

MINUTES
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

City of Junction City – City Hall
680 Greenwood Street
Junction City

February 28, 2008 - 7:00 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Director Greg James (Willamalane), Chair	Commissioner Mel Menegat (EWEB)
Mayor Phil Brubaker (Florence)	Councilor Joe Pishioneri (Springfield)
Councilor Darrell Carman (Veneta)	Councilor Chris Pryor (Eugene)
Director Sherry Duerst-Higgins (Lane ESD)	Commissioner Faye Stewart (Lane County)
Mayor Don Hampton (Oakridge)	Councilor Lance Stoddard (Junction City)
Director Al King (School District 19)	Director Jim Torrey (School District 4J)
Director Steve Recca (Fern Ridge Library Dist.)	Mayor Judy Volta (Coburg)
Director Alan Laisure (School District 52)	Mayor Warren Weathers (Lowell)
Director Tony McGown (LCC)	Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove)

Absent

City of Creswell Representative	EPUD Representative
City of Dunes City Representative	Lane Library District Representative
City of Westfir Representative	Port of Siuslaw Representative
School District 68 (McKenzie) Representative	Western Lane Ambulance Dist. Representative
Siuslaw Rural Fire District Representative	

NON-VOTING MEMBER

Mike Dubick (Lane Transit District)

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

None

LCOG STAFF

George Kloeppe, Jamon Kent, Kay Metzger, Bob Swank, Byron Vanderpool

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Chairperson Greg James called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m.

LCOG Executive Director George Kloeppe called the roll of members and stated that a quorum was present.

Junction City City Administrator David Clyne welcomed members of the Board. He described current planning efforts underway to site an Oregon State Prison and State Mental Hospital in Junction City. He reported on efforts of the City to improve its already highly rated trash removal and recycling programs, and the recent re-certification of its Police Department.

2. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mona Lindstromberg, 87140 Territorial Road, Veneta, read a letter to the Board dated February 28, regarding Coordinated Population Projections to be considered later on the Agenda. She contended that proposed Board Resolution 2008-01 was improper because separate projections for the cities of Eugene and Springfield had not been made. She also said projections for small cities were not needed because they had already been made in 2005. She suggested that the projections were “piecemealing” and encouraged unwarranted “rash development” that would have negative consequences. She said collaborative infrastructure development would better meet community and regional needs.

Mia Nelson, 40160 East First Street, Lowell, read a three-page letter dated February 28, which she stated included the positions of two other persons and would take the place of their public testimony: Richard Johnson, 40160 East First Street, Lowell, and Roy Nelson, 40152 East First Street, Lowell. She also submitted a four-page memorandum from Bob Parker and Beth Goodman of ECONorthwest, providing its response to LCOG findings about the evaluation of the population forecast made by ECONorthwest.

Ms. Nelson said she was a developer of residential property in Lowell and that her business could be ruined by an improper population forecast for the area. She said the Board should take no action on the proposed recommendation because the Lane County Board of Commissioners had withdrawn its previous authorization for LCOG to conduct the population projections on February 13, 2008.

Ms. Nelson suggested that LCOG staff had recommended adoption of Resolution 2008-01 without considering her “well-researched and clearly explained” concerns previously submitted in a “20-page footnoted letter with 29 attachments.” She said the Staff Report had not addressed any of her concerns. She said LCOG Staff had also ignored previous submissions by ECONorthwest and Seneca Sawmills.

Ms. Nelson said Lowell political leaders had made “false and derogatory statements” about her and others to influence members of the Board regarding the population projections. She suggested that LCOG Staff had accepted the false statements and did not give fair consideration to her testimony. She also suggested that LCOG Staff had not provided the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development full documentation of her testi-

mony when LCOG had solicited its approval of the methodology used in developing the forecasts.

Ms. Nelson encouraged the Board to make no decision on Resolution 2008-01 and allow the Board of County Commissioners to decide about population projections.

Director Steve Recca stated that the testimony of Ms. Nelson had raised a question for him that he might have a conflict of interest in considering the issue of a population projection in Lowell and that he would not participate in its discussion.

