

MINUTES
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Springfield School District 19
Board Room
525 Mill Street - Springfield

September 22, 2005 - 7:00 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove), Chair	Commissioner Patrick Lanning (EWEB)
Councilor Darrell Carman (Veneta)	Mayor Sid Leiken (Springfield)
Director Sherri Duerst-Higgins (Lane ESD)	Director William McCoy (Lane Library Dist)
Councilor Don Hampton (Oakridge)	Commissioner Anna Morrison (Lane County)
Director Greg James (Willamalane)	Mayor Ron Petitti (Creswell)
Director Susie Johnston (LCC)	Director Steve Recca (Fern Ridge Library Dist)
Director Al King (School District 19)	Director Annette Spickard (School District 4J)
Director Alan Laisure (School District 52)	Mayor Diana Tonkin (Westfir)
	Mayor Warren Weathers (Lowell)

Absent

City of Coburg Representative	Siuslaw Public Library Representative
City of Florence Representative	EPUD Representative
City of Eugene Representative	Port of Siuslaw Representative
Dunes City Representative	School District 68 (McKenzie) Representative
Junction City Representative	Western Lane Ambulance Dist Representative

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

None

GUESTS

Anne Ballew, Steve Barrett, Jim Johnson

LCOG STAFF

George Kloeppe, Jamon Kent, Kay Metzger, Ann Mortenson, Tom Schwetz, Ted Stevens, 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.

Board Secretary Ann Mortenson called the roll of members. LCOG Executive Director George Kloeppe stated that a quorum was present.

Assistant Superintendent Steve Barrett welcomed the board to Springfield School District 19.

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 referred to Agenda Support Material entitled "Report of the Executive Committee" and noted that it contained a summary of considerations at its most recent meeting. He determined that other members of the Executive Committee did not wish to comment further.

5. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Chairperson Williams referred to Agenda Support Material entitled "Advisory Council Reports" and noted that it contained a report of the most recent Metropolitan Policy Committee meeting.

6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support Material entitled "Comments from the Executive Director." He noted that a conflict had developed between the LCOG Board meeting scheduled for December 8 and meetings of the National League of Cities. After some discussion, Chairperson Williams determined there was consensus to give authority to the Executive Committee to change the date of the Board meeting, if it was determined to be advantageous to do so.

Mr. Kloeppe stated that invitations to host 2006 meetings of the Board of Directors were welcomed. He noted that Lane Community College would be the site of the annual Appreciation Dinner on January 26. Commissioner Patrick Lanning offered to host the February 23 meeting at EWEB and Mayor Williams offered to host the July 27 Planning Session in Cottage Grove.

Mr. Kloeppe referred to information in his report regarding Region 2050 public workshops and a Metro Area Joint Elected Officials meeting scheduled for October 11 to consider whether it would be appropriate and feasible to provide the City of Coburg with wastewater treatment from the regional facilities.

BUSINESS ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Williams noted that the Consent Agenda proposed approval of the following:

- A. Minutes of June 23 and July 28, 2005 Board Meetings.
- B. Appointments to the Nominating Committee
- C. Plan for Appreciation Dinner
- D. Board Discussion Topics for the Year

Mr. Kloeppe suggested that items B and D be removed from the Consent Agenda. Chairperson Williams determined there was no objection to the suggestion.

Director Al King moved, seconded by Commissioner Lanning, to approve items A and C of the Consent Agenda. The motion was adopted unanimously, 17:0.

Chairperson Williams noted that suggestions for appointment to the Nominating Committee had not been prepared for the meeting. Director King recommended that Director Greg James be appointed to the Nominating Committee. Director Lanning recommended that Director Susie Johnston be appointed to the Nominating Committee. Commissioner Anna Morrison volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee. Chairperson Williams stated that he would appoint Directors James and Johnston and Commissioner Morrison to the Nominating Committee, if they were confirmed by the Board.

Director Lanning moved, seconded by Director Alan Laisure, to confirm the appointments of Greg James, Susie Johnston, and Anna Morrison to the 2006 LCOG Board Nominating Committee. The motion was adopted unanimously, 17:0.

8. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICY COMMITTEE

Springfield City Councilor Anne Ballew stated that she was current Chairperson of the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC). She referred to Agenda Support Material entitled "Annual Report on MPO Activities." She noted that the Board of Directors had delegated policy making responsibilities to the MPC in 2002 and asked for an annual report of its Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) duties.

Ms. Ballew described significant MPO accomplishments since 2004:

- Appointment and operation of the MPO Advisory Committee
- Update of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- Successful defense of RTP adoption in Land Use Board of Appeals challenge
- Formation of the Oregon MPO Consortium
- Beginning work on Franklin/I-5 interchange planning

Mr. Kloeppe said the MPC was doing significant work on behalf of the LCOG Board and that its membership was active and engaged.

9. CONSENT AGENDA (Continued)

Mr. Kloeppe referred to the Minutes of the July 22 Board meeting. He noted that a list of suggestions for topics for presentations at meetings of the Board was included on Page 4. He also noted that the Executive Committee had agreed that "Local Government Finances, Tax Structure" would be an appropriate topic for the December meeting, scheduled the

topic “Accommodating Growth, Buildable Land, Region 2050” for consideration at the June 2006 meeting, and determined that “I-5 Interchange at the Willamette River Crossing” would best be considered in early fall 2006. He said the Committee would consider scheduling additional topics at its October 20 meeting and asked for Board input.

Chairperson Williams determined there was consensus that the topics, as scheduled, were appropriate and that no further suggestions were provided.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES ITEMS

A. Cascades West Economic Development District Board Appointments

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Cascades West Economic Development District Appointments” and noted that the Lane Economic Committee recommended appointment of John Tamulonis and John Sullivan to the District Board.

Director Sherri Duerst-Higgins moved, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to appoint John Tamulonis and John Sullivan to represent LCOG, along with the six members of the LCOG Board Executive Committee, to the Cascades West Economic Development District Board. The motion was adopted unanimously, 17:0.

B. Letter to Economic Development Administration Opposing Rule Changes

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Cascades West Economic Development District Letter Opposing Rule Changes” and an attached letter directed to the Office of Chief Counsel of the federal Economic Development Administration. He reviewed reasons for opposition to proposed changes to the planning program for Economic Development Districts, as recommended by the Lane Economic Committee.

Commissioner Morrison moved, seconded by Director King, to authorize the Chair to sign the proposed letter opposing changes to the rules proposed by the Economic Development Administration affecting local Economic Development Districts.

Commissioner Morrison reported that the Lane Board of County Commissioners had adopted a similar letter of opposition.

The motion was adopted unanimously, 17:0.

11. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES ITEMS

None.

12. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS

13. REPORTS ON COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCES

Mr. Kloeppe referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “Western COGs Conference and Meeting of the West Coast Corridor Coalition.” He noted that he and Director King had attended the August 10-12 meeting and found its presentations on connections required between rail and trucking ports in the West concise and valuable.

Mr. Kloeppel referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “National Association of Regional Councils Annual Conference.” He noted that he and Mayor Williams had attended the June 25-28 meeting in Monterey, California.

14. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES REPORT

LCOG Senior and Disabled Services Director Ted Stevens referred to Agenda Support Material entitled “S&DS’ Funding Personnel and Service Cut-backs” and “S&DS Legislative Priorities for 2005 – End of Session Status Report.” He reviewed information they contained.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

15. LANE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE

Consultant Jim Johnson distributed copies of a document entitled “PROGRESS REPORT – City/County Public Safety Task Force” dated September 22. He explained that the Task Force was composed of representatives of 12 cities and Lane County concerned about the use of illegal drugs, predominately methamphetamine, and the abuse of alcohol and curtailing its associated criminal behavior and interaction with the public safety system.

