

MINUTES
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eugene Water & Electric Board
Commissioners Board Room
500 East 4th Avenue
Eugene

April 24, 2003 - 7:00 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Director Jerry Miller (Lane ESD), Chair
Councilor Dwight Coon (Junction City)
Commissioner Bill Dwyer (Lane County)
Councilor Marion Esty (Veneta)
Commissioner Richard Eymann (EPUD)
Mayor Don Hampton (Oakridge)
Director Greg James (Willamalane)
Director Alan Laisure (School District 52)
Commissioner Anna Morrison (Lane County)
Councilor Susie Navetta (Dunes City)

Commissioner Patrick Lanning (EWEB)
Mayor Ron Petitti (Creswell)
Director Chris Pryor (School District 4J)
Director Dennis Shine (LCC)
Mayor Jim Torrey (Eugene)
Director Georgia Varozza (Fern Ridge Library
District)
Director Sandi Young (Siuslaw Public Li-
brary)

Absent

Mayor Alan Burns (Florence)
Mayor Mike Dean (Coburg)
Director Al King (School District 19)
Mayor Sid Leiken (Springfield)
Mayor Warren Weathers (Lowell)
Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove)

Commissioner Lynette Wikstrom-Smith
(Port of Siuslaw)
Mayor Diana Tonkin (Westfir)
Director Dick Whitmore (Western Lane
Ambulance District)
Representative from School District 68

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

None

GUESTS

Juanita Eymann, Jack Minter, Mary Murdock, Chris Watche, Connie Williams, Fred Welding

LCOG STAFF

George Kloeppe, Steve Gordon, Sandy Karsten, Jamon Kent, Janet Minter, Christine Puetz, Ted Stevens, Bob Swank, Tom Schwetz, 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 7:00 p.m.

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

Commissioner Patrick Lanning welcomed members to Eugene Water & Electric Board.

2. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Don Hampton requested that discussion of a request from the Lane Economic Committee be added to the agenda.

Chairperson Miller determined that there was no objection to the request and stated that the discussion would be added as part of the Local Government Services agenda item.

Commissioner Bill Dwyer reported that he would be required to leave the meeting early.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairperson Miller noted that the Consent Calendar contained approval of the minutes of the March 20, 2003, meeting.

MOTION: *Commissioner Anna Morrison moved, seconded by Councilor Dwight Coon, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0, with representatives of the Fern Ridge and Siuslaw Library Districts sharing a single vote.*

COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Miller reported that the Executive Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Board. He also reported that a letter had been sent to Lane County State Legislators regarding reductions to Oregon Project Independence services, as requested. He said Representative Tony Corcoran had replied, stating he was opposed to the cuts.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

- The Board will meet at the Bethel School District on May 22.
- LCOG program services that will not be provided in the next year include Oregon Project Independence, Public Safety Coordinating Council, payroll and benefits management for the Friends of the Lane County Historical Museum, and non-metrocable franchise administration.
- Publication of the LCOG newsletter will be reduced to three times a year, from six.
- The Western Council on Government’s Conference will be held at Mount Bachelor Village Resort in Bend August 19-22, 2003.
- The federal Department of Transportation will conduct a certification review of LCOG’s Transportation Management Area planning processes May 7-9.
- Elimination of 30 Senior and Disabled Services staff positions will be required by anticipated State of Oregon funding cuts. Unemployment self-insurance reserves will not likely be adequate to cover obligations created by the reductions

7. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

None

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

A. Smart Ways to School Project

Transportation and Public Infrastructure Program Manager Tom Schwetz referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Smart Ways to School Project” and described the proposed public/private partnership to reduce energy consumption associated with children’s school commutes. He explained that the project would be funded with a grant from the Oregon Department of Energy and managed by staff of the Commuter Solutions Program of the Transportation Demand Management program housed at Lane Transit District (LTD).

Mr. Schwetz reviewed school-based, school-neighborhood, and regional-level elements of the proposed project. He said the project would last for two-years. He noted that the full project proposal and a sample letter proposed to be submitted indicating LCOG support were distributed with the Agenda Support material.

Commissioner Morrison asked how impacts of the proposed project would be monitored and measured. LTD Commuter Solutions Program Manager Connie Williams replied that a part-time staff person would provide and help implement a menu of transportation programs aimed at reducing vehicle miles traveled and fuel consumption in targeted schools. She said the coordinator would help establish a Regional School Transportation Task Force and Smart Ways Transportation Teams in participating schools. She explained that research and evaluation of the project would be the responsibility of Commuter Solutions and Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority (LRAPA).

Commissioner Dwyer asked if pre- and post-project testing of air quality would be included in its evaluation. Ms. Williams replied that LRAPA would be establishing air quality monitoring stations in connection with the project.

