

MINUTES
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Creswell Community Center
99 South First
Creswell, Oregon

March 20, 2003 - 7:00 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Director Jerry Miller (Lane ESD), Chair
Mayor Mike Dean (Coburg)
Commissioner Richard Eymann (EPUD)
Mayor Don Hampton (Oakridge)
Director Judy Hayes-Ebert (Fern Ridge Library District)
Director Greg James (Willamalane)
Director Al King (School District 19)
Commissioner Patrick Lanning (EWEB)

Mayor Sid Leiken (Springfield)
Commissioner Anna Morrison (Lane County)
Mayor Ron Petitti (Creswell)
Councilor George Poling (Eugene)
Director Dennis Shine (LCC)
Mayor Warren Weathers (Lowell)
Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove)
Councilor Julie Weisberger (Veneta)

Absent

Mayor Alan Burns (Florence)
Councilor Dwight Coon (Junction City)
Commissioner Bill Dwyer (Lane County)
Director Alan Laisure (School District 52)
Councilor Robert Petersdorf (Dunes City)
Director Chris Pryor (School District 4J)

Mayor Diana Tonkin (Westfir)
Commissioner Lynette Wikstrom-Smith (Port of Siuslaw)
Director Dick Whitmore (Western Lane Ambulance District)
Director Sandi Young (Siuslaw Public Library)

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

None

GUESTS

Herb Ball, Bob Keefer, Jack Minter, Faye Stewart, Bill Tanner, Fred Welding

LCOG STAFF

George Kloeppe, Steve Dignam, Jamon Kent, Janet Minter, Ted Stevens, Bob Swank, Byron Vanderpool

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Chairperson Jerry Miller called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors to order at 7:05 p.m.

LCOG staff Janet Minter called the roll of members. LCOG Executive Director George Kloeppele stated that a quorum was present.

Mayor Ron Petitti welcomed members to the City of Creswell.

2. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairperson Miller noted that the Consent Calendar contained approval of the minutes of the February 27, 2003, meeting of the Board of Directors.

MOTION: *Commissioner Anna Morrison moved, seconded by Mayor Gary Williams, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0.*

COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Miller reported that there had not been a meeting of the Executive Committee in March.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Kloeppele referred to Agenda Support Material entitled "Comments from the Executive Director." He reviewed information it contained, as follows:

- There is a revised meeting schedule.
- Mr. Kloeppele attended the Washington Policy Conference of the National Association of Regional Councils and Executive Directors Committee.
- LCOG will assist Lane County, Springfield and Eugene in developing a "street centerline layer" Geographic Information System (GIS) Regional Land Information Data System (RLID).

Commissioner Morrison requested information about management of funding for the centerline project. LCOG Local Government Services Director Byron Vanderpool stated that he would research and provide the information

7. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Small Business Loan Program Manager Steve Dignam described the business assistance and government economic development activities coordinated by LCOG.

Mr. Dignam explained project financing programs – loan application facilitation, Needs and Issues Priority process, and the Regional Investment Board. He explained Regional Coordination programs – Lane Economic Committee and Regional Investment Building. He explained Capacity Building programs – Target Industry Studies, Telecommunication, Industrial and Commercial Lands Assessment, Regional Land Information Database, Brownfields Re-development, and Partnering for Success.

Commissioner Morrison said she was aware of discrepancies between the LCOG land studies, records of the Lane County Assessor, and studies conducted by the State of Oregon. She said it would be important to have coordination between the various information resources.

Director Dennis Shine reported on his attendance of a meeting of a Cascades West Region economic development board. He also suggested that recently received reports of city economic development efforts made at meetings of the Lane Economic Committee would be of interest to members of the Board.

Mayor Sid Leiken reported that the City of Springfield had determined that its Campus Industrial zone specifications were inadequate to the current needs of industry expressing interest in locating in such areas. He said a committee was being formed to recommend revisions and that the work was an element of the Regional Land Information Database.

