

MINUTES
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eugene Fire Station One
1320 Willamette Street
Eugene

June 28, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Director Greg James (Willamalane), Vice Chair	
Mayor Phil Brubaker (Florence)	Director Alan Laisure (School District 52)
Director Carol Campbell (Lane Library District)	Mayor Ron Petitti (Creswell)
Councilor Rayetta Clark (Oakridge)	Commissioner Katherine Schacht (EPUD)
Councilor Chris Pryor (Eugene)	Commissioner John Simpson (EWEB)
Councilor Darrell Carman (Veneta)	Commissioner Faye Stewart (Lane County)
Director Mike Dubick (LTD)	Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove)
Director Al King (School District 19)	Councilor John Woodrow (Springfield)

Absent

City of Coburg Representative	Lane Community College Representative
City of Dunes City Representative	Lane ESD Representative
City of Junction City Representative	Port of Siuslaw Representative
City of Lowell Representative	Siuslaw Library District Representative
City of Westfir Representative	Fern Ridge Library District Representative
School District 4J (Eugene) Representative	Western Ambulance District Representative
School District 68 (McKenzie) Representative	Siuslaw Valley Fire District Representative

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

None

GUESTS

Bob Keefer, Willamalane; Jane Lee, ODOT; Mayor Kitty Piercy, City of Eugene; Councilor Alan Zelenka, City of Eugene; Tom Schwetz, LTD; Peter Sorenson, Lane County Commissioner

LCOG STAFF

George Kloepfel, Jamon Kent, Kay Metzger, Ann Mortenson, Susan Payne, Bob Swank, Paul Thompson, Byron Vanderpool

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

In the absence of Chairperson Patrick Lanning, Vice Chairperson Greg James called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy to the first meeting of the Board.

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

Councilor Chris Pryor welcomed members to Eugene Fire Station One. He described the role of the newest Eugene Fire/Emergency Medical Services facility and reported how it had been constructed with “green building practices.”

2. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

4. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kloeppel referred to agenda support material entitled “Report of the Executive Committee.” He reviewed highlights of information it contained.

Vice Chairperson James announced that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for September 22, 2007, in the City of Oakridge.

5. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Kloeppel referred to agenda support material entitled “Advisory Council Reports.” He noted that Mayor Piercy was attending the meeting as a representative of the Metropolitan Policy Committee.

6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Kloeppel referred to agenda support material entitled “Comments from the Executive Director” and commented on information it contained regarding the meeting schedule of the Board, Public Official Training and LCOG Open House, United Way Funding for Senior Connections, Legislative Dialogue, and the annual conference of the National Association of Regional Councils.

BUSINESS ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chairperson James noted that the Consent Agenda included acceptance of the minutes of the April 26, 2007, meeting.

Mayor Ron Pettiti moved, seconded by Mayor Gary Williams, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was adopted unanimously, 14:0.

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES ITEMS

None.

10. SENIOR AND DISABLES SERVICES ITEMS

None.

11. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ITEM

A. 2007-08 Work Program and Budget

Vice Chairperson James referred to a document entitled “Lane Council of Governments 2007-2008 – Work Program and Budget.” He thanked the members of the Budget Committee for its preparation. He opened a Public Hearing on the Budget.

Vice Chairperson James determined there was no one present wishing to present testimony regarding the Budget and closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Kloeppe reviewed comments made in his Executive Director’s Budget Message.” He characterized the proposed Budget as an effort to “hold the line,” providing for a modest decrease in the number of full time equivalent (FTE) employees. He explained that the recently adopted State of Oregon Budget provided for an increase in support for Senior and Disabled Services (S&DS) programs, which would likely enable a modest staff increase.

In response to a question from Commissioner Katherine Schacht, Mr. Kloeppe explained that developments since adoption of the 2006-2007 Work Plan included contracting with agencies outside of Lane County, increased member jurisdiction use of LCOG planning services, updating of the capabilities of the Geographic Information System, establishing a new relationship with United Way of Lane County, refinancing

of the Shafer Building, and offering employees a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) as a new option for their health insurance benefit.

