

# Agenda Item Number 6.

## Comments from the Executive Director

**Presenter:** George Kloeppel

**Action Recommended:** None. Information Only

**Items:**

**1. Board Meeting Schedule**

We are grateful for the Eugene School District's hospitality for this month's Board meeting. The hosting opportunity for our June 22 Board meeting, the last of the fiscal year, has not been claimed as yet. Invitations? Also still available, is the Board's December 14 meeting. Offers??

**2. USDA Funds Augment Business Assistance Program**

Formally authorized by the Executive Committee last week, LCOG has accepted a loan from the US Department of Agriculture to build the capital available within the agency's Intermediary Relending Program (IRP). The award was presented to Mayor Gary Williams and Patrick Lanning by Rep. Peter DeFazio and Mark Simmons of the USDA on April 19. This was the sixth round of funding under this program and will bring the total amount borrowed from the USDA to \$4,878,000. LCOG has managed the IRP since 1995 and has made a total of 73 small business loans, which have led to the creation or retention of 300 jobs in Lane County. The IRP program is available for any small business located outside of the Eugene-Springfield UGB. The USDA loan to the COG carries interest at 1 percent; LCOG is then able to "re-lend" the resources to small businesses at the prime rate—currently 7.75 percent.

**3. Water Trail Dedication**

The Willamette River Water Trail project will have a dedication on June 3, as described in the attached flier.

**4. Upcoming Conferences**

Mayor Williams and George Kloeppe are scheduled to represent LCOG at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) in San Antonio on June 17 through 20. Mayor Williams serves on the board of the Association, representing the regional councils in the Northwest.

While registration details are not yet available, the Summer Conference of the Western COG's group and the West Coast Corridor Coalition (WCC) is scheduled for August 14 – 16 in Portland. The WCC's portion of the agenda is expected to build around the theme of "Railroads' Role in West Coast Freight Movement" and will be coordinated by the Port of Portland.