

MINUTES

Lane Economic Committee

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

June 23, 2003 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: Alex Pawlowski, Chair; Tim Black (for Michael Redding), DeAnn Cherbas, Chuck Forster, Don Hampton, Scarlet Lee, Rob Scoggin, Charles Spencer, Mike Sullivan, John Tamulonis, Lynnette Wikstrom-Smith, members; Dennis Shine, Kari Westlund, *ex officio* members; Tom Kartrude, Howard Schesser, John Sullivan, alternate members.

Steve Dignam, Jamon Kent (LCOG); Peter Thