

## MINUTES

### Lane Economic Committee

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

March 17, 2003 – 11:30 A.M.

**PRESENT:** Alex Pawlowski, Chair; DeAnn Cherbas, Chuck Forster, Don Hampton, Scarlet Lee, Anna Morrison, Hal Reed, Rob Scoggin, John Tamulonis, Lynnette Wikstrom-Smith, members; Deb Schmidt, Dennis Shine, Kari Westlund, *ex officio* members; Tim Black, Bob Doppelt, Mike Galvin, Tom Kartrude, Cynthia Pappas, Howard Schesser, John Sullivan, alternate members.

Steve Dignam (LCOG); Peter Thurston (Lane County).

**ABSENT:** Glenda Poling, Jim Ramseyer, Charles Spencer, Michael Redding, Mike Sullivan, members

**GUESTS:** Mike Dean, Wendy Farley, Heather Hansen, Mike Hudson, Bert McClintock, Jim Welsh.

Mr. Pawlowski called the meeting of the Lane Economic Committee (LEC) to order at 11:35 a.m. He invited those who were present to introduce themselves.

### 1. Public Comment

Mr. Black distributed copies of news articles entitled “Learning an Philanthropic Lesson” and “Oregon Center for Multi-Scale Materials and Devices.”

Mr. Reed described negotiations underway for a maintenance center at the Eugene Airport. He said it had the potential of providing 300 to 1,000 jobs.

Mr. Shine described entrepreneurial efforts at Lane Community College

### 2. Comments of the Chairperson and Staff

Mr. Pawlowski and Mr. Dignam eloquently discussed St. Patrick’s Day themes.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

*Mr. Pawlowski determined there was consensus to accept the February 10 meeting minutes.*

#### **4. Junction City Economic Development Update**

City Manager Bert McClintock reported on economic development in Junction City. She described a Downtown Development Plan and Smart Code Development program. She said a \$10.5 million sewer improvement project had begun and would include construction of infrastructure to the undeveloped industrial area and proposed prison site. She said Green Businesses were being promoted and that a Commercial Development Committee had been formed by the City Council. She described re-construction of Highway 99 and the opening of a new BiMart Store. In response to questions, she discussed routing of trucks through the City because of bridge weight restrictions, recreation vehicle manufacturing re-hiring, and funding for an improved water system.

#### **5. Coburg Economic Development Update**

Mayor Mike Dean said the City of Coburg was the “vortex of the Willamette Valley.” He described progress in overcoming a building moratorium with completion of a sewer system, the Periodic Review anticipation of a population of at least 3,000 residents, the experience of being part of the Metropolitan Policy Committee. He said a new Municipal Project Manager had been hired, a Downtown Plan was being developed, and the Pearl Street re-construction project was completed. He said he was excited and confident that the many changes taking place would be guided by citizen input. He described a plan to install fiber-optic conduit throughout the City when streets were opened for sewer and water construction. He reported that a Ford Family Foundation grant had been received which would provide time to find a solution to the problem of funding the Coburg School. He described efforts to earmark federal funding for a new Coburg Interstate Highway Interchange on a “United Front” Washington DC lobbying trip.

#### **6. Port of Siuslaw Funding Changes**

Director Tom Kartrude described changes in federal funding of dredging operations and their affect on the Port of Siuslaw. He suggested that they were a political strategy to require Congress to re-institute federal funding for the programs. He distributed copies of a document which identified Congressional Funding History, Construction Projects, and Economic Contributions of the Port.

Mr. Kartrude said the expense of dredging was beyond the fund available locally and that ceasing of the operations would quickly close the Port. He distributed copies of a document entitled “Sending E-Mail to Congress” and encouraged members to contact Oregon Senators and Representatives urging full funding for dredging of Oregon shallow draft ports.

Ms. Morrison stated that the Board of County Commissioners had already agreed to express support for continuing federal funding for dredging. She suggested that information on the handouts provided would be more effective if they included data on specifically identified businesses.

Mr. Shine suggested that Return on Investment data related to dredging operations was most impressive and should be used in expressions of concern to the federal government.

## **7. Development of Rural Commercial and Industrial Property Constraints**

Lane Council of Governments staff Heather Hansen described limits placed on development of “brownfield” properties by Lane County and the State of Oregon.

Lane County Board of Realtors’ Political Analyst Jim Walsh explained how the restrictions were inappropriate, given the availability of a large number of abandoned mill sites in Oregon. He referred to copies of House Bill 2689 distributed with the agenda of the meeting and described how it would correct problems created by the limitations.

Members discussed implications of the proposed legislation. Mr. Pawlowski proposed that the Bylaws subcommittee meet to review the following issues and make a recommendation at the next LEC meeting: 1) What do our bylaws currently allow with regards to the LEC taking a stand and publicly supporting a particular issue? 2) What issues are outside the scope of the LEC? 3) Would the Bylaws subcommittee recommend any changes to the LEC Bylaws regarding this topic?

There appeared to be general agreement with his proposal.

## **8. Bylaws Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Pawlowski postponed consideration of the report of the Bylaws Subcommittee until the next meeting scheduled for April 21.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

*(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)*

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