

MINUTES
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Springfield City Hall
Library Meeting Room
225 South 5th Street – Springfield

May 23, 2002 - 7:00 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Commissioner Richard Eymann (EPUD)	Commissioner Anna Morrison (Lane County)
Mayor Don Hampton (Oakridge)	Director Dennis Shine (LCC)
Councilor Christine Lundberg (Springfield)	Director Helen Wagner (Willamalane)
Director Jerry Miller (Lane ESD)	Councilor Winn Wendell (Junction City)
	Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove)

Absent

Director Keith Andersen (School District 52)	Mayor Diana Tonkin (Westfir)
Commissioner Peter Bartel (EWEB)	Mayor Jim Torrey (Eugene)
Mayor Tim Brooker (Veneta)	Mayor Warren Weathers (Lowell)
Mayor Alan Burns (Florence)	Commissioner Cindy Weeldreyer (Lane County)
Mayor Mike Dean (Coburg)	Commissioner Lynette Wikstrom-Smith (Port of Siuslaw)
Mayor Michael Dubick	Director Dick Whitmore (Western Lane Ambulance District)
Director Marty Lenk (School District 19)	Representative from Siuslaw Public Library
Director Tom Lininger (School District 68)	
Councilor Robert Petersdorf (Dunes City)	
Director Chris Pryor (School District 4J)	

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

None

GUESTS

Juanita Eymann, Terry Parker, Bob Keefer (Willamalane Superintendent)

LCOG STAFF

George Kloeppe, Janet Minter, Jeff Krueger, Ted Stevens, Bob Swank, Tom Schwetz, Byron Vanderpool

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Vice Chairperson Councilor Winn Wendell called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) to order at 7:10 p.m.

LCOG staff member Janet Minter called the roll of members. Executive Director George Kloeppe noted that a quorum was not present.

2. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Action postponed.

COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Item Support Material #5 entitled “Report of the Executive Committee” distributed at the beginning of the meeting. He reviewed information it contained, as follows:

- Executive Director Off-Year Performance Review
- Southern Willamette Services Corporation

Mr. Kloeppe said other information in the report regarding the May 16 meeting of the Executive Committee would be considered in detail at other times during the meeting.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Item Support Material #6 entitled “Comments from the Executive Director,” distributed at the beginning of the meeting. He reviewed information it contained, as follows:

- The June Board Meeting will be held in Veneta.
- LCOG Staff Member Steve Dignam has been appointed to the Lane County Planning Commission.
- The Senior Meals on Wheels Program is the beneficiary of an estate estimated to be valued at \$120,000.
- Coordinator of Senior Meals Program in Oakridge and former LCOG Board Member and Mayor of Westfir has died.
- Refinancing LCOG loans has been partially completed.
- Copies of resolutions of member governments related to LCOG membership are being requested.

- Senior and Disabled Services offices will be closed during the noon hour beginning June 1 as a cost saving measure.
- Five LCOG staff members with a combined 125 years of experience have recently retired.
- Loans secured with the assistance of LCOG’s Business Assistance Program are identified.
- The Regional Land Information Data (RLID) System will be honored with a *Special Achievement in GIS* award by the Environmental Systems Research Institute in July.

Mr. Kloeppel distributed copies of a brochure providing information regarding the October 17-18 Conference and Workshop of The Oregon Regional Councils Association for elected policy makers and regional council staff. He encouraged members to plan to attend.

7. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

LCOG Senior Planner Jeff Krueger stated that he was manager of the Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space Study (Rivers to Ridges). He said the Study had been requested by the Eugene and Springfield City Councils, the Board of County Commissioners, and Willamalane Park and Recreation Board in November 2000. He said its goals were to create a regional park and open space vision and to identify long- and short-term strategies for its implementation.

Mr. Krueger explained that Phase I of the Study was nearing completion and included analysis mapping, assessment of existing policy, visioning, development of implementation options, and citizen outreach. He said Phase II would focus on citizen outreach, additional mapping, project prioritization and a benefits analysis. He referred to Historic Vegetation and Natural Constraints to Development maps on display.

Mr. Krueger referred to a background document regarding the Study distributed with the agenda of the meeting and reviewed guiding principles for a regional park and open space system developed from policies included in local and statewide plans, as follows:

- Variety
- Connectivity
- Habitat
- Community Buffers
- Scenic Quality
- Recreation and Education
- Rivers, Waterways, and Wetlands

Mr. Krueger reviewed a draft “Working Vision Map” included in the background document and identified existing and potential open space anchors, upland and water-based connectors, and community buffers it contained.

Commissioner Anna Morrison asked how comments on the Study had been received during a recently held workshop. Mr. Krueger replied that opportunities for written feedback were provided. He said most comments received about Phase I work were positive.

