

Agenda Item Number 6

Comments from the Executive Director

Presenter: George Kloeppe

Action Recommended: None. Information Only

Background:

1. Board Meeting Schedule

Our appreciation goes to Junction City for hosting tonight's Board meeting. Next month, we will be in Creswell on the 22nd. Attached is the schedule for meetings in 2004. There are blank lines that are begging to be filled in. It is particularly important that we get this spring's meeting locations identified so that arrangements can be made. Please consider inviting us to visit your shop. Our traveling Board meetings provide a great opportunity for all of us to better understand our region and the partnerships that we enjoy.

2. Meeting Agenda

The suggestions that were made in July and September regarding the flow of our monthly meetings have been discussed by both the Executive Committee and management team. This month, several changes are being tried. First, the "Consent Agenda" has been expanded to include a number of "action items," which are either routine and uncontroversial or which have been solidly endorsed by the Executive Committee or an advisory council. The remaining "Business Items" (this month all falling within the "executive management and administration" section) would be treated much as similar items have been in recent months, with oral staff reports minimized when written material has been provided in advance. Finally, attention is directed to the last major section of the agenda, "Board Discussion" (this month items 14, 15 and 16). This is new and represents an effort to facilitate communication between and among members of the Board. As I view it, the staff's responsibility in this area should be to provide background

information that can “prime the pump” for the Board’s exploration of relevant topics. That is what we have attempted to do with both items 14 and 15 this month. For the education topic (number 15), I have asked Kent Hunsaker, director of the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators and former Bethel School District Superintendent, to facilitate.

3. LCOG Appreciation Dinner, January 15

This year’s Appreciation Dinner will be held on January 15 at LCC, Invitations are available with the meeting materials (along with name tents, etc.). I encourage all Board members to attend and bring others from your jurisdiction as well. The Dinner provides an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year to address the challenges of 2004.

4. Board Member Orientation

A number of current Board members have served with LCOG for a year or less. The turnover that we have experienced became particularly obvious at our Goal Setting Session in July. In response, one of the goals established for the Executive Director in the coming year was the provision of training sessions for new Board members. An “Orientation to LCOG”—its structure, programs and procedures—will be presented twice annually for members of the Board of Directors. I propose that the first session of this kind be conducted immediately prior to our January 22 meeting in Creswell. But input from Board members on this is critical. Would a 6 p.m. start time for an orientation session be feasible? I would like to minimize the number of separate meetings that Board members are asked to attend; but I also don’t want to create impossible time obligations. Please share your thinking.

5. CENS Test

The Community Emergency Notification System (CENS) operated successfully in the county for three years, ending one year ago because of funding limitations. A new three-year commitment from Eugene, Springfield, Florence, Cottage Grove, the Lane County Sheriff’s Office, the Siuslaw Valley Fire District, the Western Lane Ambulance District and Borden Chemical has enabled resumption of the service. As the Board is aware, the CENS allows emergency service providers to alert residents of disasters or emergencies through automated telephone calls. The resurrected

System will be tested on Tuesday, December 16, with a mock Tsunami Alert in an area of Florence. Approximately 1,095 telephone numbers will receive the 30-second message—clearly indicated as a Test. LCOG staff has worked with the emergency service providers—and particularly with the LCSO and the Central Lane Communications (9-1-1) Center—to get this valuable service back in business.