

**LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Lane Council of Governments**  
**LCOG, 859 Willamette Street, Suite 500, Eugene**  
**The meeting was held via teleconference**

**September 30, 2021**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

**Present**

Bd. Member Mary Walston, Chair (School District 4J)	Mayor Jeff Gowing (City of Cottage Grove)
Bd. Member Heather Buch, Vice-Chair (Lane County)	Councilor Thomas Cotter (City of Veneta)
Bd. Member Greg James (Willamalane)	Bd. Member Susy Laser, Siuslaw Public Library District
Bd. Member Sherry Durst-Higgins (Lane ESD)	Bd. Member Patti Chappel, Emerald Peoples Utility District (EPUD)
Mayor Ray Smith (City of Coburg)	Rob Ward, Representative Port of Siuslaw
Mayor Don Bennett (City of Lowell)	Bd. Member Steve Recca, Representative Fern Ridge Library District
Bd. Member Rich Cunningham (School District 19)	Bd. Member Jonathan Light, Representative Springfield School District
Councilor John Gambie, (City of Junction City)	
Councilor Randy Groves (City of Eugene)	

Bd. Member Josh Skov (LTD), Non-voting member

**Absent**

Representative City of Creswell	Representative EWEB
Representative School District 52	Representative Rainbow Water and Fire District
Representative Junction City RFPD	Representative Lane Community College (LCC)
Representative City of Dunes City	Representative School District 40
Representative City of Florence	Representative School District 68
Representative City of Oakridge	Representative School District 45J3
Representative City of Westfir	Representative River Road Parks & Rec. District
Representative Siuslaw Valley Fire District	Representative Lane Library District
Representative Heceta Water PUD	Representative W. Lane Ambulance District

**OTHERS**

Brenda Wilson, LCOG Executive Director  
Howard Schussler, Government Services Director  
Emily Farrell, Senior and Disability Services Director  
Jeff Griffin, WHA Insurance and Risk Management  
Marlene Hockema, Minutes Recorder

## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Mary Walston called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **2. Requests for Additions to the Agenda**

Executive Director Brenda Wilson requested the opportunity to present Mike Eyster's request for feedback from the community for Lane Community College as they seek to hire a new president.

### **3. Public Comment**

No one wished to provide public comment to the Board.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **4. Jeff Griffin, WHA Insurance and Risk Management**

Ms. Wilson introduced Jeff Griffin, from WHA Insurance and Risk Management, who walked the board through a slide presentation regarding property risk management. Mr. Griffin stated that 19 months of COVID-19 have had a great impact (i.e. political, confusion, fragility, increased civil claims and high costs). The cost of this culture can be broken down into 1) Workers' Compensation Cost, 2) Liability Cost, 3) Short-Term Hidden Costs, and 4) Long-Term Hidden Costs. As an example, the cost of a bullying claim would cost the business \$100K to get to court and the same amount for the defendant. Mr. Griffin pointed out that claims are preventable and only 7.5% of claims can be attributed to things with 92.5% being caused by a human factor. The board has six responsibilities in risk management:

- Organization Direction
- Provision of Necessary Resources
- Provision of Oversight
- Risk Management
- Fiduciary Requirements
- Duty of Care

Mr. Griffin encouraged the board to set high standards and do the right thing always. During a time of discussion it was agreed that a lack of preparedness had played heavily into the change of culture due to COVID-19 as well as inconsistent and changing mandates and precautions.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **5. Consent Agenda**

#### **a. Minutes of June 24, 2021**

Chair Walston moved, seconded by Ms. Buch, to approve the Minutes of June 24, 2021 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

### **6. Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

None.

### **7. Placeholder for discussion and action on federal funding under the Coronavirus Response and**

## **Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA).**

Ms. Wilson stated LCOG is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and is responsible for federal planning dollars that come into the region. LCOG incurred expenses due to the Pandemic and had received no FEMA reimbursement. She talked about various options and said the conversations with FHWA were ongoing and she would bring back more information.

