

MINUTES
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

City of Cottage Grove
Community Center
700 East Gibbs, Cottage Grove

July 25, 2002 - 7:00 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Councilor Winn Wendell (Junction City), Chair	Director Jerry Miller (Lane ESD)
Mayor Alan Burns (Florence)	Commissioner Anna Morrison (Lane County)
Commissioner Paul Conte (EWEB)	Director Chris Pryor (School District 4J)
Mayor Michael Dubick (Creswell)	Director Dennis Shine (LCC)
Director Al King (School District 19)	Mayor Jim Torrey (Eugene)
Director Alan Laisure (School District 52)	Director Helen Wagner (Willamalane)
Councilor Christine Lundberg (Springfield)	Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove)
Director Tom Lininger (School District 68)	Director Sandi Young (Siuslaw Public Library)

Absent

Mayor Tim Brooker (Veneta)	Mayor Warren Weathers (Lowell)
Mayor Mike Dean (Coburg)	Commissioner Cindy Weeldreyer (Lane County)
Commissioner Richard Eymann (EPUD)	Director Dick Whitmore (Western Lane Ambulance District)
Mayor Don Hampton (Oakridge)	Commissioner Lynette Wikstrom-Smith (Port of Siuslaw)
Councilor Robert Petersdorf (Dunes City)	
Mayor Diana Tonkin (Westfir)	

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

None

GUESTS

Mike Fleck, Linda Kessel, Debbie Squire

LCOG STAFF

George Kloeppe, Linda Aday, Janet Minter, Bob Swank, Tom Schwetz, Byron Vanderpool

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

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

LCOG staff Janet Minter called the roll of members. LCOG Executive Director George Kloepfel declared a quorum to be present.

2. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

LCOG Executive Director George Kloepfel requested that Agenda Item 17.A be considered after Agenda Item 6.

Note: Items adjusted in sequence or added to the agenda are reported in these minutes with the original agenda numbering.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairperson Wendell noted that the Consent Calendar contained approval of the Minutes of the April 25 and June 27 meetings.

MOTION: *Commissioner Anna Morrison moved, seconded by Mayor Gary Williams, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0.*

Mayor Gary Williams welcomed Board Members to Cottage Grove and invited them to share hospitality refreshments prepared by a City Councilor.

COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Wendell noted that a letter of resignation from the Board from Commissioner Peter Bartel was attached to Support Material for Agenda Item 11.A. He expressed appreciation for his leadership.

Chairperson Wendell reported that he had attended the annual meeting of the National Association of Regional Councils in Tucson, Arizona. He described its program and said he had been elected to its Board of Directors, representing the Northwest Region.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Kloepfel welcomed Commissioner Paul Conte, Director Al King, and Director Alan Laisure as new members of the Board.

Mr. Kloepfel referred to Support Material for Agenda Item 6 entitled "Comments from the Executive Director." He reviewed information contained in the document, as follows:

- There will be no Board meeting in August. There is a need for a host of the meeting scheduled on September 26.

Commissioner Morrison offered to hold the September meeting at the newly opened Lane County Mental Health facility.

- A copy of the approved LCOG Work Program and Budget for 2002-03 is attached.
- A non-metro jurisdiction administrator representative on the Public Safety Coordinating Council will be appointed to replace long-time member Veneta City Manager Jan Wellman. Suggestions are welcome.
- All but four member jurisdictions took advantage of available “free” LCOG staff time during 2001-02.
- Senior Services and Disability Services Advisory Councils are sponsoring forums for candidates for election to the Oregon Legislature. Copies of a document entitled “Lane Council of Governments Senior and Disabled Services Division July 2002 Legislative Priorities for the 2003 Session” were distributed with the agenda of the meeting.
- Members are encouraged to attend the October 17-18 Oregon Regional Councils Association Conference in Ashland.
- Refinancing of debts on LCOG’s Springfield Office has been completed.

17. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

A. Collective Bargaining, Legal Counsel Presentation

Mr. Kloeppel referred to Support Material for Agenda Item 17.A and reviewed information it contained regarding the election by staff of LCOG’s Senior and Disabled Services Division to be represented by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU)/Oregon Public Employees Union (OPEU). He said labor negotiations with a new bargaining unit raised the importance of Board members understanding the legal implications of their responsibilities and limitations.