Commissioner Morrison said she was concerned that if a goal of environmental efforts such as the Parks and Open Space Study was to preserve farm land, owners should be allowed to use their property in productive ways. She said restrictions such as were involved in community buffer zones could limit the use of land to such an extent that it became unprofitable. She said she was also concerned that land purchased for conservation purposes was removed from tax roles.

Commissioner Morrison asked if funding for Phase II of the Study had been secured. Mr. Krueger replied that one half of the needed resources would come from a foundation grant and that the other half supplied by local governments.

Mayor Gary Williams asked why the vision map of the Study included Creswell, but did not identify any park or open spaces in that area. Mr. Krueger replied that the Study was limited to the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area. Mr. Kloeppe added that the Metropolitan Policy Committee provided guidance for the Study.

Councilor Christine Lundberg asked when Phase II of the Study would be completed and what was the status of the Intergovernmental Agreement related to it. Mr. Krueger replied that Phase II would be completed within a year and that Phase III would begin when implementation of its recommendations were “passed off” to the cities and county. He said the Intergovernmental Agreement was being developed as an attempt to keep the partners together to facilitate the seeking of funds.

Councilor Lundberg said she supported working partnerships, but that she was concerned that formal Intergovernmental Agreements sometimes became ends in themselves and added little to what was accomplished.

Vice Chair Wendell said he shared the concern that land designated as buffer zones often became unproductive because of restrictions placed on its use. He said he believed it would be important to incorporate representatives of small farmers in Phase II of the Study.

Commissioner Morrison said small farmers were already over-burdened with regulations and that an Open Space Plan should facilitate, not inhibit the use of agricultural land.

BUSINESS ITEMS

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

9. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES

None.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

None.

11. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

None.

MEMBER AGENCY AND ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Kloeppe noted that printed reports from meetings of the Disability Services Advisory Council and Senior Services Advisory Council were distributed with the agenda of the meeting.

13. REPORTS OF STATE AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

None.

14. REPORTS OF MEMBER AGENCIES

Director Dennis Shine reported that Lane Community College had finalized its contract negotiations with employees. He said the budget for the next fiscal year for the college was also finalized with programs supported by interested partners re-instituted, an equipment depreciation process begun, and cash flow statements for meetings of the Board of Directors planned. He reported that discussions regarding land swaps with a developer had been deferred until study plans for all college property was completed.

Mayor Williams reported that Cottage Grove was deliberating regarding the annexation/merger of its fire department with that of Creswell and the rural fire district serving the area. He said City Council budget meetings were completed and were “quire brutal” – all reserves depleted and funding eliminated for Peer Court, the DARE Program, and others.

Councilor Lundberg welcomed members of the Board to Springfield. She said the budget planning process of its City Council had also been “grim” – funding for animal control, weed abatement, and all non-city requests except the Peer Court were eliminated. She reported that consolidation with the area Fire District was being considered, Enterprise Zone tax exemption was being withdrawn for an area business, and annexation of land for use by Peace Health was going well.

Director Jerry Miller noted that the Special Oregon Legislative Session would be faced with serious decisions to be made about financing for schools with the defeat of what he called a “band aid” tax measure. He said Lane Education Service District had made plans for such an eventuality, but that it was facing significant budget cuts.

Director Helen Wagner reported that Willamalane Park District Board of Directors had held its third budget meeting and was working on a program of family services. Superintendent Bob Keefer said use of area parks had increased substantially since September 11, 2001, but that revenue from the Lively Swim Center was down \$60,000. He said reserves were beginning to be used to meet expenses.

Commissioner Morrison said there would be no run-off election needed for Board of County Commissioners since she, the only incumbent running for reelection, and Tom Linger had each received more than 50 percent of the votes cast on the primary ballot for those seats. She reported that the County was anticipating a “status quo budget” for the next three years, that \$8 million in funding requests were unmet, that 95 beds at the Forest Work Camp were now used, that issues regarding Metro Partnership were unresolved, that \$1.2 in recommended disbursements had been made by the Roads Advisory Committee, and that research had shown \$52 million in federal timber funds had been paid to area school districts.

Mayor Don Hampton reported that the major private employer in Oakridge had closed its doors because of poor business decisions made by its owner. He said other economic development was progressing in the city – development of three new resorts had begun, the last vacant restaurant would re-open soon, a new laundromat was operating, and medical clinics were merging in a new building. He said senior and disabled transportation was beginning, air quality issues addressed, and the Youth Advisory Council was sponsoring a spring Swing Dance.

Mayor Hampton reported that the Regional Investment Board had allocated all available local funds and was in the process of approving multi-regional projects.