Doug DuPriest, 777 High Street #200, Eugene, stated that he was an attorney appearing on behalf of Shade Tree Properties development company in Lowell. He said LCOG no longer had jurisdiction over population projections based on the February 13 action of the Board of County Commissioners, and that there was no need for the LCOG Staff to continue to recommend that they be approved by the Board.

Mr. DuPriest submitted a revised version of Resolution 2008-01 which eliminated endorsement of the Population Forecasts and changed its referral and recommendation for their “final adoption and use in future land use, transportation and public facility planning,” to referral “for their use in future forecast proceedings.”

COMMITTEE REPORTS

4. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support material entitled “Report of the Executive Committee.” He noted that it included meeting notes of meetings held on January 10, and February 14, 2008.

Chairperson James determined there were no requests or questions about the Report.

5. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support material entitled “Advisory Council Reports.” He noted that it included reports of meetings of the Metropolitan Policy Committee, Lane Economic Committee, Senior Services Advisory Council, and Disability Services Advisory Council.

Chairperson James determined there were no requests or questions about the reports.

6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Kloeppe distributed Agenda Support material entitled “Comments from the Executive Director” and reviewed information it contained about the meeting schedule of the Board of Directors, Ridgeline Open Space Vision, Project Homeless Connect, a document entitled “It’s How We Get There That Matters – A Citizen’s Guide to Transportation Planning,” a “summit” on climate change and global warming issues, and advocacy to the Oregon Legislative Delegation.

Mr. Kloeppel reviewed information included in the material about LCOG Staff Tenure and presented a gift of recognition to Assistant Director Bob Swank for “over 35 years” of service.

BUSINESS ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson James noted that the Consent Agenda included approval of Minutes for the December 13, 2007, meeting; approval of appointments made to the Lane Economic Committee; and approval of appointments made to the Budget Committee.

Councilor Chris Pryor moved, seconded by Mayor Gary Williams, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was adopted unanimously, 18:0.

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None.

9. PLANNING SERVICES

Mr. Swank referred to Agenda Support Material regarding Lane County Coordinated Population Forecasts. He noted that it contained a staff background report and attachments including Resolution 2008-01, copies of a February 14 letter from the Department of Land Conservation and Development, 2007 Oregon Legislative Session House Bill 3436, and a document entitled “Report on Lane County Coordinated Population Forecast – 2030-2035.” He distributed copies of a replacement for Appendix A that corrected 2030 Urban Growth Boundary Population figures for Eugene/Springfield, Cottage Grove, Lowell, and Westfir. He noted that the corrected figures had already been incorporated into Appendix B.

Mr. Swank noted that Resolution 2008-01 did not recommend that the Board of Directors adopt the Population Forecasts, as implied by citizen comments. He also pointed out that the proposed Forecasts had not been devised by LCOG staff, but were the collaborative creation of administrators, staff, and elected officials of the cities within the Urban Growth Boundaries identified.

Director Al King said he believed Resolution 2008-01 was an effort to be helpful to the Board of County Commissioners, not usurp its authority. He said he questioned the Lowell population proposal for 2030 because it was based on an estimate made by City officials and did not use formulas found in other projections.

Councilor Pryor stated that the City Council of Eugene had not officially adopted its proposed population forecast because separating its Urban Growth Boundary from that of Springfield as required by legislation adopted by the 2007 Legislative Session had not yet been completed. He explained that informal Council discussion, however, had appeared to support the proposed projection. He said he was unsure of the legal implication of the adoption of Resolution 2008-01 and that he was inclined to abstain from voting on it until an official opinion was taken, to avoid any possible inference of its official endorsement by his vote.

Commissioner Faye Stewart stated that he had posed a question of the appropriateness of his participating in discussion and voting on Resolution 2008-01 to Lane County Counsel Steve Vorhes, and was informed that it would not likely create any bias for him when he received it as a member of the Board of County Commissioners. He said, however, that he had decided to abstain from voting on the Resolution as a member of the Board of Directors to avoid any possible conflict.

Mayor Warren Weathers said he believed the letter from the Department of Lane Conservation and Development clearly stated that LCOG had conducted its work on the population projections according to accepted standards and that they should be accepted. He said the length and cost of the effort should also be considered in its approval and recommendation.

