

MINUTES
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EWEB – Training Room
500 East 4th Avenue - Eugene

February 23, 2006 - 7:00 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove), Chair	Commissioner Anna Morrison (Lane County)
Mayor Sue Bond (Oakridge)	Councilor Gary Papé (Eugene)
Director Sherry Duerst-Higgins (Lane ESD)	Mayor Ron Petitti (Creswell)
Director Keyte Hladky (Fern Ridge Library)	Director Anette Spickard (School District 4J)
Director Greg James (Willamalane)	Mayor Diana Tonkin (Westfir)
Director Susie Johnston (LCC)	Mayor Warren Weathers (Lowell)
Director Al King (School District 19)	Councilor Nola Xavier (Dunes City)
Commissioner Patrick Lanning (EWEB)	

Absent

City of Coburg Representative	Lane Library District Representative
City of Florence Representative	Siuslaw Library District Representative
City of Junction City Representative	EPUD Representative
City of Springfield Representative	Western Lane Ambulance Dist. Representative
City of Veneta Representative	School District 52 (Bethel) Representative
Port of Siuslaw Representative	School District 68 (McKenzie) Representative

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

None

GUESTS

Bobby Green, Steve Recca, Joe Xavier.

LCOG STAFF

George Kloeppe, Steve Dignam, Kay Metzger, Ann Mortenson, Bob Swank, Tom Schwetz,
 Byron Vanderpool

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Chairperson Gary Williams called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors to order at 7:05 p.m. He welcomed Councilor Nola Xavier to her first meeting.

Board Secretary Ann Mortenson called the roll of members. LCOG Executive Director George Kloeppel stated that a quorum was present.

2. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Warren Weathers requested that discussion of the question “Do we have overlapping economic committees in Lane County?” be added to the Agenda. Chairperson Williams determined there was no objection to the request and said it would be considered as part of the Local Government Services Agenda item.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

4. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Williams reported that he had accompanied Executive Director George Kloeppel to a National Association of Regional Councils Conference February 5-7 in Washington D.C.

Mr. Kloeppel referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Report of the Executive Committee.” He noted that it had been distributed at the beginning of the meeting and contained information from Executive Committee meetings held January 19 and February 16.

5. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Chairperson Williams referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Advisory Council Reports.” He noted that it contained reports of activities of the Metropolitan Policy Committee, Senior Services Advisory Council, Disability Services Advisory Council, and Lane Economic Committee.

Commissioner Anna Morrison asked if any advisory council had discussed the impacts of a recent Oregon Supreme Court ruling that Ballot Measure 37 was constitutionally valid. Local Government Services Director Byron Vanderpool reported that LCOG staff had discussed the ruling and concluded that it re-emphasized the value of careful regional planning efforts.

6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Kloeppel referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Comments from the Executive Director” and noted its attachment showing that host agencies for the June 22 and December 14 Board meetings were needed. He also noted from the report the hiring of Marianne

Griffin as LCOG Human Resource Manager and the official transition of Kay Metzger to LCOG Senior and Disabled Services Director.

Mr. Kloeppe commended member agencies with records of having representation at all meetings of the Board of Directors in 2005 – Cottage Grove, Lane County, Lane Education Services District, Lane Community College, and Willamalane.

Director Al King asked if information was available regarding the next reauthorization of the federal Transportation Equity Act (TEA). Mr. Kloeppe replied that planning had begun for the next five-year cycle of the program and that he had difficulty imagining a scenario in which funds would not be appropriated at some level. He said additional information might be forthcoming in the Special Presentation at the end of the meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Williams noted that the Consent Agenda proposed the following:

- A. Acceptance of the Minutes of the December 1, 2005, Meeting
- B. Acceptance of the Executive Committee Recommendation regarding the Second Quarter (July-December) Financial Report
- C. Acceptance of the Executive Committee recommendation regarding the Western Lane Community Foundation grant for Transportation Project

Commissioner Morrison moved, seconded by Commissioner Patrick Lanning, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0.

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES ITEMS

A. Regional Needs and Issues Inventory Process

Loan Program Manager Steve Dignam referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Needs and Issues Inventory Process” and reviewed background information it contained about the LCOG role in the ranking process of public infrastructure and redevelopment projects formerly sponsored by the State of Oregon. He reported that, on encouragement from the Lane Economic Committee, an informal poll had been conducted with area city managers which reflected a view that the process had an economic development value.

Mr. Dignam said his program was prepared to utilize existing EDA funding to enable coordination of a Lane County Needs and Issues Inventory Process in partnership with the Lane Economic Committee. He said the work would:

- Stress the importance of the process to the State of Oregon and advocate for continued State leadership and coordination.
- Develop a low cost and streamlined local model that would focus only on the highest priority economic development projects.
- Investigate the costs to develop a database and an internet based data input mechanism for local implementation.
- Investigate potential funding agents for the process.

