

Groundbreaking Held for Fern Ridge Service Center in Veneta

A year from now, those who benefit from food aid and senior services in the Fern Ridge area will step into a brand new facility that will better meet the needs of 25,000 area residents, volunteers and the community's growing population.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held in conjunction with the Veneta Harvest Festival on September 29, 2012. City of Veneta Mayor Sandra Larson, congressional representatives, service organization representatives, funding partners and supporters who have worked together

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MEMBER AGENCIES

CITY OF COBURG
CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
CITY OF CRESWELL
CITY OF DUNES CITY
CITY OF EUGENE
CITY OF FLORENCE
CITY OF JUNCTION CITY
CITY OF LOWELL

CITY OF OAKRIDGE
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
CITY OF VENETA
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EMERALD PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT
EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
FERN RIDGE LIBRARY DISTRICT

LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LANE COUNTY
LANE EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
LANE LIBRARY DISTRICT
LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT
PORT OF SIUSLAW
RIVER ROAD PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

SCHOOL DISTRICT 19
SCHOOL DISTRICT 41
SCHOOL DISTRICT 52
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
SIUSLAW VALLEY FIRE AND RESCUE
WESTERN LANE AMBULANCE DISTRICT
WILLAMALANE PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

Operating out of the current center has been a challenge for service providers, due to its cramped quarters. With this new facility, which will be triple the size of the old one, they will be able to help even more people in the future.

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the past six years to plan the facility spoke about the need for the project. “We are extremely excited to get started on this project,” said Mayor Sandra Larson. “Operating out of the current center has been a challenge for service providers, due to its cramped quarters. With this new facility, which will be triple the size of the old one, they will be able to help even more people in the future.”

The Fern Ridge Service Center will be built on two lots owned by the City of Veneta, located on West Broadway Avenue directly behind Dari Mart on Territorial Highway in Veneta’s downtown.

The new service center will include Space for Love Project Food Pantry, Fern Ridge Gleaners, Mid-Lane Community Partnerships (MLCP) and two Lane Council of Governments Senior & Disabled Services Programs: Senior Connections and Senior Meals, which offers Café 60 and Meals on Wheels.

The new facility includes:

- 7,200 square feet, more than triple the space of its current facility
- Improved building access, parking, loading docks and waiting areas
- Offices and meeting space to provide greater privacy for those visiting
- Commercial kitchen, large dining hall, pantry storage and energy-efficient appliances

Funding and next steps:

The \$2.3 million Fern Ridge Service Center will take about one year to complete and will open in August 2013. Funding comes from \$1.5 million in federal community block grants, \$250,000 from the Ford Family Foundation, \$25,000 from the Oregon Community Foundation and many local contributors. For more information and nomination materials, please contact Sandy Karsten, Senior Meals Manager, at 541-682-4378 or at skarsten@lcog.org.





Brenda Wilson
LCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The organization is staffed by professional, dedicated, and hardworking employees with a willingness to assist member agencies, stakeholders, and the public. Still, as with many government organizations – LCOG is facing challenges.

Director's Desk: Change and Opportunity

Looking outside my window, it is apparent that “change” is in the air. We’ve had warm days and cold nights with the bluest of afternoon skies and the cloudiest mornings mixed with the changing rich, vibrant colors of fall. All of the excitement about the changing seasons is also apparent in a changing Lane Council of Governments (LCOG).

At the LCOG Executive Committee’s April 12, 2012 meeting and the LCOG Board’s April 26, 2012 meeting, there was agreement that the new LCOG Executive Director should conduct a comprehensive assessment of the agency’s mission, business plan and financial structure by the end of 2012. Such an assessment is a normal task for a new Executive Director, but at a time when the entire region was tasked to work more efficiently, cooperatively, and effectively, it was essential that the new Director take the opportunity to look at LCOG to see where challenges existed and where improvements could be made.

