

**LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Lane Council of Governments**  
**LCOG, 859 Willamette Street, Suite 500, Eugene**

**February 28, 2019**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

**Present**

Bd. Member Sherry Durst-Higgins, Chair (Lane ESD)  
Bd. Member Mary Walston, Vice-Chair (School District 4J)  
Bd. Member Sonya Carlson (EWEB via teleconference)  
Bd. Member Heather Buch (Lane County)  
Bd. Member Naomi Raven (School District 19)  
Bd. Member Alan Laisure (School District 52)  
Bd. Member Matt Keating (Lane Community College)  
Bd. Member Jim McLaughlin (Rainbow Water and Fire District)

Bd. Member Susy Lacer (Siuslaw Library District, City of Florence via teleconference)  
Bd. Member Vickie Kennedy (Heceta Water PUD) (via teleconference)  
Bd. Member Brandon Jordon (EPUD)  
Mayor Jeff Gowling (City of Cottage Grove)  
Councilor Richard Zettervall (City of Creswell) (via teleconference)  
Councilor Chris Pryor (City of Eugene)  
Mayor Don Bennett (City of Lowell)  
Mayor Mark Crenshaw (City of Junction City) (via teleconference)  
Councilor Tom Cotter (City of Veneta)

**Absent**

Representative City of Coburg  
Representative City of Dunes City  
Representative City of Oakridge  
Representative City of Springfield  
Representative City of Westfir  
Representative Siuslaw Valley Fire District  
Representative Port of Siuslaw  
Representative Fern Ridge Library District  
Representative School District 40

Representative School District 68  
Representative School District 45J3  
Representative River Road Parks & Rec. District  
Representative Lane Library District  
Representative Western Lane Ambulance District  
Representative Junction City RFPD  
Representative Willamalane

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

**Present**

Bd. Member Don Nordin (Lane Transit District (LTD))

**OTHERS**

Brenda Wilson, LCOG Executive Director  
Howard Schussler, LCOG Government Services Division Director  
Emily Farrell, S&DS Director  
Brooke Emery, S&DS Deputy Director  
Kate Scott, S&DS Community Program Analyst & OAA Contract Manager  
Ellen Currier, LCOG Transportation Planner  
Drew Pfefferle, Safe Lane Transportation Coalition Coordinator

## CALL MEETING TO ORDER

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Sherry Durst-Higgins called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board to order at 6:00 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

### 2. Requests for Additions to the Agenda

No additions to the agenda were requested.

### 3. Public Comment

No one wished to provide public comment to the Board.

## PRESENTATION

### 4. Senior and Disability Services Annual (FY18) Information Report

Kate Scott, Senior and Disability Services (S&DS) Community Program Analyst & OAA Contract Manager, reviewed the *Fiscal Year 2017-2018, Senior and Disability Services, Information & Assistance* report previously distributed to the Board. She highlighted: the important contributions made by volunteers; the addition of a staff person to address the volume of calls received at the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC); the over 5,000 hours providing respite for family care givers; the almost a quarter of a million meals provided by the Meals on Wheels and Café 60 programs; an increase in the number of people served by Oregon Project Independence; two new health promotion programs, “Walk with Ease” and “Powerful Tools for Caregivers”; two new community partners, Lane Senior Support Coalition and the Senior Companion Program through Lane Community College; the 18,000+ (point in time) case load for Eligibility Services; the 4,300+ people assisted through the in-home and community-based care programs, resulting in a cost avoidance savings of almost \$6 million; and the increased referrals to Adult Protection Services. Ms. Farrell noted the last pages of the report showed a three-year comparison of program activity indicators.

When Mr. Laisure asked how S&DS services had been impacted by the winter storm, S&DS Deputy Director Brooke Emery explained the offices were closed but staff worked directly with the most vulnerable clients. She noted the conditions in Oakridge had been especially challenging.

