

MINUTES
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Community Building - Greenwaters Park
48362 Highway 58
Oakridge

October 18, 2003 - 10:00 A.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

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| Director Jerry Miller (Lane ESD), Chair | Commissioner Anna Morrison (Lane County) |
| Councilor Marisa Alvarez (Lowell) | Councilor Susie Navetta (Dunes City) |
| Mayor Mike Dean (Coburg) | Councilor Nan Osbon (Florence) |
| Councilor Brian Huber (Oakridge) | Mayor Ron Petitti (Creswell) |
| Director Greg James (Willamalane) | Director Chris Pryor (School District 4J) |
| Director Al King (School District 19) | Director Dennis Shine (LCC) |
| Commissioner Patrick Lanning (EWEB) | Mayor Diana Tonkin (Westfir) |
| Director Alan Laisure (School District 52) | Mayor Jim Torrey (Eugene) |
| Commissioner Ken Miller (Port of Siuslaw) | Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove) |
| | Councilor John Woodrow (Springfield) |

Absent

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| Mayor Tim Brooker (Veneta) | Director Georgia Varozza (Fern Ridge Library District) |
| Councilor Dwight Coon (Junction City) | Director Sandi Young (Siuslaw Public Library) |
| Commissioner Bill Dwyer (Lane County) | Representative from School District 68 |
| Commissioner Richard Eymann (EPUD) | |
| Director Bob Snedden (Western Lane Ambulance District) | |

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

None

GUESTS

Becky Chamberlain, Randy Dreiling, Neil Friedman, Don Hampton, John Milandin, Jack Minter, John Tamulonis

LCOG STAFF

George Kloeppe, Steve Dignam, Janet Minter, Ted Stevens, Byron Vanderpool

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Chairperson Jerry Miller called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors to order at 10:10 a.m.

LCOG staff Janet Minter called the roll of members. LCOG Executive Director George Kloeppel stated that a quorum was present.

Chairperson Miller welcomed Lowell Councilor Marisa Alvarez, Oakridge Council President/Acting Mayor Brian Huber, and Westfir Mayor Diana Tonkin to their first meeting of the Board.

Lane County Commissioner Don Hampton welcomed members of the Board to Oakridge, The Center of Oregon Recreation. He distributed copies of an Oakridge Visitors Map, described activities planned for the day, and conducted a raffle of a beaver chainsaw sculpture won by Mayor Ron Petitti.

2. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Director Dennis Shine requested that discussion of the impacts on member agencies of the repeal of House Bill 2152 adopted by the 2003 Oregon Legislative Session be placed on the agenda. He suggested that the discussion could lead to establishing an LCOG advocacy position regarding the effort to refer its approval to a special statewide election.

MOTION: *Mayor Petitti moved, seconded by Director Greg James, to add discussion of repeal of House Bill 2152 to the agenda of the meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously, 19:0.*

Chairperson Miller stated that the addition would be considered as the first item under Local Government Services.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairperson Miller noted that the Consent Calendar contained approval of minutes of the September 25, 2003, meeting.

MOTION: *Commissioner Anna Morrison moved, seconded by Mayor Jim Torrey, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was adopted unanimously, 19:0.*

COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

John Milandin stated that he was an active participant in economic development efforts in Oakridge. He referred to the Visitors Map distributed by Former Mayor Hampton and explained its purpose and widespread use. He noted that a recent article in *The Register-Guard* identified Oakridge as a "Mountain Bikers' Mecca." He described efforts to expand sports- and recreation-related retail and service businesses in the area. He reported that the City of Oakridge had recently joined the rural fire protection district in the area and looked

forward to its merger with other nearby districts. He suggested that the Oakridge area be included in an LCOG study of Lane County regional parks and open space.

Randy Dreiling stated that he was president of the Oakridge Chamber of Commerce. He described the Customer Service Program of his organization and recommended that members of the Board consider the use of Willamette Pass Recreation Area gondolas during the summer months. He thanked the Board for holding its meeting in Oakridge and invited members to enjoy their day.

Oakridge Acting Mayor Brian Huber described development of a boat launching facility at the Oakridge Greenwaters Park.

