

AGENDA ITEM 5.a.

LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lane Council of Governments

LCOG, 859 Willamette Street, Suite 500, Eugene

The meeting was held via teleconference and at the Buford Conference Room.

**September 22, 2022
6:00 p.m.**

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Bd. Member Sonja Carlson, Vice Chair (Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB))
Bd. Member Mike Eyster (Lane Community College (LCC))
Bd. Member Sherry Durst-Higgins (Lane ESD, School District 45J3)
Mayor Ray Smith (City of Coburg)
Councilor Leonard Stoehr (City of Springfield)
Councilor Randy Groves (City of Eugene)

Councilor Rob Ward (City of Florence, Port of Siuslaw)
Bd. Member Laural O'Rourke (School District 4J)
Bd. Member Jonathan Light (School District 19)
Bd. Member Steve Recca (Fern Ridge Library Board)

Absent

Representative Lane County
Representative Cottage Grove
Representative Creswell
Representative City of Dunes City
Representative City of Junction City
Representative City of Lowell
Representative City of Oakridge
Representative City of Veneta
Representative City of Westfir
Representative Siuslaw Valley Fire District
Representative Siuslaw Public Library District

Representative Heceta Water PUD
Representative Emerald People's Utility District
Representative Rainbow Water and Fire District
Representative School District 40
Representative School District 52
Representative School District 68
Representative Willamalane
Representative River Road Parks & Rec. District
Representative Lane Library District
Representative W. Lane Ambulance District
Representative Junction City RFPD

OTHERS

Pete Knox, Lane Transit District (LTD), Non-voting member
Brenda Wilson, LCOG Executive Director
Stephanie Sheelar, Senior & Disabilities Services Division Director
Michael Wisth, Government Services Division Director
Beth Bridges, Minutes Recorder

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

1. Welcome & Introductions

Vice Chair Sonja Carlson called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Requests for Additions to the Agenda

No requests were made.

3. Public Comment

No one wished to provide public comment to the Board.

PRESENTATION

4. Overview of LCOG

LCOG Executive Director Brenda Wilson introduced Michael Wisth, Government Services Division Director, and Stephanie Shellar, Senior and Disabilities Services Division Director. Ms. Wilson said LCOG was established about eighty years ago and was the first Council of Governments in the United States. She discussed the purpose and scope of LCOG and noted their services adapted to the needs of their members and the region.

Mr. Wisth gave a Powerpoint presentation entitled *Government Services*. He managed staff providing a suite of services developed to meet LCOG's members' needs. Mr. Wisth detailed work done in Urban and Regional Planning, Transportation Planning, Telecommunications/Broadband, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Economic Development, Metro Television, and Local Government Personnel Services. For each area, he gave examples of their services. For Urban and Regional Planning, he referenced the Blue River Development Plan and Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission Capital Improvement Plan. Under Transportation Planning, Mr. Wisth highlighted their support of the Metropolitan Policy Commission (MPC), Lane Area Commission on Transportation (LaneACT) and management of transportation options programs and LinkLane (the transit authority that links Eugene, Florence, and Yachats). He described their work in Telecommunications, including the regional fiber consortium, internet exchange facility, rural broadband expansion planning, and cybersecurity assistance. Mr. Wisth explained GIS staff provided spatial analysis, custom maps, analytical models, and managed the Regional Land Information Database (RLID). He discussed Economic Development efforts, including the business loan program and noted Metro Television employees facilitated broadcasts of public meetings and video production. Mr. Wisth said Local Government Personnel Services staff assisted local governments with labor relations and human resource services.

Ms. Sheelar's Powerpoint presentation was entitled *Senior and Disability Services (S&DS): Our Community Impact*. She described the ways S&DS teams supported seniors and people with disabilities to access programs to assist them, combat food insecurity, and receive in-home support. S&DS staff also provided advocacy and outreach to those populations. Ms. Sheelar explained the Eligibility team helped people file for traditional and non-traditional Medicaid programs, transportation services, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). She described ways they provided community intake, including in homes, at senior centers in smaller communities, and working with Lane County's Developmental Disabilities (DD) staff. Ms. Sheelar highlighted the newly opened office in Cottage Grove and an Innovation grant awarded in July to work with HIV Alliance to improve access to S&DS services. Turning to the Case Management team, she emphasized the newly formed Complex Case

Management team, which specialized in high-risk consumers with high levels of barriers to get services (including housing), and the Hospital Transition Case Manager. Ms. Sheelar said the number of cases reported to Adult Protective Services was increasing and she detailed their work at a Junction City Assisted Living facility. She also described how they worked with emergency response teams, e.g., fire evacuations. Concluding with a discussion on the Senior Meals program, Ms. Sheelar explained the congregate sites had been closed because of the pandemic but Meals on Wheels deliveries had increased by more than 25%. She explained the Senior Meals program was dependent on donations and volunteers.

Ms. Wilson added LCOG's Central Services also provided finance services and managed the pool of minutes recorders.

Ms. O'Rourke was pleased to hear about improved access to S&DS services. When she asked what percentage of S&DS consumers were staff able to contact for the fire evacuation, Ms. Wilson explained they used to GIS system to overlay consumers' addresses with the footprint of the fire and location of power shut offs. Through an intensive phone calling effort, they were able to contact almost everyone. Ms. Sheelar added they relayed the names/addresses of those they couldn't reach to first responders.

Responding to Ms. Carlson's question about the number of volunteers pre- and post-pandemic, Ms. Sheelar explained the meals program used to have 400+ volunteers and now had under 200. They were doing outreach at local events and trying to "right size" volunteer activities to a person's level of interest (e.g., deliver meals to a few neighbors versus an entire route).