I began the assessment with an extensive review of the organization’s documents, procedures, and processes; and by interviewing past and present staff, member representatives, and elected officials. While I found that there are issues that need to be addressed in the organization, there are many positive aspects to LCOG. The organization is staffed by professional, dedicated, and hardworking employees with a willingness to assist member agencies, stakeholders, and the public. Still, as with many government organizations – LCOG is facing challenges. So, I asked, “How does LCOG remain a vibrant, relevant, and sustainable organization in these times?”

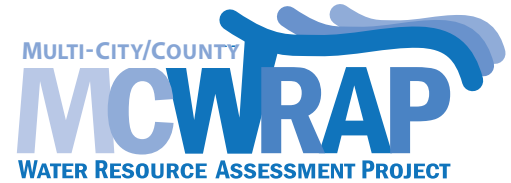
To help answer this question, I set up the LIFT (Leadership Innovation For Transformation) LCOG Project – which will take a look at all of LCOG’s operations to determine what is working, what is not working, and what can and should be changed. The purpose is to refocus LCOG so that we are responsive to our member and stakeholder needs.

Many conversations have already taken place. Ideas about what needs to change and what should stay the same have already been submitted. And questions about how LCOG can become a more vibrant, relevant and sustainable organization are being answered.

While we have hard work ahead of us, LCOG has a lot going for it. We have a strong history of partnership and valuable services provided to our region over many years. We are staffed by impressive and innovative staff with a strong sense of service and a dedication to being creative and collaborative. LCOG is more than ready to take the steps necessary to move forward.

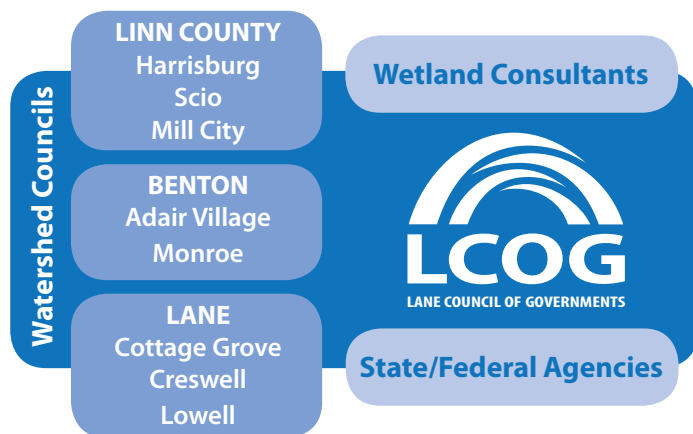
I am looking forward to discussing your ideas and the recommendations that come out of the LIFT effort and to sharing the changes with all of you. So stay tuned and get ready for a new and improved LCOG – ready to better serve our members and our region.

The Multi-City/County Water Resource Assessment Project



Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) coordinated a project for eight rural cities in three counties in the Willamette Valley to prevent impacts on important water resources as growth occurs. The project provides an example of how multiple jurisdictions can work together on a common issue. Working within Oregon’s Land Use framework, this project inventoried, assessed, and prioritized wetland and riparian areas in and around each city. Bringing the cities (and respective counties) together as a team provided increased resources and benefits in a cost effective and coordinated manner. The region now has a growth dynamic that better protects significant natural resources and reflects thorough stakeholder involvement. The combined funds of the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Land Conservation and Development, and local partners supported the work of the project.

LCOG formed a broad partnership of jurisdictions, agencies, and other related organizations. LCOG served as the overall project coordinator facilitating communication, meetings, contracts and being responsible for project deliverables. City, county and agency staff also played an active and vital role in the partnership.



The many benefits to the partners include:

- Met state requirements and gained a vital understanding of important water resources
- Centralized project management, outreach, and mapping functions
- Increased process clarity, insight and positive synergy through collaboration
- Higher levels of local support and transparency
- Better political climate for similar future efforts
- A better foundation for sustained economic and social prosperity through a healthier natural infrastructure
- Coordinated momentum on water resource issues



Project products that may be useful to other cities:

- Outreach materials
- Non-regulatory and incentive program options
- Samples of base maps, 3-D visualization, and local wetland and riparian inventory maps
- Sample Local Wetland and Riparian Area Inventory reports
- Statewide Planning Goals 5 and 6 inventory, assessment, and protection framework
- Lessons from light detection and ranging (LIDAR) technology in wetland and waterway identification.
- Sample findings and staff reports
- Regulatory alternatives and model ordinances

Resources can be found within the Water Resource Policy Action Kit and on the project website at www.lcog.org/southwillamettelwi. For more information, please contact Denise Kalakay, Principal Planner, 541-682-7415 or dkalakay@lcog.org.