Mr. Dignam distributed copies of a document that identified LCOG-facilitated Small Business Loans in Lane County cities.

BUSINESS ITEMS

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

None.

10. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES

A. 2003-04 Component to Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services

Senior and Disabled Services Director Ted Stevens referred to Agenda Support Material 10.A and reviewed information it contained regarding development of the 2003-04 Component to LCOG's 2003-07 Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services. He noted that a Summary Document describing the proposed plan was distributed with the agenda of the meeting. He reported that the Senior Services Advisory Council and Disability Services Advisory Council had reviewed the plan and recommended its approval.

Members discussed the proposed plan and its budget.

MOTION: *Director Al King moved, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to adopt the 2003-04 Component of the 2003-07 Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services for Lane County, as set forth in the Summary Document, and authorize its submission to the Oregon Department of Human Services. The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0.*

B. Plan to Terminate Oregon Project Independence Services

Mr. Stevens referred to Agenda Support Material 10.B and reviewed information it contained regarding reductions required in the Oregon Project Independence (OPI) program managed by LCOG. He explained that the program provided in-home services to older persons not eligible for Medicaid at risk of being placed in a long-term care facility. He reviewed the proposed plan for terminating services to Lane County residents, as follows:

1. Effective May 1, 2003, LCOG will limit Home and Personal Care services to eligible individuals who are assessed at Survival Priority Levels 1-14. (Services to clients at Levels 15-18 will be terminated at the end of April.)
2. Preliminary notices will be sent to clients assessed at Levels 15-18 early in March, alerting them to the possibility that their Home and Personal Care services will be terminated at the end of April.
3. If there is no restoration of OPI funds by the Legislature by the end of March, formal termination notices to clients assessed at Levels 15-18. The notices will contain the following information:
 - a. that OPI services will terminate at the end of April 2003.
 - b. that there are informal and formal appeal rights.
 - c. that re-assessment of Survival Priority Levels can be requested prior to May 1, 2003.

4. If it is known that further reductions are needed to avoid a deficit in the current year's budget by the end of April, Senior and Disabled Services and LCOG staff will be authorized to reduce services to clients assessed at lower levels on a level-by-level basis, following the procedures in paragraphs #1 and #3.

Mr. Stevens reported that the Senior Services Advisory Council and Disability Services Advisory Council had reviewed the plan and recommended its approval.

Mayor Warren Weathers asked if it would be possible for city representatives to be informed of residents whose OPI services were terminated. Mr. Stevens replied that confidentiality restrictions would likely prohibit sharing such information, but that it would be possible for the residents to be informed of the availability of services from cities. He said he could also report the number of persons in each city that would have OPI services terminated.

Commissioner Morrison said she was concerned that if cities provided services similar to those of OPI, it would set a negative precedent of local governments assuming responsibilities of the State of Oregon.

Director Shine asked if staff would assist terminated OPI clients to determine alternatives. Mr. Stevens replied that terminated clients would be given assistance in finding resources. He said he believed a certain percentage of such clients could be reassessed at a higher Survival Priority Level and be able to continue receiving services. He added that staff members were experienced in such processes, since they had been forced to terminate 1,200 persons from other State programs, some more needy than those being affected by OPI termination.

Director King said he believed suggesting that a city could take on responsibility for terminated OPI clients would inappropriately raise false hopes.

Mayor Weathers explained that the City of Lowell had received a Ford Family Foundation grant that could be used to organize volunteers to provide services for seniors and disabled persons.

Commissioner Morrison said that, without cash distributions, she had no concern about setting a negative precedent of cities assuming State responsibilities.

Councilor Julie Weisburger said she was familiar with the successful "Elder Help" program that she believed could serve as a model for a program such as suggested by Mayor Weathers.

Mayor Dean said he would appreciate receiving a report of the number of persons terminated from State services living in Coburg. He also said he agreed with warnings expressed about cities taking on responsibilities of the State.