Lane Community College (LCC) Board of Education Director Dennis Shine announced that Tim J. Craig had been appointed Executive Director for Business, Workforce Development and Extended Learning in the LCC Office of Instruction and Student Services.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Miller reported that the Executive Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Board and that he had no matters related to it to report.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Information from the Executive Director” distributed by e-mail. He invited questions and reviewed information it contained regarding meetings of the Board. He also noted that solicitation had begun for nominations for awards to be presented at the annual LCOG Appreciation Dinner.

Chairperson Miller referred to information contained in the material regarding the December 5 meeting of the Oregon Regional Councils Association (ORCA) and invited additional members of the Board to attend.

7. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None.

BUSINESS ITEMS

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

A. Discussion of Impacts of the Repeal of House Bill 2152

Director Shine reported that LCC would lose \$1 million of revenue if House Bill 2153 was repealed, as intended by proponents of referring its approval to voters. He distributed copies of resolutions adopted by the LCC Board of Education and Oregon School Boards Association Board of Directors in opposition to the repeal. He encouraged the Board to consider adopting a similar position.

Chairperson Miller reported that he had been provided information about “OUR – Oregon Coalition Voter Education Project” by Lane County Human Rights Committee Chairperson James Mattiace. He said the project was a cooperative effort to stop the referendum effort from succeeding and could be endorsed by the LCOG Board.

Chairperson Miller determined there was agreement to replace reports from member agencies on the agenda with round-robin reports of the impacts of the repeal on member agencies at this point in the agenda.

Chairperson Miller distributed copies of a memorandum from Superintendent Ron Hitchcock on the impact of repealing temporary Oregon Income Tax increases in House Bill 2152 to Lane Education Services District. He noted that the memorandum reported that repeal would reduce district revenue by \$1.4 million and result in significant reductions in services it provided to 16 school districts in Lane County.

Director Chris Pryor reported that the Eugene School District 4J Board of Education was considering adopting a resolution in opposition to the referral. He said the \$12 million impact it would have on the district could not be compensated for by the closure of additional schools and would result in laying off teachers, cutting programs, and postponing facility maintenance.

Director Alan Laisure reported that adoption of the referral would result in at least a \$4 million reduction in the budget of Bethel School District 52. He said his biggest concern was the “ripple effect” such a cut would have on the future quality of life in the State of Oregon. He said he supported opposition to the effort to rescind the current budget.

Director Shine reported that Lane Metro Partnership Director Jack Roberts had expressed opposition to the referral effort because of its divisive nature and the negative impact its passage would have on the Lane County economy.

Commissioner Patrick Lanning reported that the referral would have no direct impact on Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) services, but that further lowering of support for education in the State of Oregon could impact efforts of the utility to recruit quality out-of-state workers to fill positions left vacant by recent staff retirements.

Acting Mayor Huber reported that Oakridge schools were already reducing school programs and that further reductions in revenue support from the state could only create a worse situation.

Commissioner Greg James stated that Willamalane Park District would not be directly impacted by adoption of the referral, but that its need to provide services was directly tied to the Springfield educational system. He said the district was already assisting schools by organizing recreation and team sports programs.

Councilor Alvarez said she was not familiar with the referral effort to identify impacts its passage would have on the City of Lowell.

Director Al King reported that Springfield School District 19 received approximately \$586/student from the State of Oregon, and that adoption of the referral would result in a \$7.5 million reduction in district revenue. He said the impact would likely have even more significant effect on smaller districts and lead to an impetus to their consolidation with the larger ones, creating more pressure on their ability to provide services.

Mayor Mike Dean said Coburg would be impacted by adoption of the referral most by the likely placing of its school back on the “short list” of those being considered for closure by the Eugene 4J District.

Councilor John Woodrow said he was not aware of how the referral would impact the City of Springfield.

Councilor Nan Osbon said she was also not aware of how the referral would impact the City of Florence.

Councilor Susie Navetta said the referral would have no impact on Dune City.

Commissioner Morrison said Lane County would be primarily impacted by approval of the referral by reductions in support for health services and by return to the State of Senate Bill 1145 mandated services. She reported that the Association of Oregon Counties was filing suit against the State demanding reallocation of Oregon and California revenue from the State General Fund back to counties.