Mayor Weathers reviewed the experience of Lowell in the 1990s of unexpected growth leading to a development moratorium. He said property owners had been unfairly not allowed to develop property and that the request of the City for a significant increase in its population projection for 2030 was based, in part, on a desire to avoid repeating a similar situation. He said the City needed the larger projection and the growth it would allow to protect its school and low cost housing that was already planned. He said knowledgeable legal and planning advice had recommended that growth was coming and that there was a need to prepare for it.

Mayor Weathers moved, seconded by Mayor Williams, to adopt Resolution 2008-01.

Director Steve Recca stated that he had an actual conflict of interest on the subject of the Resolution and would not vote on the motion.

Councilor Joe Pishioneri stated that he was unsure if the Springfield City Council had dealt with the matter of population projections and because he had not attended the December meeting of the Board of Directors he did not feel prepared to vote on the motion.

Mayor Williams stated that the projections for Springfield were exactly the same as had been adopted in 2005.

Mr. Kloeppel said it was clear that approval of the population projections was in the province of the Board of County Commissioners, but that he believed it was also important for the Board of Directors to acknowledge the months of work and cost invested in it by LCOG by adopting the Resolution. He said it would bring closure to the mandate to do the projection work given to LCOG in 1972. He suggested there was a need to put the issue "to rest" with or without endorsement by the Board.

Mayor Phil Brubaker said the City Council of Florence had approved the population forecast included in the proposal. He asked if the four cities which had asked for the revisions had acted on the proposed changes.

Director King said adoption of the Resolution would clearly identify the source of the information provided in the study and ensure that LCOG role in its development was shown. He said no harm could come from the projections and they would provide important data for city and county planning.

Councilor Darrell Carman said the City of Veneta needed the population projections to make its current planning processes viable.

Mayor Judy Volta said the population projection issues illustrated the vulnerability of small communities. She said without official recognition of the growth projected for Coburg, it could easily lose its elementary school, the center of its community.

Director Alan Laisure left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Director Jim Torrey said he believed the LCOG Board had a responsibility to forward the population projections to the Board of County Commissioners as its best effort, even if the County Board of Commissioners did not accept them. He said the loss of the Coburg School could result from the 4J School District not understanding its projected growth.

Councilor Pryor said he did not want his abstaining from voting to be misunderstood as not approving the quality of the LCOG work on the population projections.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2008-01 was adopted, 11:1:4:1, with Director Sherri Duerst-Higgins voting no; Mayor Don Hampton, Councilors Pishioneri and Pryor, and Commissioner Stewart abstaining from voting; Director Recca not participating; and Director Laisure having left the meeting.

10. SENIOR AND DISABLES SERVICES ITEMS

None.

11. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ITEM

Mr. Swank referred to Agenda support material entitled “Real Estate Purchase and Re-model.” He reviewed information it contained regarding the LCOG purchase of the Park Place Building, formerly known as the Aster Building. He explained remodeling work to be completed, and progress being made in finding a replacement tenant for the current lease in the Wells Fargo Building. He estimated that a move of LCOG offices to the Park Building could take place by September.

INFORMATION ITEMS

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Mid-Year Financial Report

Mr. Kloepfel referred to Agenda support material entitled “Second Quarter Financial Report” and reviewed information in it that compared the actual cost experience of LCOG to the fiscal year 2007-2008 Budget. He explained that revenue midway through the year exceeded expenses by 45% mostly because of real estate loan refinancing, staff costs were at 48% of the Budget, and the Capital Outlay Budget line was 348% of the Budget as a result of improvements made in the Springfield building and acquiring of a new delivery vehicle for the Senior Meals Program.

B. Regional Investment Board

Mayor Hampton reported that the Oregon Legislature's Ways and Means Committee had held a hearing regarding continued funding of the Regional Investment Board program. He said the Committee had received a report, gave approval for expending its budget for the current fiscal year, but offered no prospect for it to receive additional funding.

Mayor Hampton commented that he did not believe it wise to curtail the Regional Investment Board program. He explained that it was counter-intuitive for the State to rely on the Income Tax for its main source of revenue while, at the same time, not to support a program that encourages job development.

