

MINUTES

LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bethel School District 52
4640 Barger Drive, Eugene

September 21, 2006 - 7:00 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove), Chair
Mayor Phil Brubaker (Florence)
Councilor Darrell Carman (Veneta)
Commissioner Patti Chappel (EPUD)
Director Sherry Duerst-Higgins (Lane ESD)
Councilor Glenn Fortune (Oakridge)
Keyte Hladky (Fern Ridge Library District)
Director Greg James (Willamalane)
Director Susie Johnston (LCC)

Director Al King (School District 19)
Director Alan Laisure (School District 52)
Commissioner Patrick Lanning (EWEB)
Councilor Gary Papé (Eugene)
Mayor Ron Petitti (Creswell)
Director Annette Spickard (School District 4J)
Mayor Judy Volta (Coburg)
Mayor Warren Weathers (Lowell)

Absent

City of Dunes City Representative
City of Junction City Representative
City of Springfield Representative
City of Westfir Representative
School District 68 (McKenzie) Representative

Lane Library District Representative
Siuslaw Library District Representative
Port of Siuslaw Representative
Lane County Representative
Western Ambulance District Representative

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

None

GUESTS

Steve Recca, Jay Bozievich, Douglass Harclerod, William Van Vactor

LCOG STAFF

George Kloeppe, Steve Dignam, Jamon Kent, Kay Metzger, Ann Mortenson, Bob Swank,
Byron Vanderpool

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Chairperson Gary Williams called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m.

LCOG staff Ann Mortenson called the roll of members. LCOG Executive Director George Kloepfel stated that a quorum was present.

Director Alan Laisure welcomed members to the Bethel School District Administrative Office. He said meeting hors d'oeuvre had been prepared by the District food service. He reported that the District had recently instituted the practice of serving free breakfast to students at all school cafeterias.

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

Chairperson Williams stated that he had no special comments.

Executive Director George Kloepfel stated that the Executive Committee had met earlier in the evening. He said its members had discussed items included on the Agenda of the Board Meeting and that reports of all actions would be given at the time of their consideration and in a written report to be prepared for the next meeting of the Board.

5. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Kloepfel referred to an Agenda Item Summary entitled "Advisory Council Reports" and invited questions and discussion regarding information it contained.

6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Kloepfel referred to an Agenda Item Summary entitled "Comments from the Executive Director." He expressed appreciation for the willingness of Bethel School District to host the current meeting when it became impossible for the City of Oakridge, as previously planned. On his encouragement, various representatives volunteered to host meetings scheduled in 2007 – Willamalane (April 26), Veneta (September 27), and Oakridge (June 28).

Mr. Kloeppe noted that the Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue District and Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians would become LCOG members in the near future.

Mr. Kloeppe invited members to participate in the Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium Fall Summit scheduled in Bend October 6-7, 2006.

BUSINESS ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes Approval

Chairperson Williams noted that the Consent Agenda included acceptance of the minutes of the June 22 and July 27, 2006, meetings.

Mr. Kloeppe reviewed corrections that needed to be made to several representational and spelling errors in the listing of persons present at the June 22 meeting.

Director Greg James moved, seconded by Councilor Gary Papé, to approve the Consent Agenda, as corrected. The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0, Director Sherry Duerst-Higgins having not yet joined the meeting.

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES ITEMS

A. 2006 Needs and Issues Ranking

LCOG Business Loan Program Manager Steve Dignam referred to an Agenda Item Summary entitled "2006 Needs and Issues Ranking" and reviewed background information about development of the rankings by the Lane Economic Committee (LEC). He explained that Community Infrastructure, Community Facilities, and Community Readiness projects given rankings in the recommendation were not guaranteed to receive funding, but that their being so identified provided attention and focus from various funding agencies.

Mayor Judy Volta stated that the proposed ranking of the City Coburg Wastewater Collection System as the number one ranked project in the County would be important in securing support in its search for federal funding.

In response to a question from Councilor Papé, Mr. Dignam said that the Lane County United Way did not participate in the ranking process. He said United Way participation in such a LEC process would be valuable in the future.