BUSINESS ITEMS

5. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes of June 23, 2022

b. Defederalization of Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Funds (EDA RLF)

No Board member asked to pull either item from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Recca moved, and Mr. Eyster seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda. The Vice-Chair asked if anyone was opposed to the motion. Seeing no opposition, she declared the motion passed unanimously.

6. Mission Statement

Ms. Wilson said Mr. Eyster had noted LCOG's mission statement, adopted in the early 1980s, was dated as it referenced "citizens" instead of "residents". She noted citizenship was not a requirement for some S&DS services. Ms. Wilson said the Executive Committee had agreed and also thought it was time for a review of the agency's mission statement to better reflect all of LCOG. She noted S&DS had its own mission statement. The Executive Committee hoped up to four Board members would volunteer to do so. Ms. Carlson, Ms. O'Rourke, and Mr. Recca volunteered.

Mr. Eyster moved, and Councilor Groves seconded, to appoint Ms. Carlson, Ms. O'Rourke, and Mr. Recca to the Mission Review Committee. The Vice-Chair asked if anyone was opposed to the motion. Seeing no opposition, she declared the motion passed unanimously.

7. Annual Dinner

Ms. Wilson described prior LCOG annual recognition dinners (none had been held last year due to the pandemic). In the past, the event had been held in February at LCC and dinner had been catered by the culinary program students. She referenced the agenda item memo in the packet, which listed the award categories. Ms. Wilson was seeking feedback on where to hold the event, if the award categories should be kept, and how best to get nominations. When Ms. Carlson asked how many people attended pre-pandemic and what was the budget for the event, Ms. Wilson explained the budget was around \$10,000. Some was covered by the registration fees of the 125 to 175 attendees and the rest came from member dues. Invitations were sent to member agencies' elected officials, community partners (e.g., Chambers of Commerce), families of award winners, and state and federal officials.

For locations, Mr. Eyster and Councilor Groves recommended the Wildish Theatre. Councilor Stoehr suggested the Keefer Center and Councilor Ward opined the Florence Events Center was a good venue.

Ms. Carlson recommended polling past attendees to gauge their interest and explore the possibility of holding the event on the Coast.

Ms. O'Rourke and Mayor Smith advocated for a more formal event.

Mr. Eyster thought there might be an opportunity to get sponsorships for the event.

When Ms. Wilson asked about the award categories, Ms. Carlson requested information about which awards were the most difficult to get nominations. Ms. Wilson said the Intergovernmental Team award had been problematic in the past. Opinions varied on whether or not to cut the award.

Mayor Smith thought it would be good to recognize more than one recipient in an area should the nominations warrant it. He thought perhaps a committee would be helpful to gather more nominations.

Ms. O'Rourke encouraged celebrating everyone who had had a long public service career, not just those in leadership positions.

Ms. Carlson suggested the Executive Committee take up the topic at their next meeting.

REPORTS

8. Executive Committee Report

Ms. Wilson referred to the report in the agenda packet. She highlighted the Property Management RFP for the Park Place building, the request to the EDA to change the use of some of the Revolving Loan Funds and the RFP for the regional broadband strategy. When Mr. Eyster asked when there would be an announcement of the broadband strategy consultant selected, Ms. Wilson said they could now issue a press release announcing Seattle firm CobbFendley & Associates had been chosen.

9. Advisory Councils Report

Ms. Wilson noted there were no S&DS advisory council meetings during the summer. There were no questions for Ms. Wilson regarding the Advisory Council Report in the agenda packet.

WRAP UP

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

Councilor Ward announced the Port of Siuslaw now had a kayak dock to launch kayaks. It was located next to the main boat ramp.

Councilor Groves said the Eugene City Council continued to work on controversial issues, including a ban on all personal fireworks within the city limits. He shared he had been appointed to a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) fuel tank farm seismic stability committee.

Ms. O'Rourke, chair of the Mental Health Committee at the 4J School District, noted she had recently attended a mental health conference. She was pleased the 4J Equity Committee had been expanded. Ms. O'Rourke added the School Board was working on their goals and the start of the school year.

Mayor Smith relayed Coburg representatives had met with ODOT and consultants on potential grants for their I-5 interchange bridge. He described the write-in process for filling three city council and the mayor position, required because no one filed for the positions. Mayor Smith said an update to the Coburg City Charter was also on the ballot.

Mr. Eyster explained the LCC Board had held a retreat, and adopted three areas of focus recommended by LCC President Dr. Stephanie Bulger. Classes at LCC were scheduled to begin on September 27, 2022.

Mr. Recca said the Fern Ridge Library had been awarded an EPUD green grant and planned to install solar panels. He added they had a new phone application for searching the library catalogue.

Councilor Stoehr said the Springfield City Council anticipated receiving the initial plans for the Glenwood riverfront development. He also referred to the Springfield Drifters, a new baseball team playing at the Hamlin Sports Complex.

Mr. Knox recognized LTD staff efforts to support the world athletics games and help with the fire evacuation and people's subsequent return. He said their new general manager was beginning in November and three new board members would be appointed by the start of 2023.

Mr. Light observed children were back in school at the Springfield School District 19 and he hoped for a more "normal" year. He referenced an upcoming School Board retreat, an important event for strategic planning.

Ms. Carlson referred to a number of large projects at EWEB, including the Leaburg Dam, the water storage tanks at 40th and Patterson, the College Hill tanks decommissioning; and revising their Integrated Energy Resource Plan.

Vice Chair Carlson thanked everyone for all their work to help the community and adjourned the meeting at 8: p.m.