

MINUTES
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Florence Events Center
715 Quince Street
Florence

September 30, 2004 - 7:00 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Director Jerry Miller (Lane ESD), Chair	Director Charlie Kimball (Siuslaw Library)
Councilor Philip Brubaker (Florence)	Director Alan Laisure (School District 52)
Councilor Darrell Carman (Veneta)	Commissioner Patrick Lanning (EWEB)
Councilor Dwight Coon (Junction City)	Mayor Ron Petitti (Creswell)
Councilor Glenn Fortune (Oakridge)	Director Dennis Shine (LCC)
Director Greg James (Willamalane)	Mayor Judy Volta (Coburg)
Port Manager Tom Kartrude (Port of Siuslaw)	Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove)

Absent

Dunes City Representative	Lane County Representative
Eugene Representative	School District 4J (Eugene) Representative
Lowell Representative	School District 19 (Springfield) Representative
Springfield Representative	School District 68 (Mohawk) Representative
Westfir Representative	Fern Ridge Library District Representative
Western Lane Ambulance District Rep.	EPUD Representative

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

None

GUESTS

Florence City Manager Rodger Bennett, Sheriff Jan Clements, Linda Carman, Junction City Mayor Larry Crowley, Lane County Commissioner Bobby Green, Mary Lehman, Skyler Lindstrom-Hernandez, Lane County Administrator Bill Van Vactor, Oakridge City Manager Gordon Zimmerman.

LCOG STAFF

George Kloepfel, Jamon Kent, Ann Mortenson, 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 7:05 p.m.

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

Councilor Philip Brubaker welcomed members of the Board to the City of Florence. He introduced Florence City Manager Rodger Bennett.

2. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Miller determined there was agreement to alter the order of the agenda to consider a Special Presentation immediately after Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

12. LANE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY DISTRICT

Lane County Commissioner Bobby Green stated that the Lane County Budget for Fiscal Year 2004-05 had been balanced by utilizing reserves and an across-the-board cut of allocations to all departments. He said the deficit anticipated for the next year suggested that reserves would be eliminated and further cuts extremely harsh.

Commissioner Green reported that the Board of County Commissioners had formed a Service Stabilization Task Force (SSTF) to address the structural deficit. He said it had been asked to make recommendations about how the County can live within its means on an annual basis, how it can reduce cost factors that drive the deficit, and how to right size the organization to ensure service stability.

Commissioner Green said the SSTF was also asked to explore proposing the formation of a Public Safety Special District on the November 2006 general ballot. He said it was necessary for such a proposal to have the approval of the City Councils of the County and would require amendment of the Eugene/Springfield Area Metro Plan.

Commissioner Green distributed copies of a document entitled "Lane County, Oregon – Five-Year General Fund Forecast." He said the graph it contained was referred to as the "Jaws Syndrome" because it showed an ever-widening negative gap between anticipated revenue and expenses.

Lane County Sheriff Jan Clements described the difficulty of maintaining Public Safety services in the face of continuing budget shortfalls. He said forming the proposed Special

District was a complicated process and that needed to begin as soon as possible for it to be on the November 2006 ballot.

Sheriff Clements described countywide public safety services provided by Lane County – Corrections, Youth Services Department, District Attorney, and Parole and Probation. He said each of the services relied on the others to maintain the integrity of the whole system. He said municipal public safety services and the rural and small city police services provided by the Sheriff’s Department also depended on the countywide services.

Commissioner Green explained that approximately 70 percent of the Lane County Budget was dedicated to public safety services. He said that a substantial property tax rate would need to be established for a Special District to support the entire system, which raised concerns about Measure 5 tax compression limitations for the residents of cities and other special districts. He said all issues related to the proposal Public Safety District were being explored and taken seriously.

Sheriff Clements discussed electoral and professional elements of forming a Public Safety District. He said public support, legal, and fiscal analyses were needed. He described the possibility of a “split-rate.” In which municipal areas providing their own police services would be exempt from the portion of the rate that would support rural and small city patrol services provided by Sheriff Deputies.

Lane County Administrator Bill Van Vactor distributed copies of a document entitled “Property Tax by District.” He pointed out that it showed the Lane County Permanent Rate of \$1.27 per \$1,000 of assessed value was, by far, the lowest rate for any general purpose government. He said it resulted from previously available timber sales revenue and Ballot Measure limitations on rate increases adopted by Oregon voters in recent years.