Ms. Walston asked how the estimated savings for people not in nursing homes (page 9) was calculated and what happened to complaints to Adult Protection Services that were not substantiated (page 10).

Ms. Scott responded S&DS staff used the current average rate for a year at an assistive living facility, multiplied by the number of people not needing (or no longer needing) that level of care.

Ms. Wilson explained the triage approach used by Adult Protection Services call center staff. Once investigated, if a situation met the legal standard of abuse the case was referred to law enforcement. If it was not substantiated, there was no further action from Adult Protection Services. Ms. Emery added they often referred those reported or their families to S&DS’ other services to help improve their situation.

Mr. Keating observed about fifty percent of the general population owned pets and he assumed the rate was similar for seniors. He asked if there were community organizations S&DS staff worked with to help vulnerable seniors care for their pets.

Ms. Scott replied Food for Lane County piloted a pet food program in 2018 in conjunction with the Meals on Wheels program. S&DS staff were considering a similar program in Springfield and Monroe. She shared at times seniors fed their pets before themselves. If volunteers suspected this was happening, they contacted Lane Senior Support Coalition for assistance. Ms. Scott added the Lane Alliance for Independent Living also provided training for people needing support animals.

### **5a. Annual Report of the MPO**

Ellen Currier, LCOG Planner, discussed the *Annual Report to the LCOG Board of Directors from the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), February 2019* contained in the agenda packet. She started with an overview of the MPO, stressing it's a collaboration among local jurisdictions to determine how federal funds are allocated. The Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan guided funding decisions for federal and state funds. In 2018, the MPO obligated \$55 million to fund a variety of projects, e.g., road preservation, transportation safety planning, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and transit planning and facilities.

Ms. Currier said the MPO used performance-based project planning to ensure funds expended resulted in the desired outcomes. Over the past year, MPO staff worked with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) staff to adopt state performance measures. In addition, in 2019, MPO staff developed a robust data portal. Ms. Currier noted the MPO followed all Federal Title VI requirements and reports.

Ms. Currier highlighted the Safe Lane Transportation Coalition. Established in 2017, the Coalition focused on the regional coordination of safety efforts, provided opportunities for education and outreach, and brought more resources into the region to address transportation safety. Funding from ODOT had enabled the MPO to hire a full-time coordinator for the Coalition.

### **5b. Safe Lane Coalition Presentation**

Ms. Currier introduced Drew Pfefferle, Safe Lane Transportation Coalition Coordinator. Mr. Pfefferle gave a Powerpoint presentation entitled, *Safe Lane Transportation Coalition*. He reviewed the current membership. Mr. Pfefferle detailed projects completed in 2018, including the Incomplete Streets campaign (lawn signs to raise awareness in motorists that the street has no safe options for pedestrians or bicyclists), sandwich boards to discourage distracted driving in school zones, outreach and education activities at the Lane County Fair, teen driving program for students in rural areas, the Get a Ride campaign to discourage driving while intoxicated, the Oregon Friendly Driver interactive training program, and outreach efforts at the University of Oregon, including a Walking Bicycling Pledge. Mr. Pfefferle also described projects envisioned for 2019 (a traffic safety assistance request form, marijuana driving impairment prevention, and increased volunteer opportunities).

Ms. Currier stressed the Coalition served all of Lane County, not just the metropolitan area. The projects selected and locations targeted were data-driven decisions.

When Ms. Durst-Higgins asked about the impact of marijuana use on one's driving abilities, Mr. Pfefferle responded marijuana impaired driving. The specific effects varied among people. Too often people dismissed the effects of marijuana because they were not the same as alcohol.

Ms. Currier added law enforcement agencies needed more people trained in recognizing the effects of marijuana impairment.

Mr. Pryor asked about the use of cameras at intersections to photograph drivers running red lights. He opined installation of the cameras would do a lot to slow down traffic and prevent or lessen the severity of accidents. Mr. Pryor requested the Safe Lane Transportation Coalition advocate for red light cameras.