Richard Eymann reported that the workers at the Emerald People’s Utility District (EPUD) had been very busy repairing damage caused by a recent wind storm. He said some customers were concerned that tree trimming practices to avoid future damage were excessive. He said EPUD would soon begin service to two mills and four residences in Linn County on their request. He said EPUD service to a street in Springfield was being challenged by the Springfield Utility Board (SUB). He said a lower court decision favoring SUB was being appealed by EPUD.

Vice Chair Wendell reported that the Junction City Fire Department and area rural fire district had merged, to the benefit of the City’s budget. He said development on a section of rural roads was being delayed for decisions by the Lane county Planning Commission. He also said the City Council had been invited to visit State Prisons under development to assure members that the planned facility in the Junction City area would be built.

INFORMATION ITEMS

15. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES

None.

16. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

A. Special Transportation Fund Budget and Contracts for Rural Services

Lane Transit District (LTD) staff member Terry Parker said that even though the LCOG Board no longer was required to act on recommendations of the Special Transportation Advisory Committee regarding local use of Oregon cigarette tax revenue, the LTD Budget Committee had requested that it receive a report on the Fiscal Year 2002-03 budget. She reviewed information contained in Agenda Item Support Material #16.A entitled "FY02-03 Special Transportation Fund Budget and Contracts for Rural Service," including its projected revenue allocations by service contracts.

Ms. Parker distributed copies of a chart entitled "Rhody Express Trips" and reviewed trends it showed for support and service of the River Cities Taxi Service. She described the marketing program for the new program in Florence.

B. Census Results and Changing Metropolitan Planning Organization Status

LCOG Staff Tom Schwetz reviewed information contained in Agenda Item Support Material #16.B entitled "2000 Census Results and Changing MPO Status." He said since 2000 Census showed that the population of the Eugene-Springfield urban area had grown to over 200,000, the area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization had been reclassified as a Transportation Management Area with additional planning requirements. He said additional responsibilities included development of a Congestion Management Plan and changes in the membership of its policy body membership. He also said that an additional \$2 million would likely be available for local use. He said that staff would be attending future Board meetings for additional discussion around the transition to TMA status.

17. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

A. 2002-2003 Work Program and Budget

Mr. Kloeppel reported that the LCOG Budget Committee had reviewed and approved the draft 2002-2003 Work Program and Budget distributed with the agenda of the meeting. He referred to his Budget Message included with the program and said that despite the downturn in local government revenue, use of reserves and other resources had led to the proposed budget increasing by approximately \$400,000. He said LCOG was in a solid financial condition.

Mr. Kloeppe said the Work Program and Budget were submitted for Board consideration. He explained that a public hearing and Board deliberation on them would take place at its June meeting.

B. LCOG Labor Management Status

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Item Support Material #17.B distributed with the agenda of the meeting. He reminded members of his previous announcement that Local 503 of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) had filed a petition with the State Employment Relations Board to represent 125 LCOG employees in the Senior and Disabled Services Division. He said an Unfair Labor Practices complaint had also been filed alleging that the LCOG Employees Association included management personnel. He reported that he had filed objections to both filings.

Mr. Kloeppe reported that, on the request of the LCOG Executive Committee, he had withdrawn the objection to the representation petition and a vote on representation certification was likely to take place in June. He said employees would be given the option of representation by the LCOG Employees Association, SEIU, or no representation.

Mr. Kloeppe explained that legal counsel had advised LCOG management to remain neutral regarding the election and to avoid any suggestion of seeking to influence votes. He said Board members should observe the same caution. He said he believed his original opposition to the petition was appropriate, but that management was committed to bargain in good faith however the election was decided.

Director Shine stated that he was pleased with the position taken by Mr. Kloeppe.

C. Southern Willamette Services Corporation

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Item Support Material #17.C distributed with the agenda of the meeting. He reported that the nonprofit SWSC organization had been revitalized and referred to its "Capacity Building Plan" attached to the Support Material. He said a full report of its new services would be made at a later time.

Director Miller stated that the Executive Committee of the organization had agreed to reduce to one percent the handling fee for contributions to Lane Library League.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Morrison requested that discussion of issues related to the funding of the Region 2050 Project be placed on the agenda of a forthcoming meeting.

Mr. Kloeppe reported that a recent meeting of the Region 2050 Advisory Board had indicated strong support for continuation of the Project.

Vice Chair Wendell stated that the Junction City representative on the Advisory Board remained positive about the Project.

Commissioner Morrison said she believed rural areas would always get the “short end of the stick” in projects such as Region 2050.

Mr. Kloeppe said he had promised that decision points about the future of Region 2050 would be brought to the Board of Directors and assured members that he would do so. He said the Project would not “get out of hand.”

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)