Linda Kessel said she represented Harrang/Long/Gary/Rudnick, LCOG law firm for many years. She described her experience in labor and employee matters.

Ms. Kessel explained that labor contract negotiations were about to begin and that the Board could anticipate that they would be more complicated than in the past. She said outside influences could be more evident. She said LCOG had a responsibility to col-

lectively bargain in good faith with both unions. She described legal requirements for such bargaining.

Ms. Kessel reviewed the roles of the Board of Directors and staff in labor negotiations. She said members of the Board set policy and gave authority to the Executive Director to carry out the negotiations. She said the Executive Director was solely responsible for all matters concerning staff. She said any employee attempt to lobby a Board member on a contract issue should be referred to the bargaining team or LCOG Human Resources Manager Linda Aday.

Ms. Kessel said negotiating with two unions would likely be more expensive – two contracts would be involved, more staff time would be spent in negotiations, and the possibility of litigation would increase.

Mayor Jim Torrey asked if the added expense of negotiations with two labor unions had been included in the 2002-03 Work Plan and Budget. Mr. Kloeppel replied that they had been prepared without anticipating such negotiations. He said the additional expense was unknown and that reserve resources would be available.

Mayor Torrey said members of the Eugene City Council had expressed a concern that increased LCOG labor costs would be passed on to member jurisdictions. LCOG Associate Director Bob Swank replied that all LCOG divisions were considered to be self-sufficient in development of the budget. He said any additional negotiation expenses or labor costs brought on by representation by the SEIU would be covered by the Senior and Disabled Services budget. He said unless additional resources were available, increased costs would result in employee reductions.

Commissioner Morrison asked who served on the management labor negotiation team. Ms. Aday replied that she and Mr. Swank were LCOG's negotiating team, and Senior and Disabled Services Division Director Ted Stevens may also participate in negotiations.

Director Al King said he had learned that significant increases in Oregon Public Employee Retirement System costs were expected in coming years.

Commissioner Morrison said she hoped the Board would allow the negotiating team to do their job without interference by Board members.

Director Tom Lininger said he had supported having Senior and Disabled Services Division employees participate in a union representation election. He said it was his experience that negotiations with more than one labor union became more aggressive, but that it was possible to make outcomes be positive. He recommended that the negotiations be entered into with an optimistic attitude.

Mr. Kloeppe said the legal presentation had not been intended to portray any negative concern about the upcoming labor negotiations. He said management was committed to a fair bargaining process.

7. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. Transition to Transportation Management Area Status

LCOG Transportation Program Manager Tom Schwetz reported that the Eugene-Springfield urbanized area had been formally designated as a Transportation Management Area on July 8. He referred to Support Material for Agenda Item 7 and reviewed information it contained about opportunities provided by transition to a new status. He described planning area boundary changes required and permitted and reviewed policy function change options.

Director Jerry Miller asked if planning area boundary changes implied expansion of the Eugene and Springfield Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB). Mr. Schwetz replied that transportation planning areas were determined by the US Census definition of urbanized area. He said the purpose of the designation was to encourage regional coordination of existing activities. He said expansion of UGB was locally controlled and regulated by State of Oregon processes.

Mayor Torrey asked if there might be strategic value in expanding the transportation planning area to include Junction City and Creswell. Mr. Schwetz replied that the recommended area was based on the 2000 Census which did not suggest such a connection. He said a larger planning area would not affect the allocation of transportation resources by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Councilor Christine Lundberg said she did not favor creating a new policy body for transportation planning when two were already in existence. She suggested that either the LCOG Board of Directors or Metropolitan Policy (MPC) be designated to assume transportation planning policy functions.

Mr. Schwetz said Lane County was the only transportation planning area in the nation that that divided policy planning responsibilities between two groups. He said if the MPC were to be delegated sole responsibility for such policy, it would be authority delegated from the Board of Directors.

Chairperson Wendell asked if it would be possible to use impact studies to be prepared by the State of Oregon for the siting of a prison in the Junction City area as the basis for transportation planning. Mr. Schwetz replied that he did not know the scope of the studies to be done in the siting process, but that it was likely that LCOG would be the source for such a study. He said it was assumed that there would be cooperation between state and local governments in transportation planning.

Mayor Alan Burns asked if it would be possible for transportation planning areas to include Florence since its citizens were affected by planning in the metropolitan area. Mr. Schwetz replied that the suggestion of Mayor Burns was a clear argument for regional transportation planning.

