

LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Lane Council of Governments
LCOG, 859 Willamette Street, Suite 500, Eugene
The meeting was held via teleconference.**

**January 25, 2024
4:30 p.m.**

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Bd. Member Sonya Carlson, Chair, Eugene
Water and Electric Board (EWEB)
Bd. Member Greg James, Vice-Chair,
Willamalane Park & Recreation District
Bd. Member Heather Buch, Lane County
Bd. Member Mike Eyster, Lane Community
College (LCC)
Bd. Member Sherry Duerst-Higgins, Lane
Education Service District (ESD) and School
District 45J3
Mayor Nancy Bell, City of Coburg
Mike Fleck, City of Cottage Grove
Councilor Randy Groves, City of Eugene
Mayor Rob Ward (City of Florence)

Mayor Ken Wells (City of Junction City)
Mayor Bryan Cutchen (City of Oakridge)
Councilor Kori Rodley (City of Springfield)
Councilor Robbie McCoy (City of Veneta)
Bd. Member Jenny Jonak (School District 4J)
Bd. Member Ken Kohl (School District 19)
Ashley Espinoza (School District 52)
Bd. Member Steve Recca (Fern Ridge Library
Board)
Bd. Member Donna Oshel (Siuslaw Public
Library District)
Bd. Member Patti Chappel (Emerald People's
Utility District)

Absent

Representative City of Creswell
Representative City of Dunes City
Representative City of Lowell
Representative City of Westfir
Representative Heceta Water PUD
Representative Rainbow Water and Fire District
Representative School District 40
Representative Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue
Representative Western Lane Ambulance District

Representative School District
Representative School District 68
Representative Lane Library District
Representative Junction City RFPD
Representative Port of Siuslaw
Representative River Road Parks & Rec. District

OTHERS

Pete Knox, Lane Transit District (LTD), Non-voting member
Brenda Moore, LCOG Executive Director
Laura Campbell, LCOG Public Information Officer
Tom Schwetz, LTD Director of Mobility Planning and Policy
Beth Bridges, Minutes Recorder

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Sonya Carlson called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors to order at 4:33 p.m.

2. Requests for Additions to the Agenda

LCOG Executive Director Brenda Moore added an update to the Board on LCOG's financial statements and Heather Buch asked to discuss the Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD).

3. Public Comment

No one wished to address the Board.

BUSINESS ITEMS

4. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes of December 21, 2023

Greg James moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Mike Eyster provided the second. The motion carried unanimously.

5. LCOG Financial Statements

Ms. Moore announced the auditor had notified her they had not been able to complete the financial statements. LCOG had been granted an extension to the end of February by the federal government, state government, and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). She had set a deadline for the auditor of February 8, 2024 so staff could finish preparing the material before the Board's February meeting. When Mr. James asked if the Audit Committee would review the financial statements first, Ms. Moore said she was uncertain if that would be possible.

6. CWEDD Update

Heather Buch described the Cascades West Economic Development District, a regional economic development district. She said she will no longer be serving as the Chair or be on the Executive Committee. Commissioner Buch explained the current Vice Chair would become Chair and they needed someone from a Lane County jurisdiction to volunteer as Vice Chair and work on the Executive Committee.

7. Executive Committee Members for 2024

Ms. Moore listed the five members and their jurisdictions appointed by the Chair: Greg James (Willamalane Parks and Recreation District), Donna Oshel (Siuslaw Public Library District), Sherry Durst-Higgins (Lane Education Service District (ESD) and School District 45J3), Kori Rodley (City of Springfield), and Jenny Jonak (School District 4J).

Mr. James moved to approve the Chair's appointees to the Executive Committee. Steve Recca and Patti Chappel provided the second. The Chair asked if anyone was opposed to the motion or abstained. Seeing none, she declared the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. James nominated Randy Groves (City of Eugene) and Robbie McCoy (City of Veneta). Ms. Chappel seconded. The Chair asked if anyone was opposed to the motion or abstained. Seeing none, she declared the motion passed unanimously.

6. Letter of Support for LTD

Ms. Moore introduced Tom Schwetz, LTD Director of Mobility Planning and Policy. He described the federal Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) grant program and discussed LTD's grant application. It built on their success in Cottage Grove with a mobility on demand program. If approved, the grant would fund work between LTD, their technology partner (VIA), and the Bethel School District to upgrade the mobile app to serve high school students.

Mike Fleck and Nancy Bell endorsed the mobility on demand program.

Mr. Recca moved to approve the draft letter of support from the LCOG Board, and the motion was seconded. The Chair asked if anyone was opposed to the motion or abstained. Seeing none, she declared the motion passed unanimously.

7. Disability Services Advisory Committee

Ms. Moore referred to the agenda item memorandum in the agenda packet. She outlined the roles of the Disability Services Advisory Committee (DSAC) and described the membership requirements. The nominating committee recommended the five people described in the memorandum.

Mr. Eyster moved to appoint Lynne Schwartz, Ivy Meadow, Shengxiao (Alex) Li, Sherri Freund, and Alison Hunter members of the Disability Services Advisory Committee. Mr. Recca provided the second. The Chair asked if anyone was opposed to the motion or abstained. Seeing none, she declared the motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Rodley thanked those willing to serve on the DSAC.

8. Legislative Issues

Mr. James asked about recreational immunity: was it going to be addressed in the upcoming state legislative session? should LCOG officially take a position? Ms. Moore responded there had been a lot of discussion regarding the issue. A recent Court ruling had expanded the definition of the use of public property which had led some jurisdictions to close trails and park lanes. She outlined ways the LCOG Board might collaborate with the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and the Special Districts Associations of Oregon (SDAO), including testifying before the legislature.

Ms. Moore raised another issue she hoped the upcoming legislative session addressed. She explained how the State allocated funding for Senior and Disability Services (S&DS) based on caseload counts. Ms. Moore said the Oregon Health Authority was not accurately counting their caseloads which meant S&DS (and other Oregon counties) were not receiving the funds they were due.

WRAP UP

Chair Carlson adjourned the January LCOG Board of Directors meeting at 5:03 p.m.