LCOG Assists in \$1.3 Million Loan Approval for Hop Valley Brewing Company

Hop Valley Brewing Company was recently approved for a \$1.3 million Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 loan. The loan was a joint effort of West Coast Bank, Lane Council of Governments and Cascades West Financial Services, Inc. and will be used to finance the purchase of machinery and equipment to increase production of an existing brewery that distributes product throughout Lane County and along the I-5 corridor.

The loan will leverage \$1.6 million in private funds from West Coast Bank. In addition, the City of Eugene has approved a \$500,000 loan for permanent working capital funds from their Business Development Fund loan program. This project will create a total of 21 new jobs.

The SBA 504 loan program is designed to assist existing and new businesses with attractive interest rates and loan terms for projects that might not otherwise qualify for conventional bank financing. One of the goals of the SBA program is to attract new jobs and investment into the community or to help save existing jobs.

For more information on this project or other SBA Loans opportunities, please contact Dan Betschart, Loan Officer, at 541-682-3359 or dbetschart@lcog.org.



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LCOG Fiber Grant Work Assists Regional Education System

Work on the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant continued in 2012 with a focus on schools. The capabilities provided by the connections are in the “essential” category for schools today. Testing, communication between students and teachers, and educational content all require these capabilities. The new lines are up to 600 times faster than the prior service.

The grant approach is to fill in gaps in service identified by Lane Education Service District. Many schools in Eugene and Springfield, Creswell, Cottage Grove, and Florence and, in part, Junction City, Pleasant Hill, Fern Ridge, and Lowell were largely served with high speed connections before the grant was prepared. The grant provided funding for these additional connections:

District	Site	Contractors/Partners	Status
Bethel	Fairfield Elementary	EWEB	Complete
	Meadowview School	EWEB	Complete
	Danebo School	EWEB	Complete
	Irving Elementary	EWEB	Complete
	Prairie Mountain School	EWEB	Complete
Eugene 4J	Charlemagne (formerly Fox Hollow Elementary)	EWEB	November 2012
	Coburg Charter	Hunter Communications, Regional Fiber Consortia	Fiber constructed, not yet connected
Springfield	Walterville	EWEB, SUB	Complete
Junction City	High School	Hunter, Monroe Telephone, City of Junction City	November 2012
	Oaklea Middle	As above	November- Service June 2013
	Laurel Elementary	As above	November- Service June 2013
Oakridge	High School	Hunter, Lane Electric Co-op, Regional Fiber Consortia	Fiber constructed, not yet connected
Lane Community College	Wildish Center	C2 Utility Contractors, City of Eugene	Complete

Lane ESD used grants from other sources to fill in gaps in the Fern Ridge School District, and secured funding for wireless connections for Fern Ridge, Junction City, Crow Applegate, and, soon, Marcola schools.

For more information, please contact Dan Mulholland, Telecommunications Manager, at 541-682-4422 or dmulholland@lcog.org.

LCOG worked closely with a Planning Team made up of eight District staff and a Technical Advisory Committee consisting of twelve local experts to develop the plan which was completed in July 2012.

Willamalane Natural Resource Areas Management Plan Completed

Natural resource areas make up a significant portion of Willamalane Park and Recreation District's land base, occurring in 18 of the District's parks, covering nearly 500 acres. Input received during the District's Comprehensive Plan update indicates that Springfield residents highly value these natural areas and desire more opportunities for nature-based recreation. In response, the District's Board made the development of a Natural Resource Areas Management Plan (NRAMP) a high priority. In January 2012, an Intergovernmental Agreement for planning assistance with LCOG was initiated, and work was begun on the development of the NRAMP under the oversight of LCOG landscape architect Jeff Krueger. LCOG worked closely with a Planning Team

made up of eight District staff and a Technical Advisory Committee consisting of twelve local experts to develop the plan which was completed in July 2012.

