

MINUTES

Lane Economic Committee

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

March 19, 2007 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: Rob Scoggin, Chair; Tim Black, Mike Galvin, John Sullivan, John Tamulonis, Ellen Teninty, *members*; Deb Schmidt, *ex officio member*; Lawrence Brice (for John Sullivan), Don Lindsey (for Mike Blommé), Howard Schesser (for Rob Scoggin), *alternate members*.

Steve Dignam, Milo Mecham (LCOG); Mike McKenzie-Bahr (Lane County); Bob Warren (Oregon Economic & Community Development Department).

ABSENT: Mike Blommé, Jay Bozievich, Denny Braud, DeAnn Cherbas, Bill Fleenor, Chuck Forster, Glenda Poling, Jenny Ulum, Lynnette Wikstrom, *members*; Jim Ramseyer, Kari Westlund, *ex officio members*.

Mr. Scoggin called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Lane Economic Committee (LEC) to order at 11:40 a.m. He noted that a quorum was not yet present, and invited those who were present to introduce themselves.

Mr. Scoggin determined that there were no requests to change the Agenda, no one present wishing to make a public comment, and that he had no specific comments as Chair.

1. Staff Comments

Mr. Dignam stated that comments regarding the change of meeting menu should be directed toward management executives who have little else to do than issue cost-saving directives. He distributed copies of an up-to-date roster of LEC members. He reported that Anne Berblinger, U.S. Economic Development Administration Economic Development Representative for Oregon and Northern California was about to retire and that her position would not be filled.

Mr. Tamulonis joined the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

2. Needs and Issues Process

Mr. Mecham distributed copies of documents entitled “Evaluation of Needs and Issues, March 2007, with Suggestions for Improvement Lane Economic Committee” and “2004 Needs and Issues Ranking Process Recommended Changes.” He reviewed information contained in the first, which he said was an attempt to summarize LEC discussion at the February LEC meeting – (1) In the past, the Needs and Issues process has been justified; (2) Currently there is a weakened

sustaining purpose; (3) Currently the process lacks definition, (4) The cost benefit ration does not justify participation; and (4) The current process underemphasizes cooperative development.

Mr. Lindsey joined the meeting at 11:50 a.m., creating a quorum.

Members discussed the value, shortcomings, and cost of local and statewide Needs and Issues ranking processes. Emphases were given to the importance of a prioritizing process for projects seeing federal funding and for jurisdictions unable to coordinate application processes; the change in focus of ranked projects to being mostly public infrastructure oriented; and seeing the process as a way to test commitment to regional/cluster project identification.

Mr. Tamulonis moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to forward the documents presented by Mr. Mecham and other comments to the Oregon Economic & Community Development Department as recommended improvements for a statewide Needs and Issues process and encouragement to provide funding support for local processes. The motion was adopted unanimously, 8:0.

3. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Mr. Mecham distributed copies of a document entitled “Proposed Strategic Initiatives” and reviewed previously identified targets for sustained support in the Benton, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn Counties included in the regional Oregon Economic and Community Development Department (OECDD) economic development district: Business Development Support, Cluster Support, Community Development, Coordination of Infrastructure Needs, Economic Gardening/Enterprise Development, Energy Development, and Industrial Site Preparedness.

Members discussed the initiatives and appeared to agree that its listing was overly multifarious, lacked action promotion, was not enforceable, and seemed to be an exercise in amphigory with little purpose. Mr. Dignam accepted the feedback and indicated that this is nonetheless an improvement over the process as implemented in prior years. Staff is attempting to make this process be more forward-looking rather than a recapitulation of historical data for the region. Staff will continue to work with its partners throughout the region to refine the strategies.

Mr. Scoggin determined there was consensus to postpone any action on the Strategy until April.

4. Regional Investment Board Background

Mr. Galvin distributed copies of documents entitled “BL³ Regional Investment Board” and “05-07 Regional/Rural Investment Projects.” He said he would discuss them at the LEC meeting scheduled for April 16, 2007.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)

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