Director Chris Pryor said he was concerned that the project could have minimal influence, but that he believed the effort should be made. He reported that school districts had been interested in developing such programs for many years, but that funding limitations had prevented any significant effort.

Commissioner Dwyer asked if charging high school students for parking in school lots could have an effect on reducing vehicle miles traveled. Ms. Williams replied that the suggestion would be considered in regional planning elements of the project.

Mayor Don Hampton said he supported the proposed project because it provided a practical demonstration to children and youth in support of reducing energy consumption.

Director Dennis Shine asked if the school districts supported the proposed project. Ms. Williams replied that administrators of each district had agreed to support the project. She said the project grant did not require cash matching funds.

Director Shine asked how the effectiveness of the project on children's attitudes would be measured. Ms. Williams replied that the project included pre- and post-project surveys of parents. She said a report of the evaluation of the project would be provided to the LCOG Board.

Director Alan Laisure asked what would happen if the project were successful. Ms. Williams replied that, depending on the level of the success, attempts would be made to access Department of Energy funding for its continuation. Mr. Schwetz added that, if the project were successful, it could be considered a regional Transportation Demand Management program.

MOTION: *Mayor Hampton moved, seconded by Councilor Marion Esty, to approve the letter of support for the Smart Ways to School Project grant application.*

Mayor Jim Torrey said he would vote for supporting the proposed project, but that it was his experience that school districts would be unable to participate actively in carrying it out. He said he believed it would be a mistake to assume that the project was the solution to Transportation Demand Management concerns in Lane County.

Commissioner Morrison asked how Lane County had been identified as a partner in the project. Ms. Williams replied that staff level participation in committee planning of the project proposal had led to identifying the support.

Commissioner Dwyer said it was Lane County policy to not allow indications of county support for any issue unless it had been approved by the Board of County Commissioners. He said he did not believe Transportation Demand Management resources could be allocated for future funding of the project

Director Pryor stated that if the project was successful and funding was needed in the future, it was highly unlikely that resources could be available from school districts. He said he believed it was premature to judge the success of a pilot project before it was started.

Councilor Esty said she was impressed by the suggestion of Mayor Hampton that the project could become a model for children.

Councilor Coon said he believed the cost of the proposed project was higher than its worth. He said Junction City was facing the plight of having to eliminate school busing.

Director Greg James asked how the computer software identified for the proposed project had been chosen. Ms. Williams replied that a year-long study had been conducted to identify what was needed and was available. She said a competitive bidding process would be used to make a decision about what software would be purchased.

Mayor Torrey asked if the City of Eugene support for the proposed project had been approved. Ms. Williams replied that in-kind support by staff participation would be the match provided by each partner.

The motion to approve the letter of support for the Smart Ways to School Project grant application was adopted, 13:3, with Commissioner Dwyer, Commissioner Morrison, and Councilor Susie Navetta voting no.

B. Lane Economic Committee Advocacy

Mayor Hampton reported that the bylaws of the Lane Economic Committee (LEC) included “advising LCOG on such economic issues as may arise” among its purposes. He said members had discussed requesting permission to refer recommendations on advocacy issues to other bodies at its April meeting. He said expressing concern about changes in federal funding of dredging operations and their affect on the Port of Siuslaw was an example of the type of issue that would be considered.

Mr. Kloeppe explained that it was general policy that advocacy by LCOG sponsored bodies that involved communication with legislative or regulative bodies needed the approval of the Board of Directors. He said provision was made for approval of an advocacy position by the Executive Committee or Chairperson, if an issues was exceptionally time sensitive.

Mr. Kloeppe explained that advocacy by Senior and Disabled Services Advisory Councils was pre-authorized by adoption of a legislative issues statement by the Board each biennium. He added that concerns about dredging had been expressed by the Board in the past.

Mayor Torrey said advocacy positions expressed regionally were more effective than those adopted by individual jurisdictions. He said he was concerned about advocacy by groups such as the LEC if there was no oversight by the Board. He said he believed established advocacy processes had been effective and should not be changed.

Commissioner Morrison said an experience during the 2001 Legislative Session of LCOG taking positions conflicting with those of the Association of Oregon Counties should be avoided.

Director Sandy Young reported that the Port of Siuslaw and City of Florence had joined with other Oregon ports in advocating for reinstatement of federal dredging funds.

Director Shine reported that the LEC had recently discussed other issues that called for advocacy – real estate development concerns and industrial use of Brown Fields. He said the request of the committee was for instructions about how to deal with such issues. He said he believed most members favored referral of advocacy to the Board of Directors.

Commissioner Dwyer said he believed port dredging was a “no brainer,” but that allowing a sponsored committee to express advocacy on even such an issue without oversight would set a dangerous precedent.