Ms. Currier noted the cameras were currently allowable under the law. The Coalition had earlier reviewed automated enforcement tools. At the time, there had been some hesitancy among those in the enforcement community regarding their implementation. She offered to raise the topic again.

Mr. Keating said another safety tool used in other Oregon communities was the installation of LED lights around stop signs to improve their visibility in bad weather. He shared another area of concern regarding traffic safety was the potential influx of rental scooters.

When Ms. Walston asked for the data on distracted driving in school zones and the availability of the sandwich board signs developed, Ms. Currier explained the difficulties of collecting accurate data regarding distracted driving. It was usually self-reported after an accident or traffic stop.

Ms. Currier said the school zone poster PDF files were available online. Only half had been translated into Spanish. She noted another challenge was funding for additional sandwich boards.

Responding to Mr. Keating's question about phone apps that stopped transmissions when the car was moving, Mr. Pfefferle pointed him to their website (<https://safelanecoalition.org/distracted-driving>) which had a list of available apps.

Mr. Laisure shared his employer, Pape Company, had an app on all company phones that disabled the phones when motion was detected. It demonstrated an employer could help combat distracted driving.

Ms. Buch observed most of her district in Lane County was rural. She thought speed and driver impairment contributed to most accidents. Ms. Buch advocated for counties to have control over setting speed limits, not the state. She asked if any of the Coalition's programs focused on rural areas.

Mr. Pfefferle referred to an upcoming safety event in Junction City. Ms. Currier added the Coalition had purchased speed feedback signs that the Lane County Sheriff deployed. She suggested Ms. Buch contact Becky Taylor in Lane County were there a specific corridor she was interested in targeting.

Ms. Wilson said the statewide Oregon Metropolitan Policy Organization Consortium (OMPOC) had adopted as one of their legislative priorities for local jurisdictions to have the power to regulate speed limits. She offered to provide an update to the Board, including the relevant bill numbers.

Ms. Currier added local control of speed limits was also a legislative priority for the League of Oregon Cities. She was hopeful the statute would change.

Mr. Zettervall said the City of Creswell had secured grant funding for three flashing stop signs and two mobile speed feedback signs. He offered to help other rural communities apply for similar grants.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**6. Consent Agenda (Approve November 29, 2018 Minutes, Appoint Lane Economic Committee members (Karen Hyatt, Paul Berger, Greg Ervin, Anne Fifield, Mike Eyster, Courtney Griesel, and Sarah Means), Appoint Budget Committee (appoint Sherry Duerst-Higgins, Chris Pryor, and Heather Buch, and re-appoint Jessica Mumme), Appoint Audit Committee members (Sherry Duerst-Higgins, Greg James, and Mary Walston), and Ratify Replacement Executive Committee Member Heather Buch.)**

*Mr. Pryor moved, seconded by Mr. Cotter, to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **7. Items removed from the Consent Agenda**

No items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **8. Real Estate Update**

Ms. Wilson noted the Park Place Building was LCOG's largest asset. It was important the building be preserved and maintained. One of the items identified in need of immediate replacement by the EMG assessment were the elevators (estimated cost \$600,000 to \$700,000). Funds were available from the building's capital contingency account. Other identified needs, e.g., the HVAC system, balcony coating, and storefront window glazing, were not yet funded. Ms. Wilson intended to develop a five- to ten-year strategy to prioritize the preservation and maintenance needs and propose a funding strategy.

Mr. Pryor noted that at the Executive Committee, the question came up regarding the Park Place Building's seismic resiliency. He assured the Board it was well-designed and was an asset for downtown in the event of a major earthquake.

Ms. Wilson explained the building was now fully occupied. She encouraged people to visit the recently opened Veg Salad Craft. The last store front was being prepared for a boutique clothing store.