The NRAMP defines a clear and achievable approach for long-term management of these natural resource areas and provides context for District-owned natural areas in relationship to the larger regional open space system. The plan assessed the quality and potential of each natural resource area and includes goals, objectives, and recommended actions to guide future management

and enhancement. Some examples of District owned natural resource areas include Eastgate Woodland, Dorris Ranch, and Clearwater Park. The NRAMP can be viewed on the District web site under the "Natural Areas" tab at <http://www.willamalane.org/pages/aboutus/future.shtml>.

For more information, please contact Jeff Krueger, Principal Landscape Architect, at 541-682-4122 or jkrueger@lcog.org.



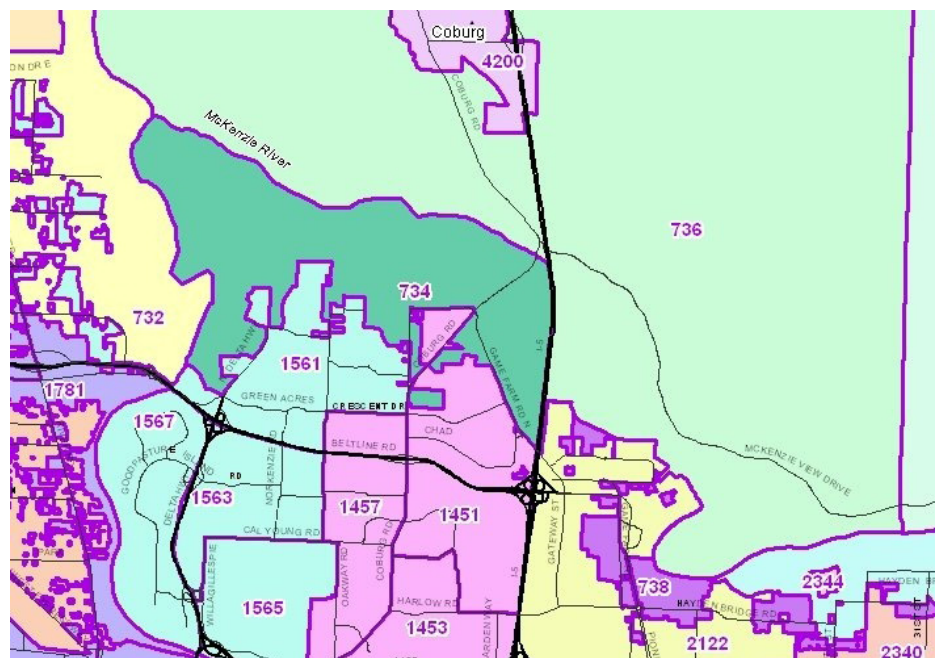
Precincts have also been re-numbered throughout Lane County. For the areas inside the Cities of Eugene and Springfield, precinct identifiers are 4-digit numbers beginning with "1" or "2", respectively, and the second digit of the precinct number corresponds to the City Council Ward. Several of the smaller incorporated cities comprise their own precincts, and those 4-digit precinct numbers begin with the number "4". Precinct numbers in the unincorporated areas are 3-digit numbers beginning with "7".

LCOG Provides Local Redistricting and Elections Support

LCOG GIS staff provided technical support to both Lane County and the City of Springfield for their respective local redistricting processes, and also provided input and consultation in support of local redistricting efforts at the City of Eugene, EPUD, and Lane ESD. Following the official adoption of all of these changes to local voting districts, LCOG then assisted Lane County Elections staff with the formulation of new Election Precincts which accurately reflect the combined results of all of those changes, as well as changes to State Representative and State Senate Districts, which were adopted by the Legislature during 2011.

