

## MINUTES

### Lane Economic Committee

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

March 14, 2005 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: John Tamulonis, Chair; Mike Blomme, Robin Onaclea, Glenda Poling, Robert Scoggins, Ellen Teninty, Lynnette Wikstrom, members; Jay Bozievich, Kari Westlund, *ex officio* members; Randy Derrick (for John Sullivan), Mike Galvin (for Hal Reed), alternate members.

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

ABSENT: Tim Black, Dave D'Avanzo, Chuck Forster, Anna Morrison, Jim Ramseyer, Hal Reed, John Sullivan, *members*; Philip Hudspeth, Deb Schmidt, *ex officio members*.

GUESTS: Ric Ingam, Michael Leighton, Dennis Lloyd, John Weiss, Kathy Lucier

Mr. Tamulonis called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. He invited those who were present to introduce themselves.

#### **1. Public, Chair and Staff Comments**

Mr. Tamulonis requested public comment and determined no one present wished to make any public comment.

Mr. Tamulonis did not have any Chair comments.

Mr. Dignam announced that LCOG's new Economic Development Administration loan program has begun efforts to build private sector support. Many banks including Wells Fargo Bank have agreed to provide matching grants to the program. Representatives from Wells Fargo were present to present Mr. Dignam and Mr. Tamulonis with a check for \$5,000.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes**

*Mr. Scoggins moved, seconded by Ms. Teninty, to accept the minutes of February 14, 2005, meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously.*

#### **3. Economic Development Efforts Presentations**

Mr. Leighton, City Manager, reviewed Junction City's economic development environment. Mr. Leighton reported:

- Junction City's population is currently 4,910. The city has the potential to develop 1400 new housing units, which when developed would increase the cities population to roughly 11,000.

- Junction City is facing identity issues about whether the community is a bedroom community, a manufacturing community, or something in between.
- Junction City is facing many issues related to growth:
  - Water – Mr. Leighton reported that existing water rights are sufficient for growth, but if necessary water rights could be diverted to other places within the city limits. The City has increased its SDC charge to cover the cost of future wastewater infrastructure estimated at \$20 million.
  - School – Junction City schools are in need of renovations at all levels.
  - Prison – The Department of Corrections still lists Junction City as a sight for a new state prison.
  - Roads – Mr. Leighton reported that the existing major road infrastructure is experiencing major stress due to increased traffic from growth at Country Coach and new housing developments.
- Country Coach has doubled its workforce in the past several months and is planning major facility expansions.
- Junction City has applied for a direct federal grant to develop their downtown area.

Mr. Ingham, City Administrator for the City of Veneta, distributed copies of a packet entitled “City of Veneta Topics.” He reviewed these documents with the committee.

Mr. Ingram reviewed Veneta’s previous Needs and Issues requests and updated the committee on each project status:

- Storm Water Drainage Improvements: This project remains the city’s highest priority.
- Cornerstone Drive & Loten Way Street Construction: New access from 126 has opened up 28 acres of industrial property for development. An additional 88 acres may be added to land available for development.
- Veneta Fiber Optics Project: Fiber optics are still a high priority for the City Council.
- Veneta Territorial Park Improvements: The goal of this request is to acquire recreation park areas.

Mr. Ingham then reviewed a powerpoint presentation for the Veneta Chamber of Commerce. He noted that Veneta is the fastest growing city in Lane County.

Mr. Ingram reviewed the “City of Veneta Economic Development Implementation Plan.” Workforce readiness is an important issue for the city. Infrastructure is also important and noted that there is a possibility for intermodal railroad traffic. He noted that the biggest challenge Veneta is facing is the acquisition of new water rights. Downtown is also an area of opportunity for growth and the city is currently conducting a preliminary urban rural review to determine downtown development potential.

Members discussed the presentation and asked questions. Mr. Tamulonis thanked the presenters for their presentations and stated that he appreciated the information.

#### **4. LCOG Small Business Loan Program**

Mr. Dignam provided the committee with a powerpoint presentation about the LCOG small business loan program. Presentation highlights:

- The small business loan program is a government loan program that works with private lenders to provide loans to businesses that cannot receive traditional financing.
- The loan program has been successful. Last year, the program approved 34 loans. Since the program began, 215 loans have been approved.
- The loan program helped small businesses to create or retain 260 jobs last year.

Members discussed the presentation and asked questions.

Mr. Dignam announced that the next meeting would be April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Derrick.