Councilor Pryor moved, seconded by Councilor John Woodrow, to adopt Resolution 2007-3 “Adopting the FY 2007-2008 Budget.” The motion was adopted unanimously, 14:0.

B. Executive Director Performance Review

Vice Chairperson James referred to Agenda support material entitled “Executive Director Performance Review Summary.” He reported that there had been 81 individual responses to an invitation to participate in the Review by staff and key stakeholders. He noted an increase in positive evaluations of the leadership and “visibility” of Mr. Kloepfel since the previous Performance Review. He noted that “Areas for Continued Focus” and recommended goals were included in the document.

Mr. Kloepfel expressed appreciation for the contributions made to the evaluation. He said he would be reviewing comments made and develop goals to be presented to the Executive Committee at its September meeting.

Councilor Pryor moved, seconded by Mayor Petitti, to accept the performance Review and approve the Executive Committee’s compensation adjustment recommendation. The motion was approved unanimously; 14-0.

C. Remaining 2007 Board Meetings

Vice Chairperson James noted that there had not yet been a volunteer to host the December 13 meeting of the Board of Directors and invited members to consider doing so. Mr. Kloepfel added that a topic for discussion at the meeting had also not been determined. He invited suggestions for staff to develop presentations.

D. Springfield Building Refinance

Associate Director Bob Swank referred to agenda support material entitled “Springfield Building Refinance” and reviewed information it contained about the refinancing of the Schaefer Building. He reported that the Executive Committee had recommended on June 14 that refinancing of the Springfield Building be undertaken, seeking the same terms finalized in the refinance of the Schaefer Building.

Councilor Pryor moved, seconded by Director Alan Laisure, to accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee to pursue refinancing of the Schaefer Building. The motion was adopted unanimously, 14:0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

12. A. Collective Bargaining Report

Mr. Kloeppe referred to agenda support material entitled “Collective Bargaining Report” and reviewed information it contained regarding contract negotiations with the LCOG Employees Association, representing staff in the Wells Fargo building and S&DS supervisors. He explained that the current contract with the Service Employee’s International Union (SIEU), which represents staff in Senior and Disabled Services, would expire in 2008.

Mr. Kloeppe and Mr. Swank answered questions from Director Al King regarding employee health insurance. Director King suggested that establishing the coverage through a larger “pool” could result in significant premium savings.

B. Senior Services Advisory Council Appointments

Director of S&DS Kay Metzger referred to agenda support material entitled “Appointments to Senior Services Advisory Council” and reviewed information it contained.

C. Older Americans Act Contracts

Ms. Metzger referred to agenda support material entitled “Contracts for Services FY 2007-08” and reviewed information it contained regarding the agencies and organizations with which 2007-08 contracts will be established to provide services not delivered directly by S&DS staff.

D. S&DS Legislative Report and Planning Issues

Ms. Metzger referred to agenda support material entitled “Legislative Report, S&DS and Planning Issues.” She reviewed information it contained regarding 2007 Oregon Legislative Session funding of the Medicaid and Project Independence programs. She said some progress had been made in seeking “equitable” funding for Lane County and other programs operated by the State.

E. Real Estate Options

Mr. Swank referred to agenda support material entitled “Real Estate Options” and discussed consideration being given to purchasing office space in downtown Eugene for LCOG Administrative, Planning, and Technology Divisions. He said Board approval to pursue the purchase of a building would be requested at the September or December meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

13. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Kloeppel stated that members of the Metropolitan Policy Committee had been invited to participate with the Board of Directors in a discussion of regional transportation issues. He introduced Jane Lee, Manager of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region 5 Lane County. He said she had been invited to provide a catalyst for discussion of area transportation issues in anticipation of her leaving the position to move with her family to Montana.

Ms. Lee described the responsibilities of her position – information conduit, advocate “marketing,” negotiation, project development and construction. She reviewed how she believed her replacement would need to build upon her experience to improve the functioning of the job.