Director Dennis Shine asked if parking charges to be implemented at Lane Community College would impact transportation planning. Mr. Schwetz replied that the college campus was already included in area planning and that it was likely Lane Transit District would incorporate the effect of such charges in its bus service plans.

Commissioner Morrison said she believed it was important to keep any transportation planning changes as simple as possible.

Mayor Michael Dubick said he supported having the LCOG Board delegate transportation planning policy functions to another body. He said he believed it would be important to keep all responsible bodies fully informed whatever changes were made.

BUSINESS ITEMS

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

9. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES

None.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

A. Amendment to the Eugene-Springfield Transportation System Plan

Mr. Schwetz referred to Support Material of Agenda Item 10.A. He said the purpose of the proposed resolution amending the Eugene-Springfield Transportation System Plan (TransPlan) was to reflect changes made by Eugene, Springfield, Lane County and Lane Transit District regarding the West Eugene Parkway.

MOTION: *Mayor Torrey moved, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to adopt Resolution No. 2000-06, "Amending the December 2001 Eugene-Springfield Transportation System Plan (TransPlan) in Compliance with Federal Transportation Planning Requirements," contingent on the approval of amendments by the Lane County Board of Commissioners as adopted by the Eugene and Springfield City Councils and Lane Transit District.*

Mr. Kloeppel stated that conditional approval of the resolution created no problems.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0.

11. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

A. Election of Vice Chair for 2002

Chairperson Wendell referred to Support Material for Agenda Item 11.A and noted the resignation of Peter Bartel and the recommendation that nominations and election be held for Vice Chairperson.

Director Lininger nominated Mayor Dubick as Vice Chairperson.

Director Shine nominated Mayor Don Hampton as Vice Chairperson. Mayor Burns said he did not believe it was appropriate to nominate a person who was not present. Director Shine withdrew his nomination.

Chairperson Wendell determined there were no other nominations.

Chairperson Wendell determined there was consensus to elect Mayor Michael Dubick as Vice Chairperson for 2002.

Director Lininger nominated Mayor Williams to be a member the Executive Committee for 2002.

Chairperson Wendell determined there was consensus to elect Mayor Gary Williams to be a member of the Executive Committee for 2002.

B. Collaboration in the Willamette Valley

Mr. Kloeppele noted that a supplement to Support Material for Agenda Item 11.B had been distributed at the beginning of the meeting. He said it contained comments from Mayor Warren Weathers based on his report of the position of the Lowell City Council.

Mr. Kloeppele stated that the proposed Willamette Valley Region collaboration described in the previously distributed Support Material for Agenda Item 11.B was not intended to be a continuation of the Willamette Valley Livability Forum. He said no commitments had been made regarding collaboration, nor had any funding source been identified to support its development. He said the purpose of the discussion was to report discussions by councils of government directors and seek feedback regarding collaboration.

Mayor Williams said that he agreed with the concerns of Mayor Weathers and supported his reluctance to support elements of potential collaboration.

Commissioner Morrison said that she agreed that limiting conditions should be set on collaboration before consideration was given to seeking collaboration between regions of the Willamette Valley.

Councilor Wendell said that Junction City needed discussions and collaboration between jurisdictions of the Willamette Valley to deal with issues not controlled by Lane County.

Director Al King said he believed the purpose and meaning of the comments of Mr. Weathers were unclear and self-contradictory.

Mayor Torrey said he believed the proposed collaboration discussions would increase the ability of rural area residents to influence policy decisions.

Director Chris Pryor said he appreciated the letter of Mr. Weathers because it identified issues regarding collaboration which needed to be discussed. He suggested that the LCOG Board of Directors consider the matters raised to determine appropriate participation.

Mayor Dubick suggested that there could be value in having council of government directors discuss the lack of unanimity regarding collaboration and concerns about it raised by rural communities. He said he believed consideration of all positions on a topic was the appropriate way to build consensus.

Mr. Kloepfel expressed appreciation for feedback of members and said it would provide direction for staff in proceeding. He reiterated that only conversations regarding possible benefits of Willamette Valley collaboration had so far been held. He said Board agreement regarding staff-level discussions of collaboration opportunities was important before they should continue. He said he was committed to sharing the concerns of Mayor Weathers and others regarding collaboration in any further developments.

Chairperson Wendell determined that there was consent for the remainder of the agenda to be passed.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)