

MINUTES
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Springfield School District 19, Board Room
525 Mill Street, Springfield

April 22, 2004 - 7:00 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Director Jerry Miller (Lane ESD), Chair
 Mayor Sue Bond (Oakridge)
 Councilor Dwight Coon (Junction City)
 Commissioner Richard Eymann (EPUD)
 Director Greg James (Willamalane)
 Director Al King (School District 19)
 Mary Lehman (Siuslaw Public Library
 District)
 Councilor Susie Navetta (Dunes City)
 Councilor Nan Osbon (Florence)

Mayor Ron Petitti (Creswell)
 Director Chris Pryor (School District 4J)
 Director Dennis Shine (LCC)
 Mayor Jim Torrey (Eugene)
 Georgia Varozza (Fern Ridge Public Library
 District)
 Mayor Judy Volta (Coburg)
 Mayor Warren Weathers (Lowell)
 Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove)

Absent

Lane County Representative
 Springfield Representative
 Veneta Representative
 Westfir Representative
 Western Lane Ambulance District Representative

EWEB Representative
 School District 52 (Bethel) Representative
 School District 68 (McKenzie) Representative
 Port of Siuslaw Representative

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Representative Philip Barnhart

GUESTS

Juanita Eymann, Ken Hamm, Charlotte Mitchell, Andy Vobora, Fred Welding, Gordon Zimmerman

LCOG STAFF

George Kloeppe, Sandy Karsten, Jamon Kent, Ann Mortenson, 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 7:00 p.m.

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

Chairperson Miller welcomed Director Mary Lehman to her first meeting as the representative of the Siuslaw Public Library District.

Director Al King welcomed members of the Board of Directors to School District 19. He said the facility in which the meeting was being held was the building of the first school in Springfield and that its continued use was evidence of the District's frugal use of resources.

2. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Kloeppel referred to a draft letter to the Oregon Transportation Commission dated April 23, distributed as support material at the beginning of the meeting. He requested that consideration of authorizing Chairperson Miller to sign it be added to the agenda.

MOTION: *Councilor Nan Osbon moved, seconded by Mayor Warren Weathers, to add consideration of approving a letter to the Oregon Transportation Commission be added to the agenda. The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0, Commissioner Richard Eymann and Mayor Judy Volta having not yet joined the meeting.*

Mr. Kloeppel suggested that the matter be considered as Agenda Item 9.A, as a Local Government Services Item.

Mr. Kloeppel reported that the Port of Siuslaw had requested that the date of the Board Meeting it was scheduled to host be changed from June 24 to June 26, a Saturday. He said it had been suggested that the meeting be held in the morning, followed by a river cruise and meal.

MOTION: *Commissioner Osbon moved, seconded by Mayor Jim Torrey, to approve changing the scheduled June 24, 2004, Board of Directors meeting to June 26. The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0.*

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

4. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Miller referred to Agenda Support Material entitled "Report of the Executive Committee," noting that it contained information from a meeting of the Executive Commit-

tee held on April 15. He determined that no member of the committee wished to make additional comments.

Mayor Ron Petitti referred to discussion regarding municipal collaboration on wastewater issues contained in the material. He said the experience of the City of Creswell negotiating with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality had been positive, contrary to those reported by other area communities.

5. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Chairperson Miller referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Advisory Council Reports,” containing information about recent activities of the Metropolitan Policy Committee and Lane Economic Committee. He determined there were no requests for additional discussion about it.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Kloeppel referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Comments from the Executive Director,” containing information about the Board meeting schedule, advocacy to the Oregon Transportation Commission, Western Council of Governments Conference, Board meeting agenda format, Senior and Disabled Services funding, Senior Meals Program fundraising event, and a Lane County Road Fund allocation meeting. He determined there were no requests for additional discussion about it.

BUSINESS ITEMS

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairperson Miller noted that the Consent Agenda included approval of the minutes of the March 18, 2004, meeting of the Board of Directors.