LCOG has also assisted County Elections staff with the update of voter registration records to reflect all of these new district boundaries and precincts. The Oregon Secretary of State's Office recently developed a new GIS interface for the Oregon Central Voter Registration (OCVR) system, so that voter records can now be processed spatially against a set of GIS polygons that represent all of the unique precinct "splits" which dictate ballot styles throughout the county.

For more information, please contact Bill Clingman at 541-682-4548 or bclingman@lcog.org.



STAFF PROFILE

**Dan Hogue**

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Dan is one of the computer network administrators at LCOG. November 2012 will mark his 18th year.

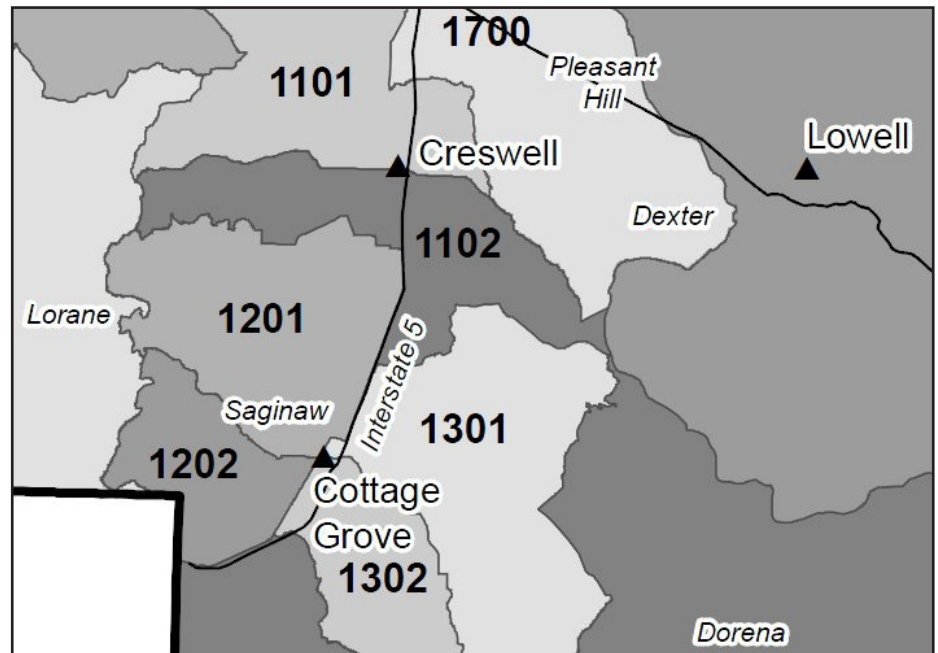
In the day to day network operations of LCOG, Dan's interactions with end users are a big part of what he does. His duties include researching and purchasing all of LCOG's computer equipment, software, servers and a/v equipment. He also assists small cities in Lane County, providing part-time network administration.

Currently, the City of Coburg is using Dan's talents in the capacity of LAN Administrator for city hall and the police department. He also works with LCOG staff ergonomic and other technical needs.

Dan can be reached at 541-682-2476 or dhogue@lco.org.

Census Geographic Programs

Each year, LCOG GIS staff participate in the Census Bureau's annual Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS), which provides updated city limits for use in a number of the Census Bureau's statistical programs. LCOG is the officially designated BAS Respondent for all 12 incorporated cities in Lane County. Because of LCOG's long involvement with BAS and other important Census Bureau geographic programs, such as the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) and the MAF/TIGER Accuracy Improvement Project (MTAIP), our local GIS data have been selected (nationwide) as one of 27 local pilot areas for an early testing phase of the new Geographic Support Systems Initiative (GSSI) now being undertaken by the Census Bureau.



This new initiative, which aims to improve and streamline the way that updates are made to Census' geographic information, is being driven by the fact that the old "long-form" decennial census data have been replaced by estimates produced from the ongoing American Community Survey (ACS). Because those ACS estimates now come out on an annual basis, continuing to map them onto census geographies that have traditionally changed only once each decade is becoming increasingly problematic, and the Census Bureau is exploring ways to make more frequent and incremental updates to their geographic data layers. However, the "short-form" data from the 2010 Census should continue to be mapped onto static 2010 geographies, so end users will now have to contend with having two different sets of "current" Census geography. For more information, please contact Bill Clingman at 541-682-4548 or bclingman@lco.org.

