

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

**February 22, 2024**  
**6:00 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 Rob Ward, City of Florence  
Councilor Kori Rodley, City of Springfield  
Councilor Robbie McCoy, City of Veneta  
Bd. Member Ken Kohl, School District 19  
Bd. Member Donna Oshel, Siuslaw Public Library District  
Bd. Member Patti Chappel, Emerald People's Utility District  
Keith Stanton, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue

**Absent**

Representative City of Coburg  
Representative City of Cottage Grove  
Representative City of Creswell  
Representative City of Dunes City  
Representative City of Eugene  
Representative City of Lowell  
Representative City of Junction City  
Representative City of Oakridge  
Representative City of Westfir  
Representative Heceta Water PUD  
Representative  
Representative Western Lane Ambulance District

Representative Rainbow Water and Fire District  
Representative School District 40  
Representative School District 4J  
Representative School District 52  
Representative School District 68  
Representative Lane Library District  
Representative Fern Ridge Library  
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  
David Joyal, LCOG Senior Financial Analyst  
Paul Thompkins, LCOG Transportation Program Manager  
Gatlin Hawkins, Isler CPA  
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 6:07 p.m.

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

No requests were made.

## **3. Public Comment**

No one wished to address the Board.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **4. FY23 Financial Statements**

LCOG Executive Director Brenda Moore introduced Gatlin Hawkins, Isler CPA. Mr. Hawkins explained the financial statements on the funds and the budget-to-actuals statements were completed. Other components of the audit were still in progress. He described the audit process and its goals. Mr. Hawkins observed they had found no issues and anticipated the audit would be clean. He also discussed their review of LCOG's compliance with state laws on investments, the budget process, and procurements as well as federal rules and regulations regarding grant awards. They did not find any issues of noncompliance. Mr. Hawkins reviewed the General Fund, Grants and Contracts Fund, and the Enterprise Fund. Turning to the budget portion, Mr. Hawkins reviewed the Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance, Budget and Actual (Budgetary Basis) information. He noted Oregon required some additional information on the loan funds. He described LCOG's finances, overall, as "looking healthy". Mr. Hawkins detailed the audit work remaining. He anticipated they would meet the extended deadline.

Ms. Chappel asked why grant reporting requirements had become more complicated. Mr. Hawkins replied the Governmental Accounting Standards Board changes were intended to allow investors to compare municipal and corporate bonds.

When Ms. Carlson asked what happened if Isler CPA staff were unable to meet the extended deadline, Mr. Hawkins explained it was possible to ask for another extension from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the State of Oregon. He said the GFOA only granted extensions one month at a time. The State could withhold revenue if the audit was not filed within eighteen months from the original deadline. He expressed confidence the audit would not be delayed that long.

Mr. James moved to accept the FY23 Financial Statements and audit. Ms. Chappel seconded. The chair asked if anyone was opposed to the motion or wished to abstain. Hearing none, she declared the motion passed unanimously (13:0:0).

### **5. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Annual Report**

Ms. Moore recounted when the LCOG Board of Directors had delegated MPO policy decision responsibility to the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) in 2002. The MPC was comprised of government agencies within the MPO boundary (Lane County, the cities of Eugene, Springfield, and Coburg, Lane Transit District, and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)). She introduced Mr. Thompson, LCOG Transportation Program Manager.

Mr. Thompson gave a Powerpoint presentation entitled: *Annual Report from the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) on its Performance of Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Board Duties*. He referenced the agenda item summary memo and attachments in the agenda packet, noting Attachment One was the formal report. Mr. Thompson explained every four years the MPO underwent a Department of Transportation's Transportation Management Area Planning Certification Review. In

2023, the review resulted in re-certification with two minor corrective actions: update the Congestion Management Plan and update the Public Participation Plan. He noted work on updating both plans had begun. Mr. Thompson discussed another key responsibility of the MPO, distributing federal transportation funds allocated to the metro area (\$38 million in 2023). He described the variety of federal fund sources and listed some of the local projects and programs funded. Mr. Thompson highlighted the decennial Statewide Household Activity Survey. He reviewed other major MPO activities in 2023, including the data portal expansion ([www.thempo.org](http://www.thempo.org)) and the decennial boundary and demographics review. Turning to other components of LCOG's Transportation Program, Mr. Thompson spoke about LinkLane rural transit service and transportation planning and management consulting services.

Mr. James asked who were the MPC officers for 2024 and who had been appointed to the Oregon MPO Consortium (OMPOC). Mr. Thompson responded Lane County Commissioner David Loveall was MPO Chair and Eugene Councilor Randy Groves was MPO Vice Chair. The MPC appointees to OMPOC were Springfield Councilor Steve Moe and LTD Board member Susan Cox.

