

Agenda Item Number 6.

Comments from the Executive Director

Presenter: George Kloeppel

Action Recommended: None. Information Only

Background:

1. Board Meeting Schedule

The last Board meeting of the calendar year will be hosted by the Bethel School District on December 9. Attached is a listing of the dates for LCOG's six Board meetings in 2005. We would appreciate volunteers to host those meetings, and are particularly anxious to know the venue for the February meeting. Please consider volunteering your jurisdiction. While some of our hosts in the past have been very generous with refreshments, please know that going to great expense or trouble to host a meeting of the LCOG Board is not expected.

2. Western COGs Conference, San Diego, September 21-24

Attached is a summary of the Western COGs Conference that was held in San Diego September 21-24. LCOG was represented by Gary Williams, Al King and myself.

3. New Human Resources Manager

Linda Aday, LCOG's Human Resources Manager for the past five years, will retire on October 11. Her professional experience, wisdom, good sense and good humor will be missed. After a broad recruitment, we have appointed James Walsh to the position. Jim will join us on October 1. He holds a bachelors degree from the University of Oregon in public

administration and has over 15 years of public sector human resource management experience with the State of Oregon (Department of Transportation and Department of Corrections) and with Lane County. We welcome Jim to the agency's management team, and we wish Linda a very happy and fulfilling retirement.

4. Internal Organization Changes

This summer, supervisory and leadership responsibilities have been realigned somewhat within what we have called Local Government Services and Regional Technology Services. I believe that the changes will be transparent from the "outside," but will allow us to operate in a more flexible and efficient manner. Further, they should help us to more effectively "grow" the leaders of the future. Our mission remains the delivery of high quality services to our member governments. The primary modification has been away from the traditional hierarchical organization chart to one that focuses on *teams*. The use of functional teams has long been the norm for our staff serving local government. "Team Leaders" may be in any classification in our personnel system, and nearly everyone will work on more than one team. The teams will of course change with time as tasks are accomplished and new ones initiated, and teams will likely have responsibility for multiple projects and contracts. Bob Swank will continue to have management responsibility for "administrative" teams; Byron Vanderpool will manage the teams of "technology services;" and Jamon Kent will head the "planning services" teams.

5. EDA Grant Award to Capitalize Revolving Loan Fund

The federal Economic Development Administration (EDA), a division of the U. S. Department of Commerce, has awarded LCOG a grant of \$500,000 to capitalize a Revolving Loan Fund. Other resources, notably from Lane County, the Benton-Lane-Lincoln-Linn Regional Investment Board, and LCOG's business assistance program, will bring the total initial capital value of the Fund to \$833,000. The new Fund will serve as an additional tool for the agency's business assistance efforts. Loans will be made, in conjunction with local financial institutions, to help businesses to form or expand with the goal of creating or retaining family wage jobs in Lane County. Sandy Baruah, Chief of Staff to Dr. David Sampson, head of EDA, made the presentation on September 20 in the LCOG office.