

**MINUTES**  
**LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Lane County Mental Health  
Michael Rogers Conference Room  
2411 Centennial Boulevard – Eugene

**September 26, 2002 - 7:00 P.M.**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

**Present**

Councilor Winn Wendell (Junction City), Chair	Director Alan Laisure (School District 52)
Mayor Tim Brooker (Veneta)	Councilor Christine Lundberg (Springfield)
Mayor Alan Burns (Florence)	Director Jerry Miller (Lane ESD)
Mayor Mike Dean (Coburg)	Director Chris Pryor (School District 4J)
Mayor Michael Dubick (Creswell)	Director Dennis Shine (LCC)
Commissioner Richard Eymann (EPUD)	Commissioner Anna Morrison (Lane County)
Mayor Don Hampton (Oakridge)	Mayor Warren Weathers (Lowell)
Director Al King (School District 19)	Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove)
Commissioner Patrick Lanning (EWEB)	Director Sandi Young (Siuslaw Public Library)

**Absent**

Director Tom Lininger (School District 68)	Commissioner Cindy Weeldreyer (Lane County)
Councilor Robert Petersdorf (Dunes City)	Director Dick Whitmore (Western Lane Ambulance District)
Mayor Diana Tonkin (Westfir)	Commissioner Lynette Wikstrom-Smith (Port of Siuslaw)
Mayor Jim Torrey (Eugene)	
Director Helen Wagner (Willamalane)	

**STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS**

None

**GUESTS**

Juanita Eymann, Denise King, Pat Patterson, Julie Weisgerber

**LCOG STAFF**

George Kloepfel, Janet Minter, Ted Stevens, 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 or Directors to order at 7:05 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**

None.

## **3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Chairperson Wendell noted that the Consent Calendar contained three items, as follows:

- A. Approve Minutes of July 25, 2002, Meeting
- B. Appoint Loan Administration Committee (LAC) Members to an Additional Term
- C. LCOG Recommendation for Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) Rural City Manager Position

**MOTION:** *Commissioner Anna Morrison moved, seconded by Mayor Gary Williams, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was adopted unanimously, 18:0.*

## **COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

### **5. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Kloepfel referred to support material for Agenda Item Number 5 entitled "Report of the Executive Committee." He said each item included in the report would be considered at a specific point in the agenda of the meeting.

### **6. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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

- The October meeting will be in Florence and the combined November-December meeting in Eugene. A calendar of meeting dates for 2003 is available for members to indicate willingness to host.
- Members are encouraged to attend the October 17-18 Oregon Regional Councils Association Conference in Ashland.

- A Collective Bargaining Agreement has been reached with the LCOG Employees Association. It includes a three percent cost of living adjustment to the salary schedule, effective October 1, and continuation of current employee dollar contributions for health insurance premiums. The same economic provisions will be applied to management and confidential employees. Negotiations continue with Senior and Disabled Services Division employees represented by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).
- Members are encouraged to complete and submit Needs and Issues forms for projects potentially using state or federal funding. The Lane Economic Committee will prepare a prioritization of the projects and submit them to the Board for final adoption in December.
- A McMenamins North Bank benefit raised \$2,400 for Meals on Wheels.
- The Post Office and utility companies are participating in a “Gatekeeper” program sponsored by LCOG’s Senior and Disable Services to identify customers with potential problems due to prescription medication not being picked up or other unusual behaviors.
- LCOG is arranging a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, and city mayors, chief executives, and public works directors on October 30 to consider interest in providing for an alternative local revenue option to fund transportation maintenance.
- LCOG has been awarded a \$391,832 grant from the Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) to create a computer simulation model of Lane County’s criminal justice system. It will be used to monitor the flow of offenders through decision points from law enforcement to release from supervision to enable the most effective use of existing resources and identify the most efficient use of new funds.

Mr. Kloepfel reported that the Regional Investment Board had approved a \$75,000 grant to provide required supplemental resources for the award of the US Department of Agriculture to the LCOG Business Loan Program.

