that Arena events could be enhanced by the use of downtown parking facilities, coupon arrangements with restaurants, and the use of bus shuttles.

Chairperson Scoggins announced that the next LEC meeting was scheduled for November 21.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

*(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)*