Mayor Williams said he would reluctantly support the plan proposed for implementing the OPI cuts, but that he believed it also would be important to seek to influence legislators to balance State Budget deficits with reductions in different programs.

Mayor Don Hampton said he also would reluctantly support the plan because he believed OPI was a cost effective way of providing services to needy seniors.

Mr. Kloeppel reported that both the Senior and Disability Advisory Councils were in regular contact with the Lane County State Legislative Delegation. He said he was certain the issue of OPI terminations would be presented in the next contact session held. He also suggested that expressing concern to legislators by e-mail was effective.

MOTION: *Mayor Hampton moved, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, (1) to approve the proposed plan to terminate services to Oregon Project Independence clients and authorize its implementation; and (2) to contact Lane County State Legislators, expressing the belief that reducing Oregon Project Independence services is not cost effective management of State funds, and urging them to determine alternative budget decreases. The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0.*

11. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

A. Budget Committee Appointments

Chairperson Miller referred to Agenda Support Material 11.A. He announced that it was his intention to appoint Bob Doppelt to a three-year term as a citizen member of the LCOG Budget Committee; and to appoint Patrick Lanning, Chris Pryor, and Warren Weathers to one-year terms as Board members of the 2003 LCOG Budget Committee.

In response to a question, Chairperson Miller said that he was not recommending Mr. Doppelt because of dissatisfaction with the contributions of the current member who had applied for re-appointment. He said there had been an excellent slate of applicants and that he believed it was positive to “spread around” the representation on the committee.

Commissioner Morrison asked if there was ever a problem of a Budget Committee member being associated with an organization that received contracts or grant through LCOG. Mr. Kloeppel replied that he was not aware of any such conflict of interest ever occurring.

MOTION: *Mayor Williams moved, seconded by Director Greg James, to confirm the appointment to the 2003 Budget Committee recommended by Chairperson Miller. The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0.*

B. Revised Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Budget Resolution

Mr. Kloepfel referred to Agenda Support Material 11.B and reviewed background information it contained.

Mr. Kloepfel reviewed the Executive Directors Comment and Recommendation section of a document entitled "Lane Council of Governments Revised 2003-2003 Budget" distributed with the agenda of the meeting. He said the budget revision recommendations were based on "likely good estimates," but that it was a "fluid time" for public agency funding and additional changes might be needed.

Director King asked if the Budget Committee had been consulted in development of the proposed budget revisions. Mr. Kloepfel replied that its members had not been involved because the changes were mostly of a "housekeeping" nature and involved reductions required by lowered revenue expectations.

Director King said he believed it would be reassuring to know that representatives of the Board of Directors had "signed off" on the recommendations.

Mr. Kloepfel said the budget revisions had been developed following procedures of Oregon statutes. He said requirements for public involvement in budget management were less stringent for intergovernmental councils than they were for general-purpose government jurisdictions. He also said he would follow the direction of the Board regarding the recommendations.

Associate Director Bob Swank stated that there were no recommendations regarding the use of discretionary funds in the budget revision proposal

Director King said he continued to believe the topic of including the Budget Committee in development of budget revision proposals was worthy of further discussion.

MOTION: *Commissioner Morrison moved, seconded by Director Patrick Lanning, to approve Resolution 2003-1, Revising the FY 2002-2003 Budget. The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0.*

MEMBER AGENCY AND ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Chairperson Miller noted that supplemental Agenda Support Material 12, reporting on the activities of the Metropolitan Policy Committee, had been distributed at the beginning of the meeting.

13. REPORTS OF STATE AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

None.

14. REPORTS OF MEMBER AGENCIES

Mayor Dean reported that Coburg had received a Ford Family Foundation Grant to support its elementary school during the time of transition in its population base. He also reported that the first stages of the Coburg Periodic Review process were nearing completion and that the City Council was scheduled to adopt its Vision Statement in June. He said negotiations for siting a new municipal wastewater treatment facility had been completed. He said he feared the 105,000-pound weight limit on Interstate Highway bridges could be lowered in the near future and that a substantial increase in the number of oversize trucks forced to detour through Coburg would result.