**MOTION:** *Mayor Alan Burns moved, seconded by Mayor Williams, to apply the economic provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the LCOG Employees Association to the Executive Director, effective October 1, 2002. The motion was adopted unanimously, 18:0.*

## 7. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None.

## BUSINESS ITEMS

### 8. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

None.

### 9. **SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES**

None.

### 10. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

#### **A. Transition to TMA Status: Delegation of MPO/TMA Responsibilities to the Metropolitan Policy Committee**

LCOG Transportation and Public Infrastructure Manager Thomas Schwetz reviewed information contained in support material for Agenda Item Number 10A regarding delegation of Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsibilities to the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC). He said information about the shifting of responsibilities had been reviewed by members at a previous meeting. He explained that the proposed implementing resolution outlined the process to be followed in the transition.

Commissioner Morrison requested that, unless there were objections, adoption of the implementing resolution be included on the Consent Calendar of the October meeting. Mr. Schwetz added that if consideration of the information and resolution by the MPC was delayed, it would result in postponement of it being re-presented to the Board.

Mayor Michael Dubick said he supported the delegation of responsibilities because it made sense to have all transportation issues assigned to a single body and streamlined the processes involved. He also said that, even with the delegation of responsibilities, the Board would not give up final authority over transportation matters.

Mr. Schwetz requested that additional comments regarding delegation of responsibilities and the implementing resolution be made to him after the meeting.

#### **B. Adopting the TransPlan Air Quality Conformity Determination**

Mr. Schwetz referred to support material for Agenda Item Number 10B entitled "Adopting the TransPlan Air Quality Conformity Determination" and a draft document entitled "Eugene-Springfield Metro-Area Transportation Plan (TransPlan) Air Quality Conformity Determination" distributed with the agenda of the meeting. He reviewed the Issue Summary in the support material and noted that the results of a regional emissions analysis in the document were the focus of the report.

Mr. Schwetz said it was a responsibility of the Board as the Metropolitan Planning Organization to ensure that federal air quality standards were met and to adopt the determination document. He said it was fortunate that the standards were easily achieved in the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area.

Chairperson Wendell opened the public hearing on the draft air quality conformity determination. He established that no one present wished to testify on the matter and closed the public hearing.

Chairperson Wendell invited members to discuss the determination.

In response to a question from Councilor Christine Lundberg, Mr. Schwetz explained that it was comparatively easy to achieve federal air quality standards in Lane County because of geographic and meteorological considerations. Mr. Kloeppel added that it was also easier because the county's per capita Vehicle Miles traveled (VMT) rate was lower than in other metropolitan areas of the state.

**MOTION:** *Mayor Warren Weathers moved, seconded by Councilor Lundberg to adopt Resolution 2002-07, Adopting the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Regional Transportation Plan (TransPlan). The motion was adopted unanimously, 18:0.*

#### **11. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

None.

### **MEMBER AGENCY AND ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS**

#### **12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mr. Kloeppel referred to support material for Agenda Item 12 entitled "Advisory Council Reports." He noted that the MPC was intending to change its regular meeting schedule.

#### **13. REPORTS OF STATE AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

None.

#### **14. REPORTS OF MEMBER AGENCIES**

Mayor Dubick reported that a mural was being created for the Creswell Community Center. He said the first stage of construction in the City's downtown upgrade was beginning on Oregon Avenue. He said new water arsenic standards would likely require that use of wells within the city be discontinued by 2006.

Director Al King reported that the student population in Springfield School District 19 had increased by 250. He said the growth could be the result of a weak economy, which often led families to enroll children in public schools. He said the Board of Education would likely be required to cut \$1.3 million from the district's budget because of lower than anticipated revenue provided by the State. He said Steve Barrett had been chosen as Interim District Superintendent while a permanent replacement was sought. He said a new Board member also needed to be chosen because of the resignation of a current member.

Director Jerry Miller reported that the Lane Education District had also begun a search for a new District Superintendent. He said the Board of Education was waiting until the full impact of state funding cuts was known before adjusting its budget. He said the roof of the district's headquarters had to be replaced because of faulty material.

Mayor Tom Brooker reported that a new bridge was being constructed in Veneta as part of the expansion of its commercial area. He said other road projects, including crosswalks and signals, were recently completed. He said the City Council was at its full membership for the first time in some while. He introduced Julie Weisgerber, a new council member. He invited members to a "Trail's End Chili Challenge" to be held in Veneta on October 5.

