

Agenda Item Number 4.

Report of the Executive Committee

Presenter: George Kloeppe

Action Recommended: None. Information Only

Meeting Notes:

Meeting of September 11, 2008

The LCOG Executive Committee was called to order at 5:30 on Thursday, September 11, by Board Vice Chair Chris Pryor in the LCOG Main Office in Eugene. Members present were:

Eugene Councilor Chris Pryor
SD 19 Director Al King
Coburg Mayor Judy Volta
Lane County Commissioner Faye Stewart
Florence Mayor Phil Brubaker (by conference phone)

Staff members attending included Bob Swank, Byron Vanderpool, Kay Metzger, and George Kloeppe. The Committee considered:

September 25 Board Agenda

Kloeppe distributed a draft agenda for the September Board meeting. He noted that five of the items on the draft were to be considered by the Committee later in its agenda. The Committee's views were solicited regarding whether the Board should be asked to elect a replacement for Susie Johnston on the Executive Committee, as there would be two more Committee meetings before regular elections would be held. By consensus, it was agreed that a replacement should be elected. It was noted that the legislative delegation had been invited to participate in a "legislative dialogue" at the September meeting. Kloeppe described the proposed format for the dialogue. It was also noted that the Nominating

Committee (King, Volta, and Hampton) would nominate a Chair and Vice Chair for 2009, and that an election of officers would be held, as prescribed in the Bylaws.

Legislative Dialogue

Continuing the discussion of the September 25 Board meeting, the Committee reviewed two staff memos (Metzger and Vanderpool) outlining recommended agency positions for which Board approval would be sought on September 25. It was noted that the positions reflected in the memoranda were, in the case of S&DS, priorities processed by the joint Advocacy Committee of the two Advisory Councils. In the case of the proposed government services positions, it was noted that they reflected staff views, based upon communication with member agency intergovernmental relations specialists. The Committee agreed to forward the two proposed bundles of recommendations—repackaged as a single agenda item—to the Board for approval.

The Committee also reviewed a draft memo over George Kloeppe's name that would be sent (probably over the name of the Chair) to the members of the Lane County legislative delegation prior to the Board meeting. Kloeppe explained that in his invitation to the legislators he had indicated that they would receive a written statement summarizing the general interests of the LCOG organization for the upcoming session. The Committee agreed to add to the list (1) a request for funding to local government for infrastructure repair and replacement, and (2) a request for a State response to the loss of federal "timber money." It was further suggested that the Legislative Dialogue portion of the Board meeting be opened by brief statements by three Board members each of whom would highlight one of the top three "bullets" in the memorandum: Timber money replacement, AAA pay "equity," and protection of local prerogatives. Board members Pryor, King and Brubaker volunteered to make those brief statements. The proposed written communication with the legislative delegation was endorsed, as modified. It was suggested that, depending upon how many legislators were in attendance at the Board meeting, the Chair should clearly indicate and enforce a maximum time for each of their initial presentations. More time would be allowed for a smaller group and less, if the group was large.

Executive Director Salary Adjustment

Chris Pryor recapped the issue: That the 2007 Biennial Performance Review of the Executive Director had resulted in the establishment of goals and, as approved by

the Board, an award of *“1.5 percent merit pay increase for 2007/08 and the potential for a 1.5 percent merit increase in 2008/09 based upon progress towards 2007/08 goals.”* A year later, in the spring of 2008, a “mid-cycle Performance Review” was conducted the Executive Committee. Included was a requested self-assessment of progress toward the goals set by the Board in 2007. A consideration of the Executive Director’s performance was discussed at the Executive Committee’s June meeting with the conclusion that Kloepfel’s performance and his pursuit of goals were good. However, no recommendation was made to the Board at that time regarding a merit pay increase. By consensus, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Board that a 1.5 percent FY 2008-09 pay increase be awarded to the Executive Director.

Endorsement of “Money Measures” at November Election

It had been suggested that LCOG endorse the proposed \$83 million bond measure being submitted to the voters in November by Lane Community College. Kloepfel distributed a memo from Ann Mortenson listing nine measures slated for voter consideration (it was noted that Coburg should now be added to that list with a \$1.25 per thousand levy proposal.) Discussing the question of endorsement for LCC’s proposal, the Committee concluded that there was greater justification for a COG Board position on a county-wide measure than on the proposals of geographically smaller jurisdictions. By consensus, it was agreed to recommend that the LCOG Board endorse the LCC measure.

Audit Committee

George Kloepfel reported that the agency’s Audit Committee had met with Forest Arnold of Jones and Roth on July 17. It was noted that auditing standards that were more strenuous would be applied in the firm’s review of the agency for 2007-08. The new requirements were, in Arnold’s view, a “significant increase” in the work of the auditor and, hence, justified an increase in the firm’s fee. The Committee had approved the recommended increase. Kloepfel noted that the fiscal staff has developed the Financial Statements for the last fiscal year and that the independent audit was moving forward. A presentation to the Board is scheduled for December 11. As yet unscheduled, the Audit Committee is expected to meet again with the auditor at the conclusion of this year’s process.

Financing Park Place Building Improvements

The Committee received a report on the options for financing the renovation work being done on the Park Place Building. Bob Swank shared a proposed agenda item summary for the Board's consideration. Recommended was borrowing approximately \$1.5 million from one or more of four identified sources. After discussion, it was moved and seconded (King and Stewart) that the Committee formally recommend the Board's approval of the proposed loan. Motion carried.

Information Items

Springfield Office Building: Emphasizing that no decision was imminent, Bob Swank reviewed the status of the agency-owned office building in Springfield. He observed that it was originally purchased to provide a Springfield/east county location for a portion of LCOG's Senior & Disabled Services Staff. LCOG utilized the facility for 4 or 5 years until legislative budget decisions forced a substantial cut-back in S&DS staff and the closure of the Springfield office. Subsequently, the entire building was leased to the State Department of Transportation (ODOT), which entered into a 10-year lease two years ago. Swank observed that, fully leased, the property carries its weight and quite likely will continue to appreciate. However, it was not the organization's expectation that LCOG would be in the long-term property management business in a building that LCOG itself did not utilize. Swank further noted that it was in LCOG's interest to be a supportive landlord to ODOT, but that a sale of the building—with its tenants—to the City of Springfield had been discussed with the City. In response to a question from the Committee, Swank noted that, if a Springfield S&DS office was possible and appropriate at some point in the future, it could be met in another location that would not require the dislocation of ODOT.

Park Place Building Renovation and Moving Plans: It was reported that renovation work was proceeding and that a move of staff from the Wells Fargo Building to the Park Place Building was still planned for November 1.

LCOG Board Action on MPO Issue, MPC Reaction: Byron Vanderpool reported that the Board of Directors' action on behalf of the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) in June to endorse grant applications to ODOT had not been favorably received by the Metropolitan Policy Committee. He noted that the MPC, which had not been able to act for lack of a quorum, objected to the LCOG Board's taking such an action and directed staff to refer all MPO-related issues solely to the MPC.