

September 14, 2006

To: LCOG Executive Committee
From: George Kloeppe, Executive Director
Subject: July Board Planning Session

Two aspects of the July 24 Planning Session deserve the Committee's attention.

First, an assessment of the Planning Session's relevance, usefulness and the approach utilized would be helpful. Our facilitator, Sylvia Rose, gathered evaluation comments, but the Committee's view of this traditional event from a broader perspective is needed. The fact is, we did not have a quorum of the Board in Cottage Grove in July, and as with any project that carries of cost in terms of both time and money, an after-the-fact assessment of the positive and negative aspects is appropriate. We need to determine if this is something that we want to continue to do, and if so, with what changes.

Second, the Committee is asked to follow-up on the Board's discussion of regional issues. Direction is needed regarding the "special discussion" topics that should be scheduled for the Board in the coming months. For reference, a copy of the minutes of the July session is attached. The staff has attempted to clarify this list a bit—in order to make it more manageable for the Committee—and has offered the following listing of potential Board discussion topics. The Committee is asked to choose the subjects to place on Board meeting agendas. After this month, we will meet in December, February, April, June, and July.

1. Regional Approach to Transportation (a series of 2-3 meetings)
 - Reliable, timely, doable, practical public transportation (to access medical, educational, jobs, recreation, entertainment, etc. – valley-wide and locally)
 - Political and technical roadblocks and opportunities
 - Presentations on creative regional transportation systems and models from outside the region, as well as from LTD.
 - Infrastructure and funding
2. Water Rights and Regional Opportunities (1 meeting)
3. Enriching Opportunities in Small Communities: Enhancing a Sense of Place
(1 meeting) (to include jurisdictional identity and revitalization through economic development, libraries, etc.)

4. Impact of Education on Economy: What is coming down the pike? (K-12 and LCC) (1 meeting)

A fifth topic, “Multi-cultural awareness training,” was included in the July minutes, but was not discussed by the entire group. You may, however, want to add it back for your deliberation. Since no decision was made by the Board in July about a regional topic for exploration in September, I have asked the County to provide some exposition of its public safety tax measure. I know that this subject was completely off the chart relative to the Board’s work in July, but it seemed timely and appropriate.

Finally, having asked that the Committee assess the event and also to identify topics for the Board’s “special presentations” in the coming months, I should share the editorial piece that I wrote for the fall issue of *Regional Focus*. Though I am concerned about the lack of attendance at the July session (we were competing with the Oregon Mayors Association), my general feeling, as expressed in the editorial, is that the session was worthwhile. That is not to prejudice your thinking, but rather to give you a heads-up about the item in the *Regional Focus*.