Ms. Lee asked, “How can we create a shared and enhanced recognition of transportation as a public investment that crosses jurisdictional lines and is inclusive of all jurisdictions?”

Mayor Gary Williams said he was concerned that ODOT might be building the wrong freeway interchange in Cottage Grove. He said future anticipated development was not included in the plans being considered. He suggested that an appropriate project would be an immense economic boost to southern Lane County and Douglass County and that it could provide economic vitality for nearby rural communities. He said he did “not feel a lot of love from ODOT in the hinterland.”

Vice Chairperson James said he had heard similar concerns from other areas and suggested that there was a need to develop a forum for their discussion.

Commissioner John Simpson suggested that ODOT would benefit from establishing a liaison with bodies such as LCOG.

Mayor Piercy said she believed representatives of rural and urban areas needed to discuss their different concepts of transportation needs. She suggested that urban areas noted that rural areas were growing and that rural areas wanted to provide their own services and not depend on metropolitan areas. She said the Region 2050 Project had not “hit it” but there was a need for rural and urban areas to understand the needs of each other. She said there was a need to spend time together to understand how much the two communities were interrelated, to discuss how their different goals were important to each other.

Mayor Williams said he agreed with much of what Mayor Piercy had said, but that she did not seem to appreciate that self-determination was important to the third largest city in Lane County. He suggested that some smaller communities felt threatened by not having critical transportation needs met.

Councilor Rayetta Clark said business owners and residents of the Oakridge area were “up in arms” about the ODOT Highway 58 project.

Darrell Carman observed that growth was desirable to most small rural communities, but that it was painful at the same time. He said it was a reality that needed to be faced.

Councilor Pryor said transportation concerns were a response to a need. He suggested that part of the problem was that the issues surrounding it were not clearly defined. He said good results could come from negotiations that were akin to common interest-based collective bargaining.

Councilor Woodrow said he believed there was a need for a forum in which the mayors of all of the cities in Lane County participated. He said it was also important for City Councilors to also be kept informed of issues raised.

Mayor Piercy suggested that at least part of the problem was that policy makers were not the same as policy implementers.

Director Mike Dubick cautioned that it would be important to look at a multi-modal systems of transportation. He said building roads was always a “catch-up” situation, not a solution to transportation problems. He said it would be important and helpful to include Lane Transit District (LTD) in discussions of such issues.

Commissioner Sorenson said he did not believe it would be possible for Oregon to build its way out of its transportation problems. He suggested that transportation problems should be merged with health needs, making roads be connectors, not barriers. He said it would be important to discuss how transportation funding and planning could be used to improve the health of a community.

Commissioner Simpson said he believed it would be important to plan for the emergence of alternative fuel vehicles in transportation planning, such as innovative practices developing in Japan. He said the relocation of the EWEB headquarters was an illustration of the importance of transportation planning. He said air quality issues also needed to be addressed.

Mayor Williams said heavy trucking needed to be replaced with rail transportation. He suggested that passenger rail transportation also needed to be given higher priority.

Councilor Woodrow asked if ODOT was giving any consideration to developing a mono-rail system in the Interstate 5 corridor. Ms. Lee replied that it was up to the Legislature to provide funding for such investigations.

Commissioner Faye Stewart said he believed current transportation planning processes were inadequate and that better communication was needed. He suggested that the cost of freeway interchanges was making them unaffordable. He said he did not believe the status quo would “get us to the future.”

Commissioner Simpson said it was time to start planning for 300 years in the future.

Mayor Williams invited the other mayors present to help him facilitate the development of a “coalition” among the mayors of the twelve cities in Lane County.

Commissioner Sorenson said the Lane Board of County Commissioners was about to establish a series of “community listening events” which could become a good forum to establish the proposal of Mayor Williams.

Vice Chairperson James said he believed the discussion had been “rich.” He suggested that action items stemming from it included interest-based negotiations, planning for far into the future, and forming of a mayors’ interface group to facilitate better understandings of community visions.

Vice Chairperson James thanked Ms. Lee and members for their contributions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)