Mr. Dignam philosophically observed that if continuing the process produced economic development benefit, much could be gained; but if continuing the process did not produce economic development benefit, not much would be lost.

Director Anette Spickard asked how the process related to the “United Front” lobbying program. Mr. Dignam replied that the Needs and Issues Inventory Process had traditionally involved all public agencies, as opposed to only those in the Springfield/Eugene metropolitan area.

Commissioner Morrison said small cities had ample opportunity to participate in federal funding through various Block Grant programs. She said she had questioned the value of the Needs and Issues Inventory Process in the past because it had produced an unwieldy list of recommendations.

Mr. Dignam said federal development funding resources were currently more limited than in the past, but that they tended to cycle through such periods. He also said some federal programs required that a project be identified on a local prioritization process before it was considered for funding.

Mayor Weathers said the City of Lowell was unable to participate in the United Front program and would likely benefit from continuation of the Needs and Issues Inventory Process. He said he believed its procedures could be improved.

Mr. Dignam suggested that changes to the process could include limiting the number of projects an agency could submit and changing it from an annual listing to one that took place every two or three years.

Councilor Gary Papé said he did not believe continuing the Needs and Issues Inventory Process would be as beneficial to large cities as to other agencies in the County.

Chairperson Williams said he had discussed the value of a Needs and Issues Inventory Process with development officials in Cottage Grove and learned there was a mixed opinion regarding the value of its continuation.

Mayor Sue Bond said she supported evaluation of a locally sponsored Needs and Issues Inventory Process.

Commissioner Morrison said she would support evaluation of a revision of a Needs and Issues Inventory Process, if an element included was determining if funding recipients were given awards because of being identified on such a priority listing. Mr. Dignam said such data would be difficult to obtain from funding sources.

Mayor Ron Petitti said he believed evaluation of a Needs and Issues Inventory Process should produce measurable results and show that monetary benefits off-set any costs incurred.

Mayor Weathers moved, seconded by Director Sherry Duerst-Higgins, (1) to authorize LCOG to continue its role as Regional Coordinating Agency for a Needs and Issues Inventory Process for two years, as outlined in the staff recommendation; and (2) to develop and report on a tool for the measurement of its effectiveness. The motion was adopted, 14:1, with Commissioner Morrison voting no.

B. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Mr. Dignam referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) – Resolution 2006-03.” He noted it provided background for development and approval process of the document.

Commissioner Morrison moved, seconded by Director Greg James, to adopt Resolution No. 2006-03, Adopting the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy/Regional Investment Strategy and transmitting it to the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration for review and approval. The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0.

C. Overlapping Economic Development Advisory Committees

Mayor Weathers said there were three economic development advisory committees in Lane County – Lane Metro Partnership, LCOG’s Lane Economic Committee, and the Economic Development Standing Committee of the Board of County Commissioners. He suggested that combining their overlapping memberships and responsibilities could result in significant savings. He distributed copies of a document that contained a series of questions he said he believed would be helpful in determining if value could be gained from such an effort.

Commissioner Morrison said she participated and received input from each of the committees. She said the Lane Economic Committee had raised a question about the redundancy of groups with economic development interests and that she had found the report of its subcommittee report on the subject to be helpful. She said she believed combining the committees could result in a savings of administrative cost.

Director King said the purpose of Lane Metro Partnership was unique in its efforts to recruit new businesses to the County and to create area job opportunities. He noted that its operation was also different in that it was funded from a combination of private and public resources.

Councilor Papé moved, seconded by Mayor Weathers, to request staff to prepare a report regarding the purpose and effectiveness of Lane Metro Partnership, Lane Economic Committee, and Economic Development Standing Committee of the

Board of County Commissioners, evaluating if there would be value in encouraging their merger. The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0.

Chairperson Williams asked for volunteers to participate with staff in preparing the report. He appointed Mayor Sue Bond, Commissioner Morrison, and Mayor Weathers to serve.

10. SENIOR AND DISABLES SERVICES ITEMS

None.

11. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ITEM

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Structural Change Proposal – Executive Committee and Timing of Elections.” He reviewed background it contained and his Director’s Note regarding expanding the Executive Committee by two members elected from the Board of Directors and changing the date for election of its officers for 2007. He said the proposals were recommended for adoption by the Executive Committee.

Mayor Weather moved, seconded by Commissioner Morrison to adopt Resolution 2006-1 – Modifying Composition and Size of LCOG Executive Committee in 2006. The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0.

Director James nominated Councilor Papé to serve as a member of the 2006 Executive Committee.