Mayor Volta left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Director James moved, seconded by Councilor Papé, to approve the 2006 Needs and Issues recommendations of the Lane Economic Committee. The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0.

B. Economic Development Planning Coordination

Mayor Warren Weathers referred to an Agenda Item Summary entitled “Economic Development Planning Coordination” and presented its report of a subcommittee regarding the purpose and effectiveness of Lane Metro Partnership (LMP), LEC, and Economic Development Standing Committee (EDSC) of the Board of County Commissioners.

Mayor Weathers reviewed the findings of the subcommittee that there was duplication of membership among the committees, the LEC was limited in its ability to operate in a “results oriented” manner, and the LMP was the only non-public agency that enabled confidentiality for its deliberations. He noted recommendations of the subcommittee: (1) The LEC should expand its influence by acting as an advisory group to both the LCOG Board and EDSC. (2) Joint quarterly meetings should be held of the LEC, EDSC, LCOG and LMP staff to improve project identification and referral. (3) A reporting mechanism should be created between the LCOG Board and the EDSC. (4) Cascades West funds currently used to support LEC functions should be used to support its expanded role.

Mr. Kloepfel reported that the Executive Committee had referred the report of the subcommittee to the LEC for evaluation and recommendation to the Board.

Director Sherry Duerst-Higgins joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

C. Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation

LCOG Technology Services Director Byron Vanderpool referred to an Agenda Item Summary entitled “MPO Transportation Planning Report and Discussion.” He reviewed background and the current state of the Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC) serving as the area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) designated by the Board. He explained that the MPO had adopted a 2006-2009 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), meeting a Board deadline to prevent the lapse of federal transportation funding, and that it had agreed to explore ways to resolve internal intractable disputes. He said staff recommended that the Board continue to monitor the MPO activities of the MPC and consider rescinding its designation if adequate additional progress was not achieved by January 2007.

Director James asked what the probability was of the MPO changing its bylaws to avoid recent impasses in the future. Mr. Vanderpool replied that the MPC/MPO was a policy making body and that it was difficult to accurately predict any outcome of its deliberations. He said staff believed that it was not vital for the Board to consider

immediately rescinding its designation, but that the Executive Committee had agreed to maintain a careful watch on the situation.

Director James asked how long it would take the Board to rescind the designation of the MPC as MPO and reestablish itself or another group in the role. Mr. Vanderpool replied that the organizational and legal procedures required were not trivial and might require as long as six to nine months.

10. SENIOR AND DISABLES SERVICES ITEMS

A. Legislative Priorities

Senior and Disabled Service Director Kay Metzger referred to an Agenda Item Summary entitled “Senior and Disabled Services Legislative Priorities for 2007” and reviewed information it contained regarding advocacy responsibilities of the Division in its service as the Area Agency on Aging and Disability Services for Lane County. She explained issues involved in the proposed Legislative Priorities, as follows:

- 1) Promote actions to create a culture that supports consumer needs and input within the Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Medical Assistance Programs.
- 2) Expand funding for Older Americans Act Programs.
- 3) Protect the core values of Oregon’s model of long-term care.
- 4) Keep the promise of “fund equity” for Area Agencies on Aging and Disability Services.

Members discussed the proposed priorities, expressing concern about the inequity in State funding of the Lane County Area Agency on Aging and Disability Services, and suggesting practical actions to counter it.

Director Laisure moved, seconded by Mayor Ron Petitti, to approve the recommended legislative priorities for Senior and Disabled Services for 2007, and authorize staff and members of the organization’s Senior Services and Disability Services Advisory Councils to advocate on their behalf with legislative candidates, legislators, and others, as appropriate. The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0.

11. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ITEM

A. Nominating Committee Report, Election of Officers

Mayor Weathers reported that the Nominating Committee had met and recommended that Commissioner Patrick Lanning be nominated as Chairperson and Director Greg James be nominated as Vice Chairperson for 2007.

Chairperson Williams determined that there were no further nominations.

Director Laisure moved, seconded by Mayor Petitti, to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Patrick Lanning as Chairperson and

Director Greg James as Vice Chairperson for 2007. The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0.