The new websites bring the total number of websites developed and maintained by LCOG for agency programs and LCOG members to over 20.

LCOG Launches New Websites for Members

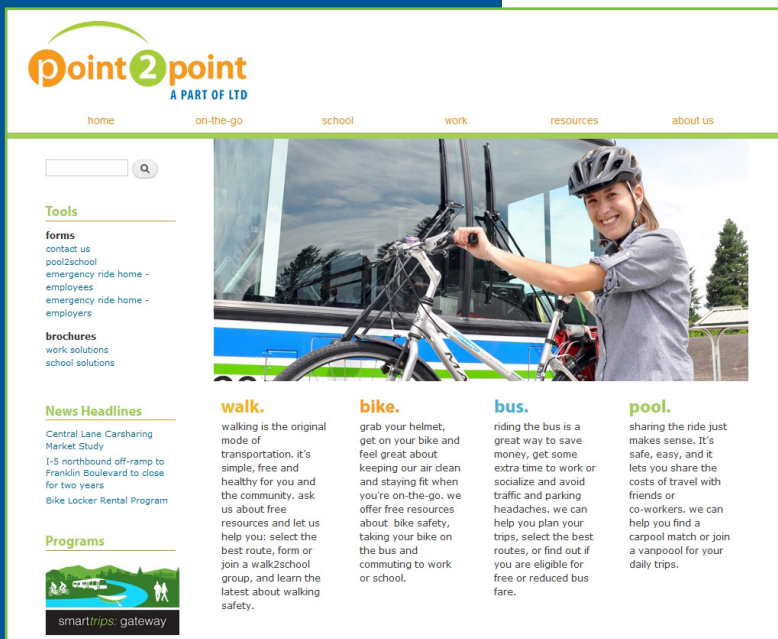
LCOG's Creative Services staff recently completed work on two new websites for partner agencies, launching sites for City of Coburg and LTD's point2point solutions. The sites were both built on a Drupal platform that allows dynamic content and browser-based administration for easy content updates from anywhere.



The City of Coburg website offers streamlined access to city forms, meeting agendas, and other resources for citizens, businesses, and visitors. The new look highlights online services such as online utility bill and court payments.

LTD's new point2point solutions website was completed on time and under budget despite a tight deadline necessitated by a needed move from their webhost. Featured on the new site are online tools to sign up for a number of commuting programs sponsored by LTD.

The new websites bring the total number of websites developed and maintained by LCOG for agency programs and LCOG members to over 20. You can access the new additions at www.coburgoregon.org and www.point2point-solutions.org.



For more information on LCOG's web design and development services, please contact Theron Roe, Senior Webmaster, at 541-682-3895 or troe@lco.org.

STAFF PROFILE



Nancy Sargent-Johnson

COMMUNITY LIAISON AND
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Nancy's career at LCOG began in 2006. She has recently transitioned from her Program Manager position with Senior and Disabled Services to a new role within LCOG. Her focus will be on training.

Prior to her work at LCOG, she was the Director of Nutrition Services for five counties in north central Idaho and the Director of Education and Training in Ontario, Oregon. Nancy also held a position as a corporate human resources director in Idaho. Nancy studied business and gerontology at California State University in Fresno, California.

Nancy also volunteers her time with local veterans programs.

Nancy can be reached at
541-682-3888 or
nsargent-johnson@lco.org.

Age Knows No Limits Project – Solicits Nominations for Honoring Older Americans in Lane County 2013

LCOG's Senior & Disabled Services is one of the members of the Age Knows No Limits Project, an alliance of Lane County programs which serve people age 60 and older. This project celebrates older Americans (in Lane County) for the many ways they contribute to society, the workplace, our communities and our families. During May, Older Americans Month, the Age Knows No Limits Project will recognize several older adults from around the county whose active engagement inspires others and captures the true essence of this year's theme, "Embracing Life".