Director Judy Hayes-Ebbert reported that the Fern Ridge Library District was finishing its expenditure of a Gates Foundation Grant. She described technology hardware equipment and software for which it was being used.

Director Richard Eymann reported that “everything was beautiful” in the Emerald People’s Utility District (EPUD). He reviewed its expansion of service into Linn County and an increase in the ratio of women to men on the board of commissioners. He said consideration was being given to adding wind generated electrical power to the District’s power mixture.

Commissioner Morrison reported that the recently completed United Front lobbying trip to Washington DC had been successful. She said Lane County had begun its budget planning process with the knowledge that it would likely have to correct a \$4.5 million shortfall. She said a majority of the deficit resulted from increased costs for Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) contributions and other personnel benefits. She said legislation correcting problems associated with PERS were being considered in the 2003 State Legislative Session, but she had been informed that other legislation being introduced could create increased local government costs in other areas.

Councilor Poling reported that the Eugene City Council was on its spring recess. He said the newly hired City Manager would be “on the job” in mid-April and that the budget was the first issue he would lead the Council through on its return. He said discussing the reorganization of Urban Renewal Districts was also on the agenda of Council concerns.

Mayor Leiken reported that Springfield was completing its Comprehensive Plan with a great deal of public involvement. He said the “Mill Race and Pond Project” was becoming a significant feature of the community. He reported that construction of the city’s new skateboard park was nearing completion. He said a portion of the funding for the project had come from the Tony Hawk Foundation. He said professional skateboarder Hawk had agreed to be present at the dedication of the park.

Director King reported that he had represented the Springfield School District 19 on the recent United Front trip to Washington DC. He said the District Board of Education’s backlog of issues, included adoption of a budget and resolving boundary issues.

Commissioner Lanning reported that the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) had determined that contemplated rate increases would be postponed until fall when the Bonne-

ville Power Administration would increase the price of power it supplied. He said surveys indicated that the public supported EWEB's tier rate system. He said work on a McKenzie River water project had been postponed to enable additional community involvement. He said Board members were receiving citizen complaints about Contributions in Lieu of Taxes (CILT) made to cities and school districts increasing utility rates.

Director Shine distributed copies of a document entitled "What Legislators Should Know About Lane Community College." He expressed appreciation to Commissioner Lanning and Director Chris Pryor for their service on a college advisory committee. He reported that tuition would be raised by \$2.50/unit in the spring quarter, that budget hearings would begin in April, that consideration was being given to covering unfunded PERS obligations with the sale of bonds, and that professional training programs were being maintained in the face of increasing course reductions. He reported that U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio was sponsoring economic stimulus legislation, HR 396, "The Emergency Anti-Recession Act of 2003." He said the act would extend unemployment benefits to the long-term unemployed, provide a one-time payroll tax holiday for workers and employers, help states close budget gaps with a federal revenue sharing program, and make substantial investment in repairing deteriorating infrastructure.

Councilor Weisburger reported that the Veneta City Council was forced to deal with a request from the newly established Bliss Steakhouse and Sports Bar for gaming permits with the realization that there were no provisions for any such controls in municipal statutes. She described construction of a 48-unit housing development, creation of a new frontage road, and dedication of a new bridge giving additional traffic access to the state highway from the downtown area.

Mayor Weathers reported that the new Lowell sewer plan had been put out to bid. He said enrollment in city schools had increased by 12 percent and that the Girls High School basketball team had finished the season ranked third in the state.

Mayor Hampton reported that Oakridge was developing ordinances to improve air quality, provide tobacco-licensing suspensions for selling to minors, and the use of alcohol on city property. He said local businesses were expanding, community festivals were being prepared, and public bus transportation had begun. He described goal-setting work by the City Council and said the city's challenge of the 2000 census had been accepted, but without any change being made to the population count.