Mayor Weathers reported that Lowell had contracted with Oakridge to provide 20 hours of police services a week. He said the Community Oriented Public Safety (COPS) grant which had been anticipated to pay for the services had not been received and that another method of financing would need to be found. He said the City had discovered that lowering its water rates had increased consumption by 65 percent and overall revenue by 45 percent.

Director Chris Pryor reported that Eugene School District 4J was anticipating the need to reduce its budget by \$3.5 million. He expressed appreciation to the Eugene City Council for having placed a measure on the November ballot which would provide "backfill" resources for non-curricular programs and enable district funds to be used for classroom teaching. He said excitement was growing over planning for new elementary and middle schools made possible by voter approval of district capital construction bonds in 2001.

Director Pryor reported that he was 2002 Lane County United Way Campaign Chairperson. He encouraged strong support for the fund raising effort by agencies and individuals.

Director Richard Eymann reported that the Emerald People's Utility District (EPUD) was going "full speed ahead" to improve its services to rate-paying owners. He said that the General Manager, Frank Lambe, was leading an effort to keep rates as low as possible and that the election of a new Commissioner in November would broaden the scope of the area represented by Board members.

Mayor Mike Dean reported that siting of a new sewer treatment plant in Coburg was proceeding and that construction of the Pearl Street/Interstate 5 interchange had been completed. He said developing storage for the new city water system was underway and that the school population had risen by 30 percent. He described a Ford Family Foundation

Grant being pursued and work being done on a periodic code review with the aid of an Oregon SMART Development grant.

Commissioner Patrick Lanning reported that Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) would hold its annual large customer reception on October 5. He said expansion of the utility's Hayden Bridge water treatment facility was on schedule and that planning for drilling of auxiliary wells was moving forward. He said EWEB's rate surcharge might be eliminated in one and one-half years, instead of the previously set three years.

Director Allan Laisure reported that Bethel School District 53 was opening two new schools in the fall semester. He said the Board of Education was beginning to plan for a need to increase student capacity on the high school level. He said a search had begun for a new District Superintendent. He said there was concern that the ballot measure to support schools sponsored by the City of Eugene might influence the state to keep district funding at a low level.

Director Dennis Shine noted that the agenda of the meeting included a report on the elimination of LCOG Senior and Disabled Services programs at Lane Community College. He said the college had been forced to end support for them because of funding reductions and decisions to focus on its core mission, not because they were considered of no value. He reported that the college had been unable to host the current Board meeting because needed kitchen equipment was not yet installed. He distributed copies of contact information for Peg Allison, Interim Director of Lane Community College Conference and Culinary Services and encouraged members to investigate its use. He distributed copies of a document entitled "The Socioeconomic Benefits Generated by Lane Community College" and commented that it showed investment in the college had provided a 19 percent annual return to the community. He said student enrollment was up for the current year and that the biggest problem faced by the Board of Education was traffic on and off campus.

Mayor Burns reported that Florence was looking forward to hosting the October meeting of the Board. He said the City was experiencing "growing pains," but was working its way through them.

Director Sandi Young reported that the Siuslaw Public Library had recently replaced defective carpeting and was considering adding a mural to its facility. She said the evaluation format and contract for the Executive Director had been recently revised and that members of its Board were reading a book about library issues.

Mayor Williams reported that Cottage Grove was facing budget crises similar to other municipalities. He reviewed difficulties encountered with the Lane County Boundary Commission in seeking to merge the City's fire department with the Rural Fire District. He said the net result of the merger was to release \$325,000 for City programs while maintaining a level tax base. He said a new high school would open in less than a year, that planning for

a new hospital in the area had begun, and that the Chamber of Commerce was creating an outdoor mural for the City based on feature films made in the area.

