

MINUTES

Lane Economic Committee

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

February 14, 2005 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: John Tamulonis, Chair; Tim Black, Mike Blommé, DeAnn Cherbas, Dave D’Avanzo, Chuck Forster, Glenda Poling, Rob Scoggin, Mike Sullivan, Ellen Teninty, Mitch Wilkinson, Lynnette Wikstrom, members; Jay Bozievich, Kari Westlund, *ex officio* members; Randy Derrik (for John Sullivan), Mike Galvin (for Hal Reed), Howard Schesser (for Rob Scoggin), alternate members.

Steve Dignam, Milo Mecham (LCOG); Peter Thurston (Lane County); Bob Warren (Oregon Economic & Community Development Department).

ABSENT: Anna Morrison, Jim Ramseyer, Hal Reed, John Sullivan, *members*; Philip Hudspeth, Deb Schmidt, *ex officio members*.

GUESTS: Tim Duy, Ric Ingham.

In preparation for the late arrival of Mr. Tamulonis, Ms. Wikstrom called the meeting of the Lane Economic Committee (LEC) to order at 11:30 a.m. She invited those who were present to introduce themselves. Mr. Tamulonis joined the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Mr. Dignam requested changes to the agenda, as follows:

- Add a report from the Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn Regional Investment Board
- Add review of subcommittee report regarding recommendations of the Lane County Economic Development Standing Committee for the use of Video Lottery receipts
- Defer consideration of Junction City Economic Development project update

Mr. Tamulonis determined there was consensus to make the proposed agenda changes.

1. Public, Chair and Staff Comments

Mr. Tamulonis determined no one present wished to make a special comment.

Mr. Tamulonis thought up a new excuse for being late.

Mr. Mecham distributed copies of a document entitled “Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn Regional Investment Board – 2003-05 Biennial Report.” He reviewed information it contained, noting that all available resources had been allocated before the end of the biennium. He said \$865,883 had been used to support 13 economic development activities, creating 433 new jobs – one job for each \$1,732 spent and leveraging \$34 for each \$1 of support.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilkinson moved, seconded by Ms. Poling, to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2005, meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously, 14:0

3. Tourism Task Force Report

Ms. Westland reviewed a report made to the Lane County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on February 1, 2005, entitled "Tourism Infrastructure in Lane County." She reviewed background, membership, and process used by a Tourism Task Force formed in April 2004.

Ms. Westland said the Task Force had come to consensus that Lane County increasingly lagged behind comparable population centers in terms of lodging and convention and meeting space. She said a reason for the slippage had been identified the impediments of jurisdictional boundaries, vision, and political will.

Ms. Westland reported that the Task Force had gained the support of the BCC for its recommendation to adopt a goal to work with Eugene and Springfield to retain a position as the second largest regional hub of tourism and convention activity in Oregon. She said a Working Group was formed to establish a permanent inter-jurisdictional entity with authority to build and operate tourism-related infrastructure in the county.

Ms. Westland reported on Task Force project recommendations:

- Develop a regional convention center and headquarter hotel in the Eugene/Springfield area.
- Encourage incentives for full service hotel development in Florence to support its Events Center.
- Continue development of all-weather playing fields to compete for regional tournaments and provide benefits for local groups.
- Continue the effort to develop a regional destination attraction.
- Work to secure Interstate 5 interchange to link Eugene, Springfield, the University of Oregon, and Glenwood.
- Support development of Visitor Information Centers in Florence and at Interstate 5 rest stops.
- Work on ways to develop and improve the marketing and operation of new and existing events.

Members discussed the report. Mr. Wilkinson suggested that the Working Group investigate the possibility of investment of Oregon tribal funds in tourism development.

4. University of Oregon Index of Economic Indicators

University of Oregon Economic Forum Director, Timothy Duy, distributed copies of a document entitled "University of Oregon Index of Economic Indicators." He described the methodology used in developing an economic leading indicator for Oregon, its components, and its testing.

He said the goal of the Index was to create a summary measure of various data that pertained to the Oregon Economy.

Members discussed various aspects of the Index – seasonal variations, impacts of the wartime economy, use of unemployment rates, and use of employment hours.

There appeared to be agreement to invite Mr. Duy, or another representative of the Oregon Economic Forum, to return to a future LEC meeting to provide a report of a recent analysis of the use of Enterprise Zones in Oregon.

5. Use of Video Lottery Funds

Mr. Tamulonis said he had formed an *ad hoc* subcommittee to prepare a report regarding recommendations of the Lane County Economic Development Standing Committee for the use of Video Lottery receipts in Lane County. He said the LEC was regularly asked to comment on the recommendations before they were considered by the BCC. He reviewed criteria used by the subcommittee to evaluate projects – Job Creation, Leverage of Investments, Readiness, Fits General Scheme of Economic Development of Area, and Makes Sense.

Mr. Tamulonis described proposals to be considered:

- (1) Bring Recycling – Plant Improvement Center Project - \$150,000
Subcommittee believes the project proposal is realistic and noted that it has attracted an impressive list of additional funding sources.
- (2) Lane County Land Management Division – Interactive Voice Response Permitting System Project - \$80,000
Subcommittee believes the project is important and that the cost could be recouped with a \$16 surcharge for permits issued through the system.
- (3) Lane Regional Air Pollution Agency – Baxter Air Quality Remedies Project - \$50,000
Subcommittee members reported learning that collection and evaluation of data had already been completed and funded from other sources. It was suggested that an independent finding would be more appropriate.
- (4) Chapin Concepts – Business Development/California Recruitment Campaign - \$53,600
Preparation, Attraction, Promotion

Members discussed the proposals at length.

Ms. Poling moved, seconded by Mr. Scoggin, to express approval of the recommendation of the Lane County Economic Development Standing Committee to use Video Lottery receipts for the Bring Recycling project. The motion was adopted unanimously, 12:2:0, with Mr. Forster and Mr. Sullivan abstaining from voting because of conflicts of interest.

Ms. Poling moved, seconded by Mr. Scoggin, to express approval of the recommendation of the Lane County Economic Development Standing Committee to use Video Lottery receipts for the Lane County Land Management Division project, if General Fund or other resources are not available. The motion was adopted unanimously, 13:1:0, with Mr. Forster abstaining from voting because of a conflict of interest.

There appeared to be agreement to take no action on the Lane Regional Air Pollution Agency and Chapin Concepts project proposals.

6. Local Economic Development Project Updates

Mr. Tamulonis determined there was consensus to postpone receiving the Veneta Local Economic Development project update until the March meeting.

Mr. Tamulonis announced that the next meeting would be held on March 21.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)

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