Mayor Williams reported that construction of the new Cottage Grove High School would be completed in time for its use in the fall term. He said he had met with the Oregon Governor to support funding for the Relief Nursery and local control issues related to the Public Safety Answering Point consolidation. He encouraged support for the repeal of statutes adopted in 2001 requiring each county to have a single answering point.

Mayor Petitti reported that the Creswell Dewey Decimal Days celebration had been a success. He described a municipal wastewater system upgrade and water analyses being prepared.

Chairperson Miller reported that the Lane Education Services District had reached agreement with 16 school districts in the county for services to be provided in the coming year. He said a \$2.5 million budget shortfall would likely require reduction of services and staff cuts.

INFORMATION ITEMS

15. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

A. Public Safety Coordinating Council Final Report

LCOG contractor Jamon Kent referred to Agenda Support Material 15.A entitled “Final Report and Recommendations Regarding the Future of the Lane County Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC).” He stated that he had accepted a LCOG contract to prepare the report and recommendations by March 31. He summarized sections of the report entitled “History of Intergovernmental Coordination in Lane County,” “PSCC Management and Staff Support,” and “PSCC Accomplishments 1995-2003.”

Mr. Kent reviewed recommendations for the future of the PSCC included in the report, as follows:

1. Local jurisdictions continue partnership agreements, within the PSCC, to ensure that available resources are invested in cost-effective programs.
2. The PSCC continue to be the forum for the coordination of local criminal justice policy among affected criminal justice entities.
3. The PSCC reduce its membership to the statutory requirements, in addition to the members listed on the current Policy Committee, and either disband the current PSCC, or use it as a PSCC Advisory Committee that meets quarterly.
4. The PSCC continue to include representatives from the Cities of Eugene and Springfield.
5. The work of the PSCC be managed closely by the staff and chair to assure that all work remains focused on assigned projects.
6. The PSCC have at least two, but no more than three, standing committees, including an adult corrections/police services committee, a juvenile justice/prevention committee, and, if approved, a PSCC Advisory Committee.
7. PSCC staff be selected from an organization that is not directly affiliated only with Lane County, Eugene, or Springfield governments.
8. Funding for 1.7 full-time-equivalency (FTE) staff be provided to coordinate the continuation of the work of the PSCC.

9. A means should be provided for jurisdictions to formally meet, with staff support, if the current PSCC configuration changes.

Mr. Kent distributed copies of a document entitled “PSCC Task Force – Recommendations” that he said had been prepared by an *ad hoc* committee appointed by the PSCC Chairperson. He said the committee had met independently, but reached conclusions and made recommendations similar to his own.

Mr. Kent concluded his report saying the LCOG representatives had done excellent work supporting public safety concerns in its contract to staff PSCC work. He said it appeared to be an appropriate time for a change. He said he was convinced it was important to continue public safety collaboration.

Commissioner Morrison expressed appreciation to Mr. Kent for his report. She said it made it possible to piece together the many elements of LCOG’s relationship to the PSCC.

Mayor Leiken said he also appreciated the report and especially the straight answers provided by Mr. Kent.

Mayor Weathers said he appreciated the helpful style in which the report was presented. He said he also appreciated the work of other LCOG staff supporting the PSCC.

16. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES

A. Update on Cuts to Senior and Disabled Services

Mr. Stevens reported that it was positive that the Oregon Legislative Session had determined to fund Senior and Disabled Service enabling continuation of Medicaid services to Survival Priority Levels 10 and 11. He said it had also been decided to continue current payment rates to long-term care facilities.

Mr. Stevens reported that it was negative that the Oregon Legislative Session had determined to reduce Oregon Health Plan coverage, affecting 1,020 Lane County residents on April 1. He said it had also been decided no longer to provide prescription drug benefits for many unable to pay for them, putting many at risk of life and antisocial behavior.

Mr. Kloepfel expressed appreciation for the efforts of Senior and Disabled Services staff to assist clients affected by reductions in State support for healthcare. He reported that many had taken leaves without pay and been involved in raising \$100,000 to continue various programs.

17. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)