Director James nominated Director Spickard to serve as a member of the 2006 Executive Committee.

Chairperson Williams determined there was consensus to close the nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Councilor Papé and Director Spickard.

Director Keyte Hladky moved, seconded by Director James, to adopt Resolution 2006-2 – Modifying Procedure for Officer Elections for 2007. The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0.

Chairperson Williams reminded members that the Board had determined to postpone confirming his appointments to the Executive Committee until the February meeting. He said he had recommended that the Board confirm the currently serving members for 2006:

Anna Morrison – Lane County
 Greg James – Willamalane
 Alan Laisure – School District 52
 Warren Weathers – City of Lowell

Mayor Petitti moved, seconded by Director Laisure, to confirm the appointments of the Chairperson to the Executive Board for 2006. The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

12.A. 2005 Appreciation Dinner, Annual Reports

Chairperson Williams said the Executive Committee had evaluated the 2005 Appreciation Dinner to have been well received.

Mayor Bond said she also felt the event was well planned and executed.

12.B. Department of Human Services Budget Shortfall

Senior and Disabled Services Director Kay Metzger referred to Agenda Support Material entitled "Update on DHS Budget Shortfall: Impact on Senior and Disabled Services" and reviewed information it contained. She said LCOG programs would be negatively affected by recently announced plans to address State funding shortfalls, but that prospects for improvements in the economy and a realization that current services were already at drastically low levels made the Service adopt a "wait and see" posture regarding possible additional cuts.

Members discussed the report.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

**13. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WORK
OF THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Lane County Commissioner Bobby Green said he had been a member of the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) for more than ten years and was currently serving as its Chairperson. He referred to Agenda Support Material entitled "Transportation Planning Work of the MPC" and explained that he had been asked to make a presentation on that topic as the Annual Report of the Committee.

Commissioner Green said the MPC was unable to approve the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) because of a requirement for an affirmative vote of at least one of two elected representatives from Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County. He said it was obvious that the appointment of two representatives from the City of Eugene with similar views regarding the West Eugene Parkway was creating the impasse. He suggested that the appointments ran counter to the generally accepted practice of providing representation to varying points of view. He said he believed there was little prospect of a positive outcome from the "collaborative process" regarding the Parkway proposed by Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy.

Commissioner Green reviewed general purposes of the MPC contained in its bylaws, emphasizing that it had been formed to develop solutions to intergovernmental problems and promote local intergovernmental cooperation. He suggested that the LCOG Board consider how delegation of its Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) transportation planning responsibilities to the MPC affected the current situation.

Director King thanked Commissioner Green for his presentation, saying he believed it was a refreshingly candid look at the situation.

Commissioner Morrison said she had become concerned when MPO transportation responsibilities were shifted to the MPC because decisions about such matters had significant impacts on non-metropolitan areas.

In response to a question from Commissioner Morrison, Transportation Manager Tom Schwetz explained that the “veto power” inherent in the MPO voting process was unique in the State of Oregon.

Mr. Kloeppel reviewed the evolution of the delegation of MPO responsibilities to the MPC. He suggested that the “veto power” had been incorporated to ensure trust among members.

Councilor Papé asked if the LCOG Board could retract its delegation of MPO responsibilities to the MPC. Mr. Kloeppel replied that it would be possible, but that MPO decisions were required to be made by a body with representation from the local transit district and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), which were not members of the Board; and include the chief administrative officers as non-voting *ex-officio* members. He suggested that the requirement could be met by creation of a new special advisory council.

Mr. Vanderpool explained that in making the decisions to delegate MPO responsibilities the Board had considered a number of alternatives, but appeared to have chosen the option to use the MPC because it already included most of the required representatives. Mr. Kloeppel added that the MPC had originally been created by the City of Eugene, City of Springfield, and Lane County.

Director James asked if it would be possible for the Board to change the operating bylaws of the MPO. Commissioner Morrison said the MPC established its own bylaws.

Director James recommended that the Board evaluate the functioning of the MPC in its MPO responsibilities and consider options for withdrawal of the delegation of the responsibilities.

Director Hladky pointed out that even her Fern Ridge Library District was affected by prerequisites overseen by the MPO.

Mayor Weathers said he believed it would be difficult for the LCOG Board to take effective action to overcome the MPC impasse identified by Commissioner Green.

Director King suggested that the current difficulties could best be addressed by the Office of the Oregon Governor. Mr. Schwetz said responsible officials in the Office of the Governor had been made aware of the Lane County situation.

Members discussed the need for action to meet federal transportation requirements, the potential loss of funding for projects, and various proposals for Board involvement.

Chairperson Williams thanked Commissioner Green for his presentation. He suggested that there appeared to be agreement that, if resolution of the impasse was not accomplished, Board action should be considered at a future meeting.

MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)