

Agenda Item Number 9.B.

Economic Development Planning Coordination

Presenters: Mayor Sue Bond, Commissioner Anna Morrison, and Mayor Warren Weathers

Action Recommended: None. Information Only.

Background:

The LCOG Board of Directors, on February 23, 2006, directed that a report be prepared “regarding the purpose and effectiveness of Lane Metro Partnership, Lane Economic Committee, and Economic Development Standing Committee of the Board of County Commissioners, evaluating if there would be value in encouraging their merger.” The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0. Chairperson Williams appointed Mayor Sue Bond, Commissioner Morrison, and Mayor Weathers to serve on the committee.

Attached to this cover sheet is the survey sent to the LEC, LMP and EDSC, and their responses.

The initial and follow-up responses to the Overlapping Committee Questionnaire were reviewed by the committee. The responses plus the experience of LEC board members led the committee to a series of finding and recommendations that are attached.

The committee spent considerable time working through the recommendations in a manner that we feel would best benefit the members of the LEC.

The committee spent considerable time searching for an approach that would make it easier for economic development groups to coordinate their efforts and to address opportunities developed through LEC, County Economic Development standing committee and Lane Metro networking. The committee found that LEC was being underutilized by LCOG and lacked the forum needed to put legs on LEC ideas. The committee believes that local economic development efforts will be

strengthened by expanding LEC's role to include advising the Board of Commissioners on economic development issues and allocation of economic development funds controlled by or sought by Lane County. LEC will continue to advise the LCOG board.

We are submitting the report and recommendations first to the Executive Committee and then to the Board of Directors in the hopes of reaching consensus regarding the next steps that should be taken in order to adopt the recommendations.

We wish to thank everyone who responded to the survey and gave us input and assistance during this process.