When Mr. Cotter asked if existing businesses were assessed to help pay for the improvements, Ms. Wilson replied such an assessment was not part of the current lease agreements. She anticipated rental revenue in excess of annual costs of approximately \$200,000 a year. Ms. Wilson's long-term maintenance and enhancement strategy for the building relied on those net rental revenues.

Responding to Ms. Duerst-Higgins question regarding Park Place Building rents, Ms. Wilson noted there were some long-term leases (e.g., the federal public defender) that were below the current market rate. She had also reduced the occupancy rate paid by LCOG in the proposed 2020 budget in order to maintain a stable indirect rate.

Mr. Cotter suggested a facility major maintenance/enhancement surcharge be included in future leases.

## **REPORTS**

**9.** Ms. Wilson provided the following reports to the LCOG Board of Directors. Copies were distributed

in the agenda packet.

*a. Executive Committee Report*

Ms. Wilson reviewed the summary of the January 8, 2019 and February 12, 2019 Executive Committee meetings. She highlighted the LCOG grant application to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Intercommunity Discretionary Grant Program for a two-year pilot program for transit service between Eugene and Florence and a two-year extension of transit service between Yachats and Florence. The Coos County Area Transit (CCAT) agency was also submitting a grant application for service between Coos Bay and Florence. Ms. Wilson stressed the active participation in the project by the Confederated Tribes. She explained why LCOG had taken on the role of the Public Transit Service Provider (PTSP) for rural Lane County.

Ms. Wilson also discussed the Cascade West Economic Development District in which LCOG participated and its recently completed five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Representatives from Lane County agencies had six seats on the District's Board. The Executive Committee had appointed six of its members to serve on the Board.

*b. Advisory Council Reports*

Ms. Wilson referenced the report in the agenda packet. She discussed the Elevate Lane County presentation at the November Lane Economic Committee (LEC) meeting. Ms. Wilson invited the presenter, Heidi Larwick, to share some of the students' Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) projects as part of the "meet and greet" portion of the upcoming LCOG recognition event.

Ms. Wilson said the annual award dinner was still scheduled for Saturday, March 9, 2019 at LCC. The keynote speaker was Carmen Urbina, Deputy Director of the Oregon Department of Education. She reviewed the award winners, listed in the Executive Committee Report. Ms. Wilson observed LCC was currently closed due to the winter storm. She planned to check with them regarding the venue on Friday.

Mr. Keating wondered if it was possible to add a fund-raising "ask" for a community non-profit who assisted in the storm, e.g., the Egan Warming Center, Food for Lane County. Consensus was to pursue the idea.

Ms. Wilson noted she had distributed a copy of the *LCOG Board Calendar*, outlining future business items and an *LCOG Board and Executive Committee Meeting Schedule*, showing upcoming Executive Committee and Board meetings. She announced the next meeting of the LCOG Board of Directors was scheduled for April 25, 2019. She was looking for a site host for the meeting.

**WRAP UP**

**10.** Ms. Durst-Higgins requested Board members share how the recent winter storm affected their jurisdiction and them personally.

- Mr. Zettervall briefly lost power, although others in Creswell lost power for over two days. The City of Creswell had minor damage to the public works building and the central park area. Many trees were damaged. He noted it was a wake-up call for improved emergency preparedness.
- Ms. Carlson shared where she worked in Creswell was constrained because their internet and cell services were down. She emphasized the importance of addressing communication systems as part of emergency preparedness. Reporting on the effect on EWEB, Ms. Carlson said over

14,000 people were without power initially and they had called in additional service crews to help restore services. She described how the utility triaged repairs when restoring power.