Mayor Torrey said he agreed with Commissioner Dwyer and that he believed advocacy by a committee would be less influential than a position taken by the LCOG Board.

Commissioner Dwyer left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION: *Commissioner Morrison moved, seconded by Director Pryor, (1) to reaffirm the current LCOG policy regarding advocacy by sponsored groups – all advocacy positions must be recommended for adoption by the Board of Directors (or the Executive Committee or Chairperson, in the case of a time-urgent matter); and (2) to clearly present the current policy to the members of the Lane Economic Committee. The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0, with Commissioner Dwyer not voting.*

Mayor Hampton asked if the issue of dredging of the Port of Siuslaw was a time-sensitive issue. Ms. Morrison replied that funds for dredging in the current fiscal year were secure, and that concern for the next fiscal year would best be expressed in the month of July.

Chairperson Miller stated that requests for support regarding dredging of the Port of Siuslaw should be submitted through the LEC.

10. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES

A. Guidelines for Meal Site Closure

Senior Meals Program Manager Sandy Karsten referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Guidelines for Meal Site Closure” and explained that the Senior Services Advisory Council recommended that the guidelines be adopted. She said the guidelines were intended to assist in making the difficult decision to close a meal site that would likely need to be faced with anticipated further funding cuts. She said the guidelines were not in prioritized order, and reviewed them, as follows:

1. U.S. Census Data for the area and characteristics of users
2. Demonstrated community use of program
3. Ability to deliver service efficiently and effectively
4. Demonstrated Community Support
5. Availability of alternatives

MOTION: *Commissioner Morrison moved, seconded by Mayor Torrey, to adopt the Guidelines for Closing Meal Sites submitted by the Senior Services Advisory Council. The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0.*

11. ADMINISTRATION AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

A. July Goal-Setting Session

Mr. Kloeppe reviewed information contained in Agenda Support Material entitled “July Goal-Setting Session.” He stated that the purpose of the event was to develop a broad vision for the Board regarding important elements of the healthy regional com-

munity, assess public sector contributions, determine which of those contributions are regional in character, and identify opportunity areas for further attention by LCOG.

Mayor Torrey said that it was his experience that goal-setting sessions were most helpful when participants were provided material for preparation in advance.

Mr. Kloeppe invited members to make additional suggestions regarding the event.

B. Executive Director Biennial Performance Review

Chairperson Miller referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Executive Director Biennial Performance Review” and evaluation forms attached. He requested that they be completed by members and returned by May 5. He suggested that performance-rating scales on the forms be discussed senior management staff of member agencies. He said tabulation would only be made of responses submitted by Board Members.

Director Shine noted that the performance of the Executive Director in some areas for which ratings were requested would not likely be known by members. He suggested that “NA” responses be an acceptable response in such cases.

MEMBER AGENCY AND ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

None

13. REPORTS OF STATE AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

None

14. REPORTS OF MEMBER AGENCIES

Councilor Esty reported that Veneta had awarded contracts for construction of its new frontage road. She said it would provide better access to the city and allow development of an “Old Town” area on Broadway Street. She reported that the area school Board of Directors had approved establishment of a Charter School. She said it be staffed by current high school teachers of the district and provide a vocational-training emphasis. She reported that the City Council had completed its budget and that area home developments were selling very quickly.

Commissioner Richard Eymann reported that he lived in the Mohawk Valley, which had been designated a Peoples’ Utility District since its first settlement. He said all members of the Emerald Peoples’ Utility District (EPUD) Board were looking forward to participation in events in Tennessee and Washington DC. He said the biggest concern of the district was pending rate increases by the Bonneville Power Administration.

Director Georgia Varozza reported that the Fern Ridge Library District had completed preparation of its budget. She said use of the library by children and adults continued to grow and that total circulation had increased by 22 percent in February. She reported that a political action committee was enthusiastically working to develop voter approval of a local option level to provide resources for the District.

Director Pryor reported that the Board of Education of Eugene School District 4J had been forced to cut \$10 million from its budget because of funding shortfalls from the State of Oregon. He said approximately \$1.2 million needed to still be cut. He said four elementary schools in the district had already been closed and that two more would likely be closed on completion of replacement construction. He said teachers would likely be laid off and programs eliminated in the estimated \$6-\$8 million in cuts that would be required in the next year. He said the revenue tax measure adopted by the City of Eugene to provide school support was extremely helpful and expressed appreciation.

Director Young said the Siuslaw Library continued to be recognized as setting the standard for small town libraries in the State of Oregon. She reported that the City of Florence had received a \$300,000 grant to establish an area bridge as a Historic Site.