Commissioner Morrison said she could not support the LCOG Board taking a position in opposition to the referral on the basis of impacts on Lane County services. She said it was normal for 10 percent of any statewide cuts to be assigned to Lane County.

Commissioner Morrison said it was her experience that current educational services had not been overly affected by budget reductions. She said she was more concerned about the lack of discipline in schools and reported that there were no such problems when she was in school, in spite of class sizes that reached more than 60 pupils.

Mayor Petitti reported that cuts to Creswell school district services had already been so severe that it was not able to provide adequate class offerings for some students to graduate from high school.

Cottage Grove Mayor Gary Williams said he did not support opposition to the effort to refer approval of House Bill 2152 because he believed voters should be able to approve taxes they have to pay.

Mayor Torrey stated that he feared a voter “back lash” because of “Decline to Sign” campaigns to stop referral of House Bill 2152 to voters. He said he believed such opposition was too early and should be organized later to as opposition to specific cuts that would be imposed because of it.

Mayor Torrey said the temporary Income Tax increase was only a “band-aid” and did not solve the school funding crisis in Oregon. He said many citizens had legitimate concerns about the high expense of public education and that a campaign to oppose the repeal should include clear explanations of why education was so costly in the state.

Mayor Torrey said the City of Eugene would not be impacted by passage of the referral, unless legislators seeking to maintain support for schools adjusted State Budget priorities to result in less Shared Revenue for cities.

Mayor Torrey said he would not support LCOG taking a position on the referral measure at the present time. He said there was no benefit gained from “jumping on anyone’s bandwagon.”

Mayor Tonkin said she was not aware of how the referral would impact the City of Westfir.

Executive Director Kloeppeel stated that disappropriation of State funds through the referral effort would seriously affect LCOG human services budget. He said Senior and Disabled Services had already suffered significant revenue cuts, but would receive an additional \$1.8 million eliminated from its state revenue if House Bill 2152 was rejected by voters. He said he would keep the Board informed of developments.

Board members continued a general discussion of impacts of the referendum effort including the effect of the closure of the Creswell School District on the nearby larger district to which its schools would be annexed; surveys suggesting that voters need to be clearly informed of the consequences of rejecting House Bill 2153; classroom discipline being possible if controls were given back to schools; additional time being needed to discuss whether LCOG should take a position on the referendum; requesting staff for a report of disappropriation impacts on all Lane County school districts; ensuring that data from each is reported similarly; the possibility of the Legislature developing alternative funding mechanisms if the referral succeeds and the bill is rejected by voters; including the topic on the agenda of the December 11 Board meeting.

Chairperson Miller said he believed there was consensus to not entertain a motion regarding opposition to referring House Bill 2153 to voters. There was no objection.

B. Follow-up to Goal Setting Session – Strengthening the Regional Economy

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Follow-up to Goal Setting Session – Strengthening the Region’s Economy.” He reviewed suggestions it contained that had emerged in the July 24 meeting of the Board relating the role of LCOG in “facilitating the retention and expansion of stable, high quality employment,” as follows:

1. Assist local governments in meeting infrastructure needs – grantsmanship, technical assistance.
2. Maintain and make available objective information related to development – Buildable lands surveys, etc.
3. Support “needs and issues” process. Board should receive regular reports from Lane Economic Committee.
4. Avoid conflicting with the economic development efforts of others such as Lane Metro Partnership, Workforce Partnership, and Convention and Visitors Association of Lane County (CVALCO).
5. Facilitate area-wide long-term growth management planning such as the Region 2050 Project and nurture a unified vision for growth and development.
6. Expand business assistance (loan) programs.

Mr. Kloeppe summarized a regional strategy for economic development based on the suggested actions – Training, Infrastructure Development, Business Assistance, and Recruitment.

Springfield Economic Development and Housing Program Director John Tamulonis stated that he was chairperson of the Lane Economic Committee (LEC) of LCOG. He described efforts of the committee to increase the efficiency of economic development in the county. He said job development was its primary goal. He invited members to provide feedback on the six suggestions for the role of LCOG in economic development. Comments were recorded by LCOG staff Steve Dignam. (See Appendix A.)