- Ms. Kennedy said Florence was not hit by the storm but because the mountain roads were closed, they did not get mail or the newspaper. They had a bit of snow one day but it melted quickly.
- Ms. Lacer echoed Ms. Kennedy's statements about "life on the temperate coast".
- Mr. Crenshaw observed the emergency preparedness measures taken in Junction City after a smaller storm in the late 1990's positioned the city to address the effects of the recent storm. Personally, he had been trapped between downed trees while going to a job site.
- Mr. Keating said a lot of trees fell on the road to the LCC campus. The campus itself had issues with snow, standing water, and loss of internet services and was still closed. He worked for KLCC and although it was able to transmit, he was not able to meet with clients.
- Mr. Pryor shoveled a lot of snow. He relayed that Eugene's Public Works staff described the storm as one of the worst snow emergencies they've responded to. Crews had not plowed the priority three streets. Mr. Pryor thought more severe weather was in everyone's future and the Budget Committee needed to think about contingency funds to address the storms.
- Mr. Schussler said the snow damaged the roof of the Springfield Egan Warming Center location and they were looking for another space.
- Mr. Laisure hoped the Bethel school district was able to open tomorrow. There was a lot of snow removal that still needed to happen on the campuses and side streets. He also referred to the tragedy that occurred at Cascade Middle School and noted the importance of incident planning.
- Mr. Nordin observed the snow storm was a major challenge for LTD. The EmX buses were hard hit because the snow covered up their sensor guidance systems. Mr. Nordin wondered how the recently implemented electric buses performed in the storm conditions.
- Mr. Gowing said a tree had fallen on his house and broken an eave. He also described the irony of struggling to transport a ballet company from Cottage Grove to Eugene, only to find the Hult Center closed upon their arrival.
- Mr. Jordon said the Emerald People's Utility District had about 5,000 customers without power out of 20,000 residential customers. He was thankful for the assistance provided by other public utility companies. When asked what specific cities were affected, Mr. Jordon said EPUD served parts of Creswell, Cottage Grove, Coburg, and Marcola.
- Mr. Cotter said power, internet, and cable was lost in Veneta during the storm and for several days thereafter. Most businesses were closed. Tree damage was also prevalent.
- Mr. McLaughlin relayed the Rainbow Water and Fire District didn't suffer a major impact but their people were deployed to help in Marcola. Personally, his orchard suffered major damage.
- Ms. Raven announced Springfield Schools were closed through the week. Thurston High School had incurred major damage. Staff was conducting safety checks of all the facilities. She referenced a video on Facebook in which the decision to call a snow day was explained. At home, her children were pleased to be able to sled a lot.
- Ms. Buch said Lane County's Emergency Management Division has been very active. On Tuesday the Board of County Commissioners declared a state of emergency. She stressed the importance of agencies documenting expenditures associated with the storm in order to get reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Ms. Buch encouraged people to use the County's winter storm emergency line if they needed immediate assistance (e.g., food, medicine, fuel).
- Ms. Walston announced 4J Schools would be open on Friday. She opined parents enjoyed the first two snow days, but were then ready for school to resume. The School Board needed to determine how to adjust the school schedule to make up the snow days. Ms. Walston referred to

the renewal of the local operating levy referred to the May ballot. Personally, her furnace had broken and she bemoaned not getting mail for a week.

- Ms. Wilson said LCOG's policy was to follow the closure decisions of the local school district. They have a list of the 100 most vulnerable consumers and made advanced food deliveries for Meals on Wheels clients. The Café 60s were open and serving soup and bread since the central kitchen was closed. She noted some S&DS staff had come into the office to ensure payments were made to home care workers. On a personal note, she was saddened by the damage to her garden.
- Ms. Durst-Higgins relayed ESD staff served local school districts and therefore had been closed all week. She described her experiences at her rural home. She had decided to get a generator.
- Ms. Durst-Higgins gave an update from Alan Baas, School District 45J3. The impact of the storm had been severe. Some of the outlying schools would not have power for another two weeks. Back-up generators for school kitchens were inadequate to keep the food from spoiling.

Ms. Durst-Higgins adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

*(Transcribed from an audio file by Beth Bridges)*