Director Alan Laisure asked if the split-rate consideration would expand the services provided by the Sheriff’s Office. Sheriff Clements replied that preliminary proposals assumed that municipal police departments would continue to provide their current services and that some additional services could be provided in rural areas.

Director Dennis Shine asked if some programs currently housed in the Health and Human Services (HHS) Department might be supported in the proposed public safety district. Mr. Van Vactor replied that only preliminary discussions had been held to date. He said some alcohol and drug treatment and prevention programs and Parole and Probation were examples of HHS programs that could easily be included.

Director Shine said he was learning that criminal recidivism could be reduced by providing life skill training for those released from corrections programs and could legitimately be supported by a public safety special district. Sheriff Clements added that studies showed that evidence-based alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health programs also reduced recidivism, but that the most effective were expensive.

Mr. Kloeppele noted that the Board of Directors had identified regional public safety issues as an important topic and asked for it to be kept informed of opportunities to address the concerns.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

4. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Miller referred to Agenda Support Material entitled "Report of the Executive Committee" and noted that it contained notes from Executive Committee meetings held on July 22 and September 16. He determined that members of the Executive Committee did not wish to expand on the reports.

5. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Kloeppele referred to Agenda Support Material entitled "Advisory Council Reports" and noted it contained reports of meetings, as follows:

- ♦ August 10 – Senior Services Advisory Council
- ♦ September 9 – Metropolitan Policy Committee
- ♦ September 10 – Disability Services Advisory Council

6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Kloeppele referred to Agenda Support Material entitled "Comments from the Executive Director" and noted it contained information, as follows:

- ♦ Board Meeting Schedule – Next on December 9 – Hosts needed
- ♦ September 21-24 Western Council of Governments Conference – Summary attached
- ♦ Retirement of LCOG Human Resources Manager, Linda Aday, and appointment of James Walsh to the position as of October 11
- ♦ New team-focus LCOG organizational structure initiated
- ♦ A \$500,000 Economic Development Administration grant has been received to capitalize a Revolving Loan Fund managed by LCOG

Mr. Kloeppele referred to information regarding a Mazzi's Restaurant benefit for Meals on Wheels distributed at the beginning of the meeting and encouraged members to participate.

BUSINESS ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Miller noted that the Consent Agenda contained items, as follows:

- a. Approval of minutes of July 22, 2004, Board of Directors meeting

- b. Plan for Appreciation Dinner
- c. Plan for Dialogue with Legislative Delegation
- d. Appointments to Nominating Committee
- e. Plan for Public Official Training

Mayor Ron Petitti moved, seconded by Director Laisure, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0.

Chairperson Miller asked Mayor Petitti to act as convener for the Nominating Committee. Mayor Petitti agreed to serve.

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES ITEMS

None.

10. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES ITEMS

A. Legislative Priorities for 2005

Senior and Disabled Services Director Ted Stevens referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Senior and Disabled Services Legislative Priorities for 2005” and noted that it described LCOG’s responsibility as Lane County Area Agency on Aging and Disability Services to be an advocate. He described development of local legislative priorities in preparation for advocacy positions during the 2005 Session of the Oregon Legislature. He said the Executive Committee and Advisory Councils recommended approval of the proposed priorities.

Councilor Glenn Fortune moved, seconded by Commissioner Patrick Lanning, to approve the Senior and Disabled Services Legislative Priorities for 2005 and to authorize staff and Advisory Councils to advocate on behalf of them. The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0.

B. Advocacy Regarding Eligibility for Medicare Drug Discount Card \$600 Credit

Mr. Stevens referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Advocacy Regarding Eligibility for Medicare Drug Discount Care \$600 per Year Credit” and reviewed background information it contained. He said the Senior and Disability Services Advisory Councils believed eligibility criteria for the credit should be amended to consider gross income, minus recurring medical and long-term care expenses, rather than income alone. He noted that a sample letter to the appropriate federal office was included with the Support Material.

Mr. Kloeppe said the Executive Committee recommended approval of the advocacy position and authorizing letters to federal officials.

Director Shine moved, seconded by Mayor Judy Volta, that LCOG authorize letters to be sent to members of Oregon's Congressional delegation and to the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services urging that the eligibility requirements for the annual \$600 credit within the Medicare Drug Discount Card Program be amended to consider gross income minus recurring medical and long-term care expenses, rather than gross income alone.

Director Shine said he believed the concern was an ideal topic on which LCOG should take an advocacy position.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0.

11. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

A. Board of Directors July Planning Session

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support Material entitled "Board of Directors' July Planning Session." He noted that it recorded key topics in broad issue areas assigned for discussion 2005 meeting, as identified by the Board. He said the Executive Committee recommended approval of the proposed calendar of Board meeting topic considerations.

Chairperson Miller determined that there appeared to be general agreement with the proposal.

Members discussed member participation and effective topic presentation methods.

Members also discussed the presentation about the Lane County Public Safety District. There appeared to be agreement that the presentation had been introductory in nature and that additional information regarding the proposal was needed.

MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilor Brubaker said he believed a unique, major local control issue was developing regarding expansion of the City of Florence Urban Grown Boundary. He said the issue involved extending municipal services to an area on sovereign Native American land north of the recently opened Mill Creek Casino.

Councilor Brubaker said he believed Florence was better prepared to provide police services west of the Highway 126 tunnel than the Lane County Sheriff.

Director Shine reported that the fall session had begun at Lane Community College and that it was going well. He reported that its Culinary Arts Program had received one of two accreditations given to community colleges in the state of Oregon. He said the college would sponsor a Workshop on Diversity November 5-6. He reported that Patrick Lanning had been appointed Dean of Instruction.

Director Charlie Kimball reported that the Siuslaw Library District had begun work to expand its facility.

Councilor Darrell Carman reported that the Veneta City Council was considering development of a performing arts center in a vacant building in its downtown area.

Mayor Petitti reported that forming a library district was on the November 2 ballot for Creswell residents. He said marketing of the concept was underway. He said preliminary design drawings of a new Creswell Interstate 5 freeway overpass had been received.

Mayor Volta reported that Coburg was facing personnel and budget shortfall problems. She said the City Council would consider a recommendation to engage LCOG Staff Jamon Kent from LCOG as part-time interim city manager at its next meeting.

Port Manager Tom Kartrude reported that there was a downturn in the seafood industry at the Port of Siuslaw because of the closing of an ice production plant. He said was being dealt with by an emphasis on “heritage fishing” (small-scale, family businesses) and that investigation of local alternatives for ice was underway with the assistance of the Port.

Director Greg James reported that Willamalane had received a \$500,000 grant to complete its second artificial turf athletic field. He said a measure on the November 2 ballot would replace the current Memorial Building facility with a multi-use, accessible, facility to house recreational activities, especially after-school programs for youth. He said the Springfield Planning Commission had endorsed the park district comprehensive plan proposal.

Director Laisure reported that enrollment in the Bethel School District had leveled off for the first time in years. He said the continued building of many new homes in the area, however, suggested that enrollment would again grow. He said a Bethel 2020 Project had been initiated to identify high school and other property needs for the next decade.

Commissioner Lanning reported that the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) was set to approve a rate increase to cover expenses incurred because of the near-draught conditions of recent years. He said the “hospital shuffle” involved the Board in weekly meetings about property acquisition and sales.

Mayor Gary Williams reported that All American City Cottage Grove was involved in two major highway projects – Interstate 5 Exit 174 improvements, and reconfiguration of traffic control on a Highway 99 intersection impacted by the new high school. He said the Steward Family Foundation had purchased a major downtown building for development of a mining museum and car-

ousel. He said it was located next to city owned property that would be developed as a park with gazebo and other accouterment supporting toga festivities.

Councilor Glenn Fortune reported that new, granite “Welcome to Oakridge” signs had been constructed as part of recent street improvements. He said a \$2.6 million water system improvement loan had been approved, the City Hall had been painted, library was being moved to larger quarters, and that the election of a new mayor, three members of the City Council, and four charter amendments were on the November ballot. He said he believed Oakridge was better prepared to provide police services east of Dexter than the Lane County Sheriff.

Councilor Dwight Coon reported that construction of a large housing development had been approved in Junction City. He said a new City Administrator and a new Finance Director had recently been hired. He said the city’s largest employer, Country Coach, was planning to expand.

Chairperson Miller reported that Lane Education Services District had begun its fall support for area school districts by moving its special education services group to the former Westmoreland Elementary School. He said the Lane County School Board Association had held a recent meeting in the district headquarters.

Councilor Brubaker reported that the West Lane Ambulance District had placed a five-year local option levy on the November ballot to offset budget shortfalls resulting from low Medicaid reimbursements.

Mr. Kloeppe reported that the federal Congress had adopted the Surface Transportation program, extending its life until May 31, 2005, and a Continuing Resolution had been approved to maintain all government operations until November 30.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)