Mr. Johnson reviewed impacts of the focus on the Office of the District Attorney, Sheriff’s Office, Prevention Services, Parole and Probation Services, Treatment Services, and Lane County Government. He said the Task Force proposed that public safety efforts in Lane County focus, for the next five year, on achieving the following goals:

- Target these Groups for Special Action: Illegal Drug Producers, Dealers, and Users, and Target Property Criminals
- Reduce Family Violence
- Enhance Treatment Programs
- Provide Prevention Programs

Mr. Johnson said the overall system outcome was set as reducing the rate of re-offending. He reviewed target rates set for the juvenile system and for the adult system. He noted that programs and services identified as necessary to make a reasonable first step to achieve each of the four goals were described, results identified, and their cost.

Mr. Johnson referred to the Program Budget developed to support the proposed program. He said the Task Force had not yet made a final recommendation regarding funding of the budget. He said most were interested in developing an alternative to property tax and that creating a sales tax or income tax surcharge were being considered. He explained that the Board of County Commissioners would need to decide whether enacting such taxes would require voter approval.

Mr. Johnson invited members to discuss the issues and proposals under consideration.

Mayor Warren Weathers said he believed all studies had led to recognition of the need for additional incarceration capacity.

Mayor Sid Leiken said the participation of all jurisdictions in Lane County was a strength of the Task Force. He said he believed a solution to the problems of illegal drug use and the abuse of alcohol would likely be painful in the short-term, but that it was important to create a comprehensive program. He said the problem was nationwide, but that relying on state or federal resources was unrealistic and that Lane County needed “to do this or not.”

Director King said he agreed that the use of the property tax to fund the effort should be “off the table.” He said concern that a sales tax would significantly impact tourism was unfounded because vehicle and home sales would be its largest source. He suggested consideration be given to devising a way to create a property and casualty insurance premium surcharge. He said a portion of such a tax could be absorbed by insurers because of lower loss potential.

Director Annette Spickard said she believed other Oregon counties had proposed sales taxes that were rejected by voters.

Mr. Johnson said the simplest tax to impose would be an income tax because it would not require creation of a new collection mechanism.

Director Johnston said she was impressed with the broad participation in the work of the Task Force. She said it would be important to convince the public of the necessity of a tax, whether it required voter approval or not. She suggested that an approach could be to launch a campaign emphasizing that there was a massive cost already being paid by the public caused by problems associated with illegal drugs and alcohol abuse.

Commissioner Morrison said she was pleased that mental health programs were included in the proposed program because such problems were often associated with illegal drug use and alcohol abuse. She said wide participation in the work of the Task Force was positive, but that it needed to result in support for financing its proposals.

Ms. Ballew said she believed any appeal for public support needed to be based on a simplified approach. She said she was concerned that the proposals being developed were doomed to failure because of their complicated nature.

Councilor Darrell Carmen said he believed it would be important to convey the importance of the issue raised to society, in addition to individual concerns and interests.

Mayor Williams said he believed asking voter approval of any measure that required funding would invite its defeat. He suggested that it be recommended to the Board of County Commissioners to adopt a funding mechanism by ordinance and explain that it was to be of limited duration, when its continuation would require voter approval.

Director Laisure said an epidemic of crime victimization was spreading widely and that something painful needed to be done for it to be stopped.

Director King suggested that his proposed insurance premium surcharge could be estimated by the reduction of loss payments created by the possible loss reduction created by prevention and treatment programs proposed.

Mayor Weathers said he supported the suggestion of an insurance premium surcharge; but that he believed if the problem was to be solved, its funding mechanism needed voter sup-

port. He said ordinances could be overturned by initiative. He said support in rural communities needed to be especially solicited.

Mayor Williams asked if expansion of the Forest Work Camp program had been discussed in meetings of the Task Force. Mr. Johnson replied that it had been reported that the Sheriff was studying the full continuum of incarceration. He said it had been noted that the Forest Work Camp was the least expensive type of incarceration for a person convicted of certain types of crime, but that it was important to determine what would produce the best result from an infusion of new resources.

Mayor Williams said he believed most voters were like “sausage gourmets.” They didn’t want to know how it was made, just that it tasted good. He suggested voters would support a solution to the problems of illegal drug use and alcohol abuse, if it worked. He said it was the time for leadership in the County to take a stand.

Chairperson Williams thanked Mr. Johnson for his presentation.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)