Councilor Navetta reported that all of the major concerns of Dune City centered around water – reinforcing dams, establishing water rights for all lake users, and ensuring the quality of septic systems.

Mayor Petitti reported, “Things were rolling right along” in Creswell. He described the recently held Dewey Decimal Days celebration. He said a small grant had been received to make improvements to a municipal lake and park, utility rates had been recently increased, and home construction continued to flourish.

Councilor Coon reported that the length of City Council meetings in Junction City had recently doubled. He said State Highway road re-construction would be completed in time for the Junction Function in July. He described development of a new Downtown Plan, construction of a new BiMart Store, and the increased number of large trucks detoured through town to avoid Interstate bridges that had been determined to be dangerously weak. He said City Police officers had all undergone truck inspection training and were frequently finding fineable conditions. He said the City Council had finished its budget development process, but that questions about State funding might result in loss of School Resource Officer positions.

Mayor Torrey reported on his meetings in every Oregon County Seat regarding Quality Education. He said there were inequities in the federal “Leave No Child behind” program that became an unfunded mandate negatively affecting cities. He said that Eugene was fiscally in good shape, but that he foresaw difficulties in the near future.

Commissioner Morrison reported that she would be “Principal for a Day” at Aubrey Park Elementary School in May. She said Lane County had adopted a strategic plan that would

guide the Board of County Commissioners in establishing a budget reduced by \$4.5 million. She said consideration was being given to remanding Senate Bill 1145 responsibilities for prisoners to the State. She said reductions in available space at the County Jail made carrying them out locally impossible.

Director James reported that the Willamalane Park District Board of Directors had approved renaming the River Bank Trail the Ruth Bascom River Park Trail. He said it had recently approved the area Open Space Study and was considering a new Comprehensive Plan. He said funding for the district remained stable. He reported on the dedication of the new City Skateboard Park on “Tony Hawk Day.”

Director Shine reported that important decisions were to be made in Lane Community College countywide elections and encouraged study of the positions of all candidates. He distributed copies of a document entitled “Executive Team Recommendations for Revenue increases and Program/Service Reductions” and discussed impacts of required budget cuts. He also distributed copies of an article from the April 1st issue of the student newspaper which described college administrators holding bake sale and car wash, scrounging from pay telephone and vending machine coin return slots, and inspecting couch cushions to raise funds for budget shortfalls.

Commissioner Lanning reported that Eugene Water & Electric Board had reduced its budget by \$2 million to make it possible to not raise customer rates when the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) increases the cost of its power. He said that national efforts to place BPA-generated power on the National Grid could have more impact on the cost of electricity in the Northwest than the Enron debacle.

Mayor Hampton reported that although the snow level was predicted to be at a 2,500-foot elevation overnight, a Tree Planting Festival continued to be scheduled for Oakridge on May 1. He said 20,000 visitor maps had recently been printed and the fishing season had opened the preceding weekend.

Mayor Hampton reported that the Regional Investment Board was anticipating that it would have less than half the resources previously available for distribution in the State Budget being developed.

Director Alan Laisure reported that Bethel School District 52 had hired Steven Hall from the Reno-Sparks area as its new Superintendent. He said that expansion of the district’s tax base with new housing was offsetting funding reductions made by the State. He announced that a Bethel Boosters Car Show would be held on May 10.

Chairperson Miller reported that the Lane Education Services District had cut \$5.5 million from its current budget and anticipated that \$1.4 more would have to be eliminated when the State Budget was finally adopted.

INFORMATION ITEMS

15. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

A. Review of the Resource Development Program

Natural Resources Program Manager Steve Gordon reviewed Agenda Support Material entitled “Review of the Resource Development Program.” He introduced Resource Development Specialist Christine Puetz, who described her work of providing grant writing and contract development services.

Ms. Puetz distributed copies of a document entitled “Resource Development Program – Year One Overview.” She said \$778,538 in grant awards had been received for internal LCOG services in the first year of the program and \$2.8 million received for LCOG members. She said the award success rate was 50 percent for internal applications and 100 percent for submittals for members. She said \$1.3 million in grant applications had been submitted for which responses were not yet known.

16. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES

A. 2003-2004 Food Service Contract for Senior Meals

Ms. Karsten reviewed information contained in Agenda Support Material entitled “2003-2004 Food Service Contract for Senior Meals.” She said the price rate schedule for preparation of meals was re-negotiated after the first year of the contract, according to the contract awarded through the Request for Proposals process.

17. ADMINISTRATION AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

A. Third Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Third Quarter Financial Report.” He said the report showed LCOG was in a positive and healthy financial condition with revenues (at 76 percent of budget) exceeding expenses (at 63 percent of budget) by \$3,338,237.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)