

# MINUTES

## Lane Economic Committee

Lane Council of Governments – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conference Room  
99 E. Broadway, Suite 400 – Eugene

January 23, 2006 – 11:30 A.M.

**PRESENT:** John Tamulonis, Chair; Tim Black, Mike Blommé, DeAnn Cherbas, Chuck Forster, Anna Morrison, Glenda Poling, Jim Ramseyer, Rob Scoggin, John Sullivan, Mike Sullivan, Ellen Teninty, Lynnette Wikstrom, members; Jay Bozievich, *ex officio* member; Randy Derrik, Howard Schesser, alternate members.

Steve Dignam, LCOG staff.

**ABSENT:** Hal Reed, member; Philip Hudspeth, Deb Schmidt, Kari Westlund, *ex officio* members.

**GUESTS:** Tom Katrude, George Lavios, Jenny Ulum, Shawn Winkler-Rios

In the absence of Mr. Tamulonis, Mr. Ramseyer called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Lane Economic Committee (LEC) to order at 11:30 a.m. He invited those who were present to introduce themselves. He determined there were no requests to change the agenda, or for comments from members of the public, chairperson, or staff.

### 1. Minutes Approval

*Ms. Poling moved, seconded by Ms. Teninty, to accept the minutes of the November 21, 2005, meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously, 12:0, Mr. Mike Sullivan having not yet joined the meeting.*

Mr. Tamulonis joined the meeting at 11:35 a.m., Mr. Mike Sullivan at 11:40 a.m.

### 2. Economic Development Projects – Lane MicroBusiness

Lane MicroBusiness Executive Director Shawn Winkler-Rios said the purpose of his nonprofit associated with Lane Community College was to support the efforts of low-income microentrepreneurs to start and grow a business. He said it provided training, technical assistance, and access to appropriate capital resources. He described the populations served and the current training and assistance programs provided.

Mr. Winkler-Rios said an average of 20 hours of training was provided to participants. He said 19 Individual Development Accounts were established and assistance was provided to package 12 microloans in 2005, and that 70 businesses were currently registered with Lane MicroBusiness. He said trends were a continued high participation rate by women; increasing services to college graduates, persons of Hispanic heritage, and seniors; and a growing interest by rural communities in developing microenterprises as an economic development strategy.

Members of the committee discussed the presentation.

### **3. Economic Development Projects – City of Eugene**

City of Eugene Housing and Community Development Division Manager Mike Sullivan reviewed recent developments related to the West Eugene Enterprise Zone. He said seven applications for \$581 million in projects that would add 250 new jobs had been received since it was reinstated July 1, 2005. He described its benefit to area businesses and how it made investment in Eugene and in Springfield more equitable.

Mr. Mike Sullivan reviewed recent developments in the Eugene downtown, which he said had resulted from a “Great Streets” visioning and planning process. He displayed schematic drawings and described projects begun by Whole foods and the Conner and Woolley/Opus Group. He said the developments would bring major renovation to the area. He explained that amendment of the Urban Renewal Plan, City and private funding, and property acquisition were major hurdles to be overcome in bringing about the change.

Members of the committee discussed the presentation.

### **4. Election of LEC Officers**

Mr. Dignam reported that he had contacted current LEC officers and learned that Hal Reed was unavailable to consider continuing as Vice Chairperson, but that John Tamulonis was willing to consider serving as Chairperson, as penance for his regular late arrival at meetings.

Mr. Scoggin nominated Jay Bozievich to serve as Vice Chairperson for 2006.

Ms. Wikstrom nominated John Tamulonis to serve as Chairperson for 2006.

*Ms. Morrison moved, seconded by Ms. Cherbas, to elect the nominated persons. The motion was adopted unanimously, 13:0.*

### **5. Needs and Issues List**

Mr. Dignam described the on-going saga of the establishment/requirement/support/abandonment by the State of Oregon of the Needs and Issues listing of economic development projects. He said there were continued expressions of interest by area communities regarding the value of the annual effort, but that funding for enabling it was not available. He said the cost of an independent Lane County effort was not known. He invited members to discuss the issue.

Mr. Black said he had the impression that the State was no longer providing for the expense of creating of the list, but that it valued it as a guide in its project funding decision making.

Ms. Cherbas said many federal funding programs required local endorsement of projects such as provided by the list.

Mr. Kartrude said it was his experience that the State of Oregon sponsored meetings of funding agencies to facilitate identification of qualified development projects based on the prioritizations

provided by the list. He said he did not believe LCOG should be required to fund support for such a process, but that other resources should be made available for its development.

Mr. John Sullivan suggested that if an independent Needs and Issues process were created, it would be an opportunity to revamp what had become a cumbersome and confusing effort. He suggested that an effort undertaken with the Cascades West Economic Development District could be productive.

Ms. Morrison said she believe it would be important for any revamped process to be “based in reality” and more focused than it had been in the past.

Mr. Tamulonis said rural areas benefited most from a Needs and Issues process because they did not have legislative lobbying support. He suggested that Mr. Dignam be asked to develop a proposal for a process and its funding based on input from interested parties.

Ms. Cherbas suggested that funding for a process could be provided by fees required for project applications. Mr. Kartrude replied that such a requirement would most negatively affect rural communities and limit their participation. He suggested that other Oregon counties or councils of governments could have relevant experience.

Mr. Black said he believed it would be important to initially identify the purpose and use of a Needs and Issues list.

Mr. Scoggin suggested that there would be value in coordinating the creation of a list with another economic development agency. He asked if a source of federal funding could be available.

Mr. John Sullivan suggested that input and support from the LCOG Board of Directors be gathered before development of an independent Needs and Issues List was undertaken.

Ms. Teninty said she believed a Needs and Issues List could have broad economic development impact. She suggested that consideration be given to adding coordination of its creation to the revised job description of the Lane County position formerly held by Peter Thurston.

***Mr. John Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Ramseyer, to inform the LCOG Board of Directors of the value identified in the economic development Needs and Issues process, especially for the rural areas, and to seek its advice regarding any further development. The motion was adopted unanimously, 12:0, Mr. Mike Sullivan having left the meeting.***

Mr. Dignam announced that the next meeting of the LEC was scheduled for February 27.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

*(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)*

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