B. Bylaw Changes

Mr. Kloepfel referred to an Agenda Item Summary entitled “Bylaw Amendments – 30 Day Notice” and explained that it contained information about proposals to codify “experiments” regarding the annual election of officers and formation of the Board’s Executive Committee. He said formal advance notice, including the precise text of the proposed changes, would be provided before the next meeting.

C. Schaefers Building Refinance

LCOG Associate Director Bob Swank referred to an Agenda Item Summary entitled “Schaefers Building Refinance” and highlighted reasons staff recommended that debt on the building be refinanced –market rate rents could enable coverage of occupancy expenses, and increased discretionary resources available to the General Fund. He reported that the Executive Committee had approved the staff recommendation.

Mayor Weathers moved, seconded by Director Keyte Hladky, to authorize staff to pursue refinancing of the debt on the Schaefers Building.

Mayor Petitti asked if there might be an advantage to using municipal bonds for refinancing, versus the proposed commercial lending. Director Al King stated that it was his experience that the long-term expense of both methods was often comparable.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 16:0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Western COGs and West Coast Corridor Coalition Conference

Mr. Kloepfel referred to an Agenda Item Summary entitled “Report on Western COGs and West Coast Corridor Coalition Conference, Portland” and noted that it contained a report of the experience of LCOG representatives at the August 14-16 conference.

B. Appreciation Dinner

Mr. Kloepfel reported that the Executive Committee had approved scheduling the annual LCOG Appreciation Dinner on January 25, 2007, at the Village Green Resort in Cottage Grove. He said solicitation of nominations for awards to be made would begin soon.

C. Board Meeting “Special Discussion” Topics

Director James reported that the Executive Committee had agreed to reschedule the annual Board Planning Session from July 2007 to February 2008, enabling better participation and presenting appropriate challenges to newly elected officers. He said it was likely that the next Planning Session would not be held until 2008 and that the Executive Committee would approve staff arrangement of presentations at Board meetings *in the interim*. He reported that the topic to be considered at the next meeting would be the status and importance of water rights in the Willamette Valley.

D. Lane Community College Economic Impact Study

Lane Community College (LCC) Board of Education Chairperson Jay Bozievich referred to an Executive Summary of a document entitled “The Economic Contribution of Lane Community College” dated June 22, 2006. He reviewed information it contained that showed LCC contributed a total of \$826.5 million in regional labor and non-labor income to the Lane County economy. He described the credibility of the study and noted that LCC would be seeking voter approval of a five-year local option instructional levy in November.

Members discussed the presentation.

E. Rental Report

Mr. Swank reported on the status of rental income from the LCOG Schaefers and Springfield buildings.

F. Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium Fall Summit

Mr. Kloeppe referred to an announcement of a Fall Summit sponsored by the Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium (OMPOC) to be held in Bend, October 6-7, 2006. Invitees include public officials, community leaders, planners, developers and policy makers. He said LCOG was able to subsidize the attendance of Board members, and asked members interested in attending to so indicate.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

13. LANE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY FINANCE MEASURE

Mayor Phil Brubaker stated that the City Councils of the Cities of Florence and Dune City had endorsed passage of the proposed Lane County Public Safety income tax. He left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Lane County Administrator William Van Vactor distributed and reviewed information contained in documents entitled “Charting New Waters,” “Lane LCSO Release Report,” and “Statistics Per Capita by State and for Lane County, 2004.” He described the context and history of a decision by the Board of County Commissioners to refer a Charter Amendment

to the November 2006 ballot to limit their income tax authority. He explained that a tax on personal income and business income had been enacted and would go into effect January 1, 2007, if voters approved the Charter Amendment. He described the current condition of Lane County public safety services and changes to be made with enactment of the tax.

Lane County District Attorney Douglass Harclerod presented anecdotal evidence of the need for the new tax. He identified individuals, agencies, and non-traditional groups endorsing its approval. He described the campaign to persuade voters of its importance. He distributed copies of a document entitled "Public Information . . ." that presented facts about the ballot measure and background information.

Members discussed the presentation, requesting information about the proposed tax and providing support for its approval.

MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)