Mayor Don Hampton said Oakridge residents were relieved to no longer have major fires in their vicinity and that their recent experience had stimulated discussion of forest management practices. He reported that the Oregon Department of Transportation was paving State Highway 58 and advised that, if possible, travel in the area be postponed. He said he had discussed with Mr. Kloeppel the possibility of hosing a Board meeting on a Saturday morning and providing added attractions for the day. He noted that *The Register-Guard* had recently published a story about the dilemma faced by the area business park because installation of fiber optic cable had not been completed. He said a contract with the Oregon Development Association was proposing dividing the city into car and pedestrian sections. He distributed copies of a Visitors Map published by the Oakridge-Westfir Chamber of Commerce entitled "Oakridge – The Center of Oregon Recreation." He said a grant application was being prepared for submission to the Fred Meyer Foundation to develop a project to unify the community.

Mayor Hampton reported that the Regional Investment Board was re-distributing funds from Cottage Grove and Yachats projects which could not be completed. He said all priority projects for the year were funded, in spite of a reduction in available resources.

Councilor Lundberg reported on the health of Springfield City Councilor Lyle Hatfield. She said the City was submitting funding levies to voters in November to support the Police and Fire/Life Safety services. She expressed disappointment that a compromise developed regarding the upgrading of the Beltline/Interstate 5 interchange had been rejected by the Oregon Department of Transportation. She said the Filbert Festival had been successful, that planning for a sports complex was moving forward, that progress was being made in revitalizing the downtown area, and that a skateboard park was being built.

Commissioner Morrison expressed appreciation for being able to host the meeting in the newly completed Lane County Mental Health facility. She said it had won architectural awards for its design and functionality. She explained that a Child Advocacy Center would be built on adjoining property and that negotiations were underway for moving the nearby Boy Scout area headquarters. She reported that empty pods of the Juvenile Justice Center located on the adjoining John Serbu Youth Campus would soon be filled with a Court School and possibly a long term adolescent mental health facility. She said the County was submitting six ballot initiatives to voters in the November election. She encouraged members to attend a joint meeting of County elected officials to discuss the possibilities a local option gasoline tax to provide road construction and maintenance funds. She said a task force had been formed to study ways of streamlining the procedures of the County Building and Planning Departments. She described her experience with a group of local officials who welcomed President George W. Bush on his inspection of fires in southern Oregon.

Chairperson Wendell reported that Junction City had hired a new Police Chief and adopted new police policies. He said it had been decided that the municipal jail would continue to be operated. He noted that all the City Councilor and the Mayoral elections were contested and that it was possible for an entirely new group of elected leaders to emerge.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### **15. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES**

#### **A. Future of Senior and Disabled Services Contracted to Lane Community College**

Senior and Disabled Services Director Ted Stevens referred to Support Material for Agenda Item 15A entitled "Future of S&DS Programs Contracted to Lane Community College." He noted that the Bill Payer/Money Management and Family Caregiver Support services would no longer be sponsored by the College's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program because of budget restrictions. He said the Bill Payer program would continue to be sponsored until June 30, 2003, and Caregiver services until December 30, 2002. He said a plan for continuation of the programs would be presented at the October Board meeting.

Commissioner Morrison asked how many persons were served by the Bill Payer Program. Mr. Stevens replied that approximately 80 clients were currently enrolled.

#### **B. Legislative/Budget Update**

Mr. Stevens noted that Oregon's budget crisis included its inability to fund services authorized and mandated to be provided by counties and contract AAAs such as LCOG. He said it was good news that the Fifth Special Legislative Session and Governor had been able to fill a \$482 million shortfall, forestalling devastating cuts to Senior and Disabled Services. He noted that the solution was contingent on the passage of a proposed income tax surcharge in January 2003. He said if it was not approved by voters, the jobs of 40 employees and the services they provide would be eliminated in Lane County.

Mr. Stevens said the bad news was that the Fourth Special Legislative Session had imposed significant cuts in Senior and Disabled Services revenue. He described how the reductions would be implemented in Lane County by program eligibility restrictions. He said the Oregon Emergency Board was being asked to reconsider the reductions.

Director King said he did not believe the Emergency Board would be inclined to restore reductions to Senior and Disabled Services in the face of similar cuts being imposed on higher education and public safety programs.

Commissioner Morrison expressed appreciation for the support provided to local elected officials by Senior and Disabled Services staff. Director King said he also believed LCOG staff was helpful in its stimulation of legislative dialog.