Six to eight Honorees will be selected during the winter. They will be featured on the 2013 Poster and introduced at a reception on May 23, 2013.

Nominations from the community are being solicited now through December 14, 2012. For more information and nomination materials, please contact Sandy Karsten, Senior Meals Manager, at 541-682-4378 or at skarsten@lco.org.

Quality Child Care of Florence Opens New Child Care and Learning Center

Prior to the opening of the new center, Florence had no child care center providing infant/toddler care and limited preschool-age care.

In 2007, the Florence Area Coordinating Council (FACC) held a community summit where child care for infants and toddlers was identified as a top community priority.

The Quality Child Care of Florence (QCCF) Child Care and Learning Center served its first child on May 7, 2012 and held its Grand Opening June 7, with members of the Florence Chamber of Commerce cutting the ribbon on this community project. QCCF is currently serving 45 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers and has created eight new jobs in Florence. Local contractors were selected to prepare the site, install utilities, and build porches, ramps, and the playground. Prior to the opening of the new center, Florence had no child care center providing infant/toddler care and limited preschool-age care. In 2007, the Florence Area Coordinating Council (FACC) held a community summit where child care for infants and toddlers was identified as a top community priority. Quality Child Care of Florence began as a subcommittee of FACC and in 2009 incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit with the sole purpose of developing and opening a child care center. With support from the Lane County Commission on Children and Families, LCOG staff provided strategic planning and grant writing assistance to help QCCF raise over \$350,000 to purchase a modular child care facility built in Oregon, site it on the grounds of the Siuslaw School District campus by the middle school, furnish and equip the center, and build a playground.

In addition to grant writing support from the Commission on Children and Families and The Ford Family Foundation, major funding for this project came from: Lane County Economic Development Funds, Meyer Memorial Trust, The Collins Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, The Swigert Foundation, Fred Meyer Foundation, Western Lane Community Foundation, Spirit Mountain Community Fund, Siletz Tribal Charitable Contributions Fund, Three Rivers Foundation, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, Rotary Club of Florence,

Kiwanis Club of Florence, Oregon Pacific Bank, SELCO Credit Union, Abbey's Pizza, Ladies of Elk, area churches, and many individual contributors from community members. Many contractors and local businesses contributed time and materials.

For more information on this project or other grant opportunities, please contact Susan Sowards, Principal Planner, at 541-682-7493 or ssowards@lcog.org.



This is a controversial area that has become very litigious, thus it is critical for the county to have accurate data to rely on in processing requests for development.

Soils Data Clear As Mud?

Have you ever tried to wade through the Soil Survey to find just the piece of data you need? Although the Soil Survey is online now, it's still complex and unwieldy—a valuable planning tool, but not very user friendly for non-soil scientists. Lane County planners asked LCOG staff to create an easy-to-use booklet that would be a quick reference for them and consultants to use in gathering soil data and information for planning applications.

Statewide land use planning protects lands for resource uses like farming and forestry. County regulations use soil information to do this. This is a controversial area that has become very litigious, thus it is critical for the county to have accurate data to rely on in processing requests for development. The data can have huge implications on whether a property owner can develop their land.

The previous edition of this booklet had data gaps that didn't explain why a piece of data was missing. Was it "zero" or "not applicable" or just left out? LCOG staff worked closely with county planners to update the Lane County Soil Ratings for Forestry and Agriculture booklet in August 2011 and revised in June 2012. One goal of the update was to fill all the gaps, and it did.

The booklet underwent multiple reviews by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Oregon Departments of Land Conservation and Development, Agriculture, and Forestry to ensure accuracy, consistency, and clarity. It also passed the scrutiny test from consultants and land use attorneys. LCOG met the goal of producing an easy-to-use tool that planners can rely on.

For more information, please contact Kathi Wiederhold, Senior Planner, at 541-682-4430 or kwiederhold@lco.org.



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View the LCOG meeting schedule online at www.lcog.org/calendar.cfm