MOTION: *Mayor Torrey moved, seconded by Director Chris Pryor, to approve the Consent Agenda. The Motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0, Mayor Volta having not yet joined the meeting.*

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES ITEMS

A. Oregon Department of Transportation Funding Match

Chairperson Miller referred to a draft letter to the Chairperson of Oregon Transportation Commission dated April 23, distributed as part of Agenda Support Material enti-

bled “Comments of the Executive Director. He noted that it expressed concern regarding plans of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to eliminate match funding for planning resources used by Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

LCOG Local Government Services Director Byron Vanderpool stated that the matching funds plan had leveraged a significant amount of federal resources for mandated planning requirements during the 30 years the practice had been in place.

Mayor Torrey said the match funds were extremely important for small communities and that their elimination would provide an advantage to larger communities in preparing applications for ODOT projects.

MOTION: *Mayor Torrey moved, seconded by Councilor Osbon, to authorize submission of the draft letter to the Oregon Transportation Commission. The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0.*

10. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES ITEMS

A. 2003-07 Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services Update

LCOG Senior and Disabled Services Director Ted Stevens referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “2004-05 update to LCOG’s 2003-07 Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services.” He said approval of the Update was routine and re-occurring, but provided approximately 90 percent of the budget for the Agency on Aging and Disability Services for Lane County. He said it had been developed by staff in consultation with the Senior and Disability Services Advisory Councils and was the subject of a public hearing held on March 4.

MOTION: *Director Pryor moved, seconded by Mayor Sue Bond, to approve the 2004-05 Update to LCOG’s 2003-07 Area Plan on Aging and Disability Services and authorize its submission to the Oregon Department of Human Services. The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0.*

B. Senior Meals Plan

LCOG Senior Meals Program Director Sandy Karsten referred to Agenda Support material entitled “Senior Meals Program – Reductions in Service to Restore Financial Viability.” She reviewed a summary of issues requiring a reduction in services provided by the program. She reported that the Cost Reduction Plan included in the material had been reviewed and approved by the Senior Meals Program Advisory Committee and the LCOG Senior Services Advisory Council. She noted that the Plan included reductions effective July 1, 2004, as follows:

1. Close the Crow Meal Site which operates once a week on Tuesdays.
2. Reduce service in Loraine from once a week (on Thursdays) to once a month.

3. Reduce service in Coburg from once a week (on Wednesdays) to once a month.
4. Transfer responsibility for three (of the nine) Senior and Disabled Services Meals on Wheels routes in Eugene and Springfield to the Red Cross and reduce staffing at the Springfield and Olive Place (Eugene) Meal Sites.
5. Reduce staffing at the Oakridge Meal Site.
6. Reduce staffing at the Veneta Meal Site.
7. Reduce staffing at the Creswell Meal Site.

Mayor Warren Weathers requested additional information regarding the proposed service reductions. Ms. Karsten reviewed information regarding Senior Meals Program fund-raising, use of reserves, new funds raised, and LCOG standards adopted for closing Meal Sites included in the distributed material.

Director Dennis Shine asked if the “war on hunger” recently announced by Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski would have ramifications on the proposed service reductions. Ms. Karsten replied that no State General Fund resources were used in support of Senior Meals Programs. She said she believed the effort could encourage public support for altering Medicaid policies and restoring the eligibility of clients for Medicaid-paid Meals on Wheels services, but that it was unlikely direct funding increases would result.

Mayor Weathers asked how much of the cost savings resulting from transferring responsibility for Meals on Wheels routes to the Red Cross was related to transportation. Ms. Karsten replied that transportation expenses were included in the per-meal costs charged by service providers and were not separately budgeted. Mr. Kloeppel added that Senior Meals Programs were funded under the Older Americans Act and were not fee-based and that participant contributions were based on an ability to pay.

MOTION: *Director Pryor moved, seconded by Mayor Petitti, to approve the proposed Senior Meals program 2004-05 service reduction plan.*

Director Greg James said he was dismayed by having to support the motion. He said he was aware that many elderly persons were unable to provide adequately for their nutritional needs without the Senior Meals Program. He expressed appreciation for the excellent plan to limit the impact of the proposed reductions.

Mr. Kloeppel said elected officials in Coburg and other places were seeking ways to “backfill” reductions in Meal Site services with locally provided support.

The motion to approve the service reduction plan was adopted unanimously, 17:0.

11. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

A. Fiscal Year 2003-04 Revised Budget

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Revised FY 2003-2004 Budget Resolution 2004-1.” He reviewed background information it contained about the LCOG Budget revision proposal dated April 2004 distributed with the material. He said that revenue experience over the first ten months of the fiscal year required a reduction of nearly \$318,000 from the original authorization. He explained that most of the shortfall was in the “federal” source category and that the largest reduction in services was included within the Senior and Disabled Service division. He said advance indications were that the trend of revenue reductions could be reversed in the next fiscal year.

MOTION: *Mayor Weathers moved, seconded by Director Pryor, to approve Resolution 2004-1, “Revising the FY 2003-2004 Budget.” The motion was adopted unanimously, 17:0.*

B. Bylaws Amendment

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “LCOG Bylaws Amendment” and reviewed background information it contained. He noted that the proposed amendments had been presented at the March 18 Board meeting, fulfilling the requirement for a 30-day notice of bylaw changes. He said the suggested amendments would implement a decision made in February to conduct six meetings of the Board each year and to charge the Executive Committee with handling an increased share of its ongoing business. He also said the proposed changes included deletion of the word “annual” in reference to the performance review of the Executive Director, reflecting a previous decision of the Board.

MOTION: *Director King moved, seconded by Director Pryor, to amend the Lane Council of Governments Bylaws as proposed. The motion was adopted unanimously, 17:0.*

INFORMATION ITEMS

12. THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Third Quarter Financial Report” and noted it indicated that the LCOG financial situation was positive and healthy. He determined there were no requests for additional discussion of the report.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

13. LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

Lane Transit District (LTD) Executive Director Ken Hamm and Service Planning and Marketing Director Andy Vobora collaboratively made a presentation entitled “What We Do at LTD.”

Mr. Vobora described LTD bus services. He said 6.5 million bus trips were provided each year. He explained that downturn in District payroll tax revenue caused by the recent economic recession would require reduction in service hours and fare increases in the next fiscal year.

Mr. Vobora described LTD “family of services” – Breeze Shuttle; Special Event Services; RideSource; Van/Car Pooling and Bicycle Commuter Solutions; and Innovative Services such as global positioning technology, collection of ridership information, automated stop announcements, and guest specific travel information.

Members asked questions and received answers about a recent fire on an articulated bus, difficulties encountered with Breeze vehicles, and the use of large-capacity buses on routes that appeared to have limited passenger usage.

Mr. Hamm described the Bus Rapid Transit (EmX) service. He said its goals and performance objectives were (1) to increase ridership by reducing travel times, improving reliability, and providing neighborhood connectivity; (2) to reduce operating costs; (3) to increase passenger-carrying capacity of transportation corridors; (4) to support planned land use patterns; and (5) to incorporate “non-transit” enhancements. He said the service would feature platform loading, off-board fare collection, and increased distance between stops.

Mr. Hamm said construction of the EmX system would begin in the spring and that service was scheduled to begin in the fall of 2006. He described preparation work already underway, innovations included in vehicles being designed, and a new Springfield Station.

Mr. Vobora distributed copies of a document entitled “Lane Transit District – at your service.” He said it contained additional information about LTD services, funding, and leadership.

MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilor Dwight Coon reported that Junction City was participating in an expansion of its Enterprise Zone jointly sponsored with Harrisburg. He said inquiries were already being received from various businesses. He said interviews for a new City Administrator would begin in May. He described planning activities for the *Function in Junction* and *Scandinavian Festival* community events. He said the City Council was engaged in budget development and had accomplished cost reductions by an agreement with its police union to allow the use of Reserve Officers.

Mayor Weathers reported that Lowell was preparing for its *Blackberry Jam Festival* and discovered that the cost of separate event insurance could make it impossible to afford. Mayor Gary Williams recommended that contact be made with Cottage Grove staff, who seemed to have overcome the problem. Oakridge City Administrator Gordon Zimmerman reported that the League of Oregon Cities had a program of insurance premium pooling for events sponsored by small cities. Mr. Kloepfel said LCOG staff would collect available information about insurance for such events.