C. Ridgeline Open Space Vision

Mr. Kloepfel referred to Agenda support material regarding the Ridgeline Open Space Vision. He explained that the Vision was a conceptual framework for future open space and recreation planning efforts that was developed under the leadership of LCOG Senior Landscape Architect Jeff Krueger. He highlighted the draft Vision Map that was attached and noted that the Action Plan had been endorsed by 12 conservation and recreation agencies.

D. Legislative Dialogue Report

Senior and Disabled Services Director Kay Metzger referred to Agenda support material entitled "Senior and Disabled Service Legislative Dialogue." She explained that the material described a meeting of nine state elected officials representing Lane County with the Senior and Disabled Advocacy Committee on January 26. She said the event appeared to be well received and was considered valuable to all who attended.

Councilor Pishioneri asked how Senior and Disabled Services would be affected by anticipated cuts in the Lane County budget. Ms. Metzger replied that approximately \$75,000 was currently received from the Lane County General Fund. Commissioner Stewart stated that he was not privy to information about how General Fund cuts would be made in program support provided by individual County Departments. He said Senior and Disabled Services support was provided through the Health and Human Services Department budget.

E. Area Plan Public Hearing

Ms. Metzger referred to Agenda support material entitled "Senior and Disabled Services Area Plan Public Hearing." She explained that a Senior and Disabled Services would develop an Area Plan regarding the use of Older Americans Act funds following a series of public hearings. She said the proposed plan would be presented to the LCOG Board for final approval at its next scheduled meeting.

MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Chairperson James reviewed a previous Board practice of receiving and discussing reports of member agencies of issues, opportunities, and concerns. He said the Executive Committee would like feedback from the Board about whether it would be positive to reinstitute the practice.

Members discussed the proposal:

- Favor, if kept brief (*Volta*)
- Would want to hear highlights of what was happening (*King*)
- Perhaps encourage identification in advance of meeting that have something to share (*Carman*)
- Most helpful if limited to concerns of multi-jurisdictional or regional significance (*James*)
- Recall that it took a long time (*Pryor*)
- Issues significant to school district would be helpful (*Torrey*)
- Better early than late in meeting (*Dubick*)
- Appreciate hearing the experiences of others (*Weathers*)
- This type of sharing is happening in the meetings of mayors (*Hampton*)
- Suggest identifying a topic for discussion in advance (*Pishioneri*)
- Brief and early in meeting (*James*)

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

13. Planning for the Year Ahead

Regional Technology Services Director Byron Vanderpool invited members to share regional issues that could be developed into presentations for discussion at meetings of the Board of Directors. Suggestions included:

- o Loss of timber revenue affect on cities (*Pishioneri*)
- o Lane County's position as largest population area in the State that lacks library services (*Recca*)
- o Significance of electronic books open source software (*Recca*)
- o Advocacy for schools (*King*)
- o Access to Eugene/Springfield, especially issues and opportunities raised by the new Interstate 5 bridge over the Willamette/McKenzie Rivers (*King*)
- o After school activities for youth (*James*)
- o Transportation funding (*Pryor*)
- o Public Safety (*Pryor*)

- Land use coordination (*Pryor*)
- Pre-Legislative Session discussion with area representatives (*Williams*)
- Regional importance of the lack of State Certified Industrial Land Sites (*Stewart*)
- Transportation funding (*Volta*)
- Finite resources of smaller communities with needs for planning and public safety services (*Volta*)
- Traffic impacts on Beltline of development of State facilities in Junction City (*Torrey*)
- Regional health care issues (*McGown*)
- Region 2050 Use/Review (*Hampton*)
- Gasoline tax (*Hampton*)
- Transportation (*Carman*)
- Water supply (*Carman*)
- Homeless teens (*Duerst-Higgins*)
- Health care availability (*Duerst-Higgins*)
- Regional water supply – conservation, climate change planning (*Menegat*)
- Public safety (*Stoddard*)
- Gas tax (*Stoddard*)
- Investigate opportunities to deal with lost revenue or expand tax base (*Weathers*)
- Prioritization of topic suggestions (*Brubaker*)
- Transportation planning (*Dubick*)
- How to encourage alternative energy use in new developments (*Dubick*)

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)