Responding to Mr. Thompson's remark that the demographics review had resulted in the Salem MPO edging out the Central Lane MPO as the second largest in the state, Ms. Carlson asked why. Mr. Thompson explained the Salem area population was growing at a faster rate. Ms. Carlson then asked how long the Statewide Household Activity Survey would be open. Later in the meeting, Mr. Thompson posted in the Zoom chat that the survey had closed.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **6. Consent Agenda**

#### **a. Minutes of January 25, 2024**

Mike Eyster moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Robbie McCoy provided the second. The chair asked if anyone was opposed to the motion or wished to abstain. Hearing none, she declared the motion passed unanimously (13:0:0).

### **7. Appoint Audit Committee Members**

Ms. Moore described the duties, membership, and timing of the Audit Committee. She said Vice Chair James had volunteered to serve. Ken Kohl and Councilor Kori Rodley volunteered at the meeting.

Ms. Chappel moved to appoint Mr. James, Mr. Kohl, and Councilor Rodley to the Audit Committee. Mr. Eyster seconded the motion. The chair asked if anyone was opposed to the motion or wished to abstain. Hearing none, she declared the motion passed unanimously (13:0:0).

### **8. Appoint Budget Committee Members**

Ms. Moore reviewed the membership, duties, and timing of the Budget Committee. She noted Sherry Duerst-Higgins had volunteered to serve on the Committee. Rob Ward and Ms. Chappel volunteered at the meeting.

Mr. James moved to appoint Ms. Duerst-Higgins, Mayor Ward, and Ms. Chappel to the Budget Committee. Keith Stanton seconded the motion. The chair asked if anyone was opposed to the motion or wished to abstain. Hearing none, she declared the motion passed unanimously (13:0:0).

### **9. Appoint Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) Board Members**

Ms. Moore discussed the four-county economic development district and its board. Lane County had

eight seats on CWEDD. Six of the eight were members of the LCOG Board. Ms. Moore explained there was also an Executive Committee, and a Lane County representative was slated to serve as Vice-Chair. Ms. Moore announced three LCOG Board members had volunteered to continue as CWEDD Board members: Ms. Duerst-Higgins, Mr. James, and Councilor Groves.

Mr. James commended Heather Buch's work as chair for the last three years. He described why he found attending the CWEDD meetings beneficial and encouraged others to join. Others concurred.

Ms. Chappel, Pete Knox, and Rob Ward volunteered to serve on the CWEDD Board.

Mr. James moved to appoint Ms. Duerst-Higgins, Mr. James, Councilor Groves, Ms. Chappel, Mr. Knox, and Mayor Ward to the CWEDD. Ms. Chappel seconded. The chair asked if anyone was opposed to the motion or wished to abstain. Hearing none, she declared the motion passed unanimously (13:0:0).

#### **10. Appoint Lane Economic Committee (LEC) Member**

Ms. Moore described the LEC and discussed the reasons to reappoint Mark Bodie.

Mr. Eyster moved to reappoint Mark Bodie to the Lane Economic Committee. Councilor McCoy provided the second. The chair asked if anyone was opposed to the motion or wished to abstain. Hearing none, she declared the motion passed unanimously (13:0:0).

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **11. Annual Awards**

Ms. Moore announced the Annual Member Appreciation event was scheduled for Friday, March 8, 2024, at the Cottage Grove Armory. As they had done the prior year, the event was also a fundraiser for the Senior Meals program. She highlighted one thing unique to the 2024 event was its menu was developed by a chef from Trio Community Meals (the vendor who designs the Senior Meal programs' menus). Ms. Moore listed the award categories and the person(s) selected by the LCOG Executive Committee as the recipient. She encouraged people to attend the event, noting tickets were available via their website.

### **REPORTS**

#### **12. Advisory Council Reports**

Ms. Moore referenced the *Advisory Council Reports* in the agenda packet. She highlighted the \$158,000 innovation grant received by the HIV Alliance for outreach services by a peer support specialist and a Senior and Disability Services (S&DS) staff person. LCOG was also awarded a grant to purchase a vehicle to enable S&DS staff to conduct eligibility intake services at the rural residents' homes.

#### **13. Roundtable**

Ms. Chappell relayed EPUD staff had estimated they experienced at least a \$10 million hit from the ice storm. Ms. Carlson added EWEB staff had projected their loss at \$8 million.

Commissioner Buch said Lane County staff had estimated \$45 million in damages for the region. She said Lane County was exploring options to set up an emergency contingency fund to help agencies with cash flow issues experienced as they awaited FEMA reimbursements.

### **WRAP UP**

Chair Carlson adjourned the February LCOG Board of Directors meeting at 7:28 p.m.