Commissioner Morrison said certain questions needed to be asked about LCOG involvement in economic development: How is it to be done? Who will do it? How much will it cost?

Mayor Dean said a primary role for LCOG in economic development should be coordination. He suggested that it could identify regional impacts of local issues such as development of a sewer system in Coburg. He said it had significant effect on the surrounding area because it was essential in maintaining the large industrial job base of the city.

Chairperson Miller said he believed the six goals were a helpful summary. He said discussion of them needed to start with what resources were available to meet them.

Mayor Torrey said he agreed with Mayor Dean that the best interests of Eugene were served by maintaining jobs in Coburg. He said economic development in the Junction City area would also become important. He said Eugene was committed to work regionally to ensure that they continued to provide employment opportunities. He suggested that consideration should also be given to what surrounding areas can give back to Eugene if it helps them maintain their industrial job base.

Commissioner Morrison said she had expressed concern about how economic development resources had been distributed in past years. She said she did not believe Regional Investment Boards funds had not been allocated wisely and had reservations about whether the process should be continued. She said lack of support for solutions to Columbia River exporting issues were an example of her concern.

Director Shine said he believed interaction between the Board and LEC were important. He said the interests represented in the two bodies were complimentary.

Commissioner Ken Miller said he believed product manufacturing was difficult to organize and support in rural areas.

Director Al King said he believed it was necessary to be “smart” in what business was attracted to any area.

Mayor Dean said it had recently been reported that the fastest economic development growth in the nation was along Interstate Highway 5 that crossed the middle of Oregon.

Commissioner Morrison said she believed duplication of services and administrative costs in economic development programs needed to be eliminated.

Director Pryor said he believed those who received business assistance loans should be given training in business practices.

Director King said improving rail service would positively impact economic development in the area.

Mayor Williams said he agreed and suggested that improved rail service could make the west coast truly an integrated region.

Mr. Tamulonis stated that the LEC would consider the six suggested actions for increased economic development emphasis and report back to the Board.

10. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES

None.

11. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

A. Criteria for Exploration of Regional Issues

Chairperson Miller stated that consideration of Agenda Item 11.A, Criteria for Exploration of Regional Issues would be postponed until the December 11 meeting.

B. Nominating Committee Appointment and Confirmation

Chairperson Miller referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Nominating Committee Appointment and Confirmation” and announced that he intended to appoint Commissioner Lanning, Director Pryor, and Mayor Williams as the Nominating Committee for 2003-2004.

MOTION: *Mayor Torrey moved, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to confirm the appointment of Patrick Lanning, Chris Pryor, and Gary Williams as the 2003-2004 Nominating Committee. The motion was adopted unanimously, 19:0.*

MEMBER AGENCY AND ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Chairperson Miller noted that Agenda Support Material entitled “Advisory Council Reports” contained information about meetings of the Metropolitan Policy Committee, Lane Economic Committee and Senior Services Advisory Council.

13. REPORTS OF STATE AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

None.

14. REPORTS OF MEMBER AGENCIES

Chairperson Miller announced that reports from representatives of member agencies would be received at the December meeting. He encouraged members to use the Board of Directors E-Mail List on the LCOG Internet Webpage to share matters of interest and concerns.

INFORMATION ITEMS

15. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

None.

16. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES

None.

17. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

A. First Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “First Quarter financial Report” and stated that the Financial Report was positive and healthy, but that there were many unknowns for the balance of the fiscal year. He said the referral of adoption of House Bill 2153 to voters created extreme uncertainty in Senior and Disabled Services operations. He invited members to discuss questions and concerns with him after the meeting.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)

APPENDIX A**Strengthening the Regional Economy
Notes of Board Discussion
October 18, 2003**

How do we do it? Who does it? How much does it cost?

Help coordinate various sources. LCOG needs to identify dollar and human resources.

Identify regional solutions to infrastructure needs. (Valuate support for Columbia River dredging.)

Improve two-way communication between LCOG/LEC Boards.

Improve awareness of industrial site options in rural areas.

Focus on realistic industries.

Develop reliable transportation infrastructure.

Can tasks be condensed to less groups?

Business Loan Program has further potential.

Greater technical assistance to small businesses.

Take advantage of rail transport.

- Recorded by Steve Dignam