Councilor Susie Navetta reported that Dune City had held its annual *City Hall Clean-up Day with Hot Dogs* event. She said 160 area residents had recently agreed to participate in the municipal water-sharing permit. She said she would appreciate it if other areas with experience in such processes could share their experiences. Mr. Zimmerman said the League of Oregon Cities offered an educational program on such matters.

Councilor Osbon reported that she planned to investigate issues related to event insurance for the Florence Rhododendron Days Festival. She said a new Planning Director had been hired and that residential building construction was growing at an extremely rapid pace. She said construction of an Early Childhood Development building on school property was about to begin and that planning continued for expansion of the municipal storm water treatment plan.

Director Georgia Varozza reported that the Fern Ridge Public Library District 2004-05 budget had been approved. She said consideration was being given to proposing a local option levy to support the district on the November ballot. She said the audit of financial records of the previous fiscal year had resulted in an excellent rating. She said an inventory of its collection would be required to enable it to be capitalized as an asset. She asked if there were businesses that performed such services.

Director Lehman reported that the Siuslaw Public Library District had recently installed a new phone system that included a voice-messaging capability. She said a lot adjoining district property was being purchased to add parking capacity. She said fast growth in the number of senior citizens in Florence was a “brewing crisis” for the library.

Mayor Bond reported that Oakridge was about to hold its 51st annual *Tree Planting Festival*. She said the City Council was completing work on the budget that included updating of the municipal water system. Mr. Zimmerman described an enterprise zone study and “Oakridge Upbeat” project.

Mayor Volta reported that the first Coburg Parks Master Plan was being completed as part of its current Periodic Review.

Mayor Torrey reported that Eugene had recently sold bonds at 4.11 percent, the lowest in its history. He said groundbreaking for the new Federal Courthouse had taken place, but that construction was inexplicably delayed. He said an Economic Development Strategy being developed would be shared with the rest of Lane County. He reported that a \$9.8

million grant for construction of an additional runway at the Eugene Airport had received. He said it had resulted from “United Front” federal lobbying efforts.

Director Pryor reported that construction of new elementary schools in School District 4J was proceeding rapidly. He said groundbreaking for reconstruction of Madison Middle School would be held on April 30. He said the district was “holding its own budgetarily.”

Director King said there were “no new things” happening in School District 19. He reported that budget planning was in limbo waiting changes that might occur in State funding.

Director Shine referred to material distributed at the beginning of the meeting entitled “Implications of K-12 Strategic Conversation” and “Community Learning Center Status Report.” He said they contained information regarding existing and potential collaborations between K-12 schools and Lane Community College (LCC), providing follow-up to discussion that took place at the Board meeting held in March. He requested feedback regarding the material.

Director Shine described library services made available to non-LCC students – borrowing agreements with local schools, borrowing privileges to Rites of Passage students during summer months, community borrower cards, orientation for classes and teachers on request, and the availability of online research guides and tutorials.

Director Shine reported that LCC was planning an observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Brown vs. the Board of Education Supreme Court decision that ended school desegregation. He said it would be positive if other school districts also planned such events.

Director James reported that Willamalane Park and Recreation District was working with Team Springfield to develop after school programs, including additional swim lessons. He said progress on construction of the 37th Street Sports Complex was continuing and that a lighted soccer field with artificial turf had been completed. He said the district would celebrate its 60th Anniversary on June 26.

Mayor Petitti reported that Creswell had successfully completed its second community fund raising effort to provide \$150,000 for school sports programs. He said a grant had been received from a Watershed Council to study impacts of the new Interstate 5 interchange to be constructed.

Mayor Williams reported that a Cottage Grove application for All-American City status had been chosen as a finalist. He said a group of 25 community leaders would make a presentation about it in Atlanta, Georgia. He said the status had been given to other cities in the area and previously to Cottage Grove in 1962 and had regional significance.

Commissioner Eymann reported that the Emerald Peoples Utility District (EPUD) would welcome discussions with area municipalities regarding providing electrical power services. He said the district was constantly seeking ways to satisfy its owner/customers. He

said representatives of the district were participating in an analysis of the relationship of publicly owned utilities with the Bonneville Power Administration.

Chairperson Miller reported that Lane Education Services District was also delaying its budget process until there was a clearer vision of available State funding.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)