## **8. REPORTS**

### **a. Advisory Council Reports**

Ms. Wilson reviewed the memo and highlighted the Lane Economic District (LEC) and their role in implementing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). She also noted that Lane Transit District (LTD) was looking for volunteers for board member positions.

### **b. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial Report**

Ms. Wilson referred to the memo and reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the budget was completed on June 30, 2021 and is LCOG was currently in audited. She added that while the audit process will change some figures in the quarterly report, the outlook is better than FY2020 with the budget with 96% revenue and 92% requirements.

### **c. LCOG Update**

Ms. Wilson reported for LCOG stating the current GSD is retiring and she was pleased to inform the board that there was an excellent pool of candidates and interviewing would start next week. She stated that cybersecurity is an item of concern to her as even LCOG was not free from risk during a test run; should an incident occur it would take an average of 2.8 months to remedy the problem and that was a concern LCOGF was working on fixing. She updated progress on the building (which belongs to LCOG) and continues to gather information for HVAC improvements but backlogs have prevented responses from vendors.

As a fun sideline, Ms. Wilson reported that she will be working on a mini-museum, as well as set up displays of collected awards of government officials.

Additionally, the chair and vice-chair positions are due for election and that information will be discussed at the October 12, 2021 executive meeting.

Ms. Wilson addressed the issue of employee vaccine mandates and informed the board that the deadline for “fully” vaccinated is October 18, 2021. There are currently 17 unvaccinated employees of which two have medical exemptions, four have not responded, and the remaining have filed religious exemptions. As a note: religious exemptions are for those who hold a sincerely held religious belief for non-vaccination and would be approved if they do not present an undue burden.

## **WRAP UP**

### **10. Roundtable, call for future agenda items, emerging issues**

Ms. Chappel, Board Member for EPUD reported their 2022 budget was in a good position with no rate increase for the next one to two years. She added they have hired a new General Manager who would start January 1, 2022.

Mr. Eyster, representative for LCC, stated they were looking for a new president and would start the school year virtually (changing to in-person, later), and also have passed their bond measure.

Vice-Chair Buch, Lane County, informed the board that they would be updating their strategic plan and would still be working on the recovery effort of the Holiday Farm fire. She added that the county would be working on mobile sites for COVID-19 booster shots.

Mr. Ward, Port of Siuslaw Representative, stated they are also working on their strategic business plan; their RV camps are full and they are adding picnic tables and benches.

Randy Groves, representing the City of Eugene, announced they would be opening managed unlicensed sites in compliance with HB2001. He added that the city police are currently answering 140-190 service calls, per day, and those calls would be better serviced by a different facility thus relieving the police department to handle calls better suited to them.

Mr. Recca, Representative for Fern Ridge Library District, indicated they would be working on their strategic plan.

Jonathan Light introduced himself as the new representative for the Springfield School District.

Mr. James, representing Willamalane, was pleased to announce the opening of a new cross country track which would be open to the public.

Mr. Stoehr, representing the City of Springfield, stated they would be using their COVID-19 monies to make up for shortages; and they would be issuing an RFQ for the Glenwood waterfront project.

Mr. Smith, representing the City of Coburg, said they are growing and working on a major water plan which would be offset with a gas tax.

Ms. Durst-Higgins (Lane ESD), reported the Westmoreland building would need work and South Lane is back in school.

Mr. Cunningham, Bethel School District, stated they would be in transition with a new superintendent. They opened "Homes for Good," a 46 unit apartment for the unhoused and are implementing a \$100M bond.

Mr. Gambia, Junction City representative, informed the board they are growing with 1,000 new dwellings. He was pleased to inform the group that the Junction City police department has reached certification level and would be using discretionary funds for the expansion of the police department.

Chair Walston, 4J School District, indicated they are in session and adding volunteers; she added that they had adopted a climate change effort.

In a discussion regarding Emerging Issues it was determined that climate change was the primary issue with others being: preparedness, renewable electricity, survivability, rolling blackouts and resource adequacy.

Chair Walston adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.