## **16. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

### **A. Region 2050 Status Report**

Local Government Services Director Byron Vanderpool referred to support material for Agenda Item 16A entitled "Region 2050 Status Report." He explained that the goal of the project was agreement among eleven local government entities on regional strategies for land use and development, economic development, housing, transportation, community facilities and services, natural resources, open space, and the environment. He said the project was half completed and was currently engaged in a community involvement stage. He referred to the development of scenarios in the project identified in the support material.

Cottage Grove City Councilor Pat Patterson said he believed the Region 2050 project was unique in its emphasis on the autonomy of local jurisdictions. He said it was an attempt to find out the best interests of individual communities in Lane County. He said he hoped it would return the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to its original purpose. He encouraged study of the Intergovernmental Agreement establishing the project and participation in its studies.

Mayor Dean said he agreed with the characterization of Councilor Patterson and said he believed the Region 2050 project was an opportunity to plan the future of the region. He said benefits of the project were already being experienced in Coburg.

Mayor Weathers said he believed the Region 2050 project was worthwhile, but that there was room for improvement. He said he believed it was an error to not involve rural school districts in its processes because Oregon land use policies had significant effects on their operations. He explained by saying that not requiring a 20 percent supply of buildable land outside Urban Growth Boundaries resulted in artificial inflation of property values and fewer opportunities for young families with children to live a rural life style.

Mayor Weathers said he also believed that the Region 2050 principle of making decisions by consensus clouded the value of specific recommendations, such as those related to soil value standards and their effect on residential development. He said he supported protecting high-value farmland because it provided jobs, but that the policy of such protection had been used as a "proxy" for locking up open spaces.

Councilor Patterson said he believed the issues raised by Mayor Weathers were not part of the original intention in establishing the Region 2050 process.

Commissioner Morrison said she did not support the Region 2050 project because she was concerned about its “direction.” She said she had requested a breakdown of the finances for the project. Mr. Vanderpool reviewed the financial report of the project included in the support material, noting that an additional \$90,000 was needed for its remaining two years. He said that if the additional support did not become available, fewer of the potential scenarios would likely be developed.

Commissioner Morrison reported that she had raised questions about the Region 2050 project with Oregon officials. She said her issues were specific and that the report presented had only provided generalities. She said she wanted to have answers about the product to be developed by the project before she could support its continuation. She gave copies of her questions to Mr. Kloeppe.

Mayor Burns asked why Florence and Oakridge areas were not included in the Region 2050 project. Mr. Vanderpool replied that the study was constrained by available resources and that it had originally been envisioned only for the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area. He noted, however, that Oakridge and Westfir were included.

Councilor Patterson said he did not believe “regionalization” was a goal of the Region 2050 project, but that it was a forum to support requests for realistic changes in LCDC practices. He said jurisdictional participants did not give up local authority.

Mayor Dean said the Region 2050 process was an attempt to reach out to a wide range of views on land use planning and that he did not believe it would be possible to consider the issues related to it without having such a forum.

Commissioner Morrison said she did not believe the Region 2050 process had allowed adequate opportunity for public input.

Mayor Weathers said he believed getting representatives of local jurisdictions together for discussion of land use planning was positive, but that the Region 2050 process did not involve representatives of the large portion of property and population in unincorporated areas.

Commissioner Morrison said she believed “locking up” urban/rural interface land was mistakenly encouraged by the Region 2050 process.

Mr. Kloeppe said that he would seek to develop answers to questions regarding the Region 2050 process raised by Commissioner Morrison, Mayor Weathers, and other members

## **17. ADMINISTRATION AND SPECIAL PROJECTS**

None.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Eymann stated that his experience as a member of the LCOG Board of Directors was his first knowledge of regional government operations, even though he had been a member of the Oregon Legislature and EPUD for many years. He recommended that efforts be made to encourage representatives of the Lane County State Legislative Delegation to participate in Board meetings. He suggested that reimbursement of expenses might be needed to guarantee participation. He said the participation would increase legislators' appreciation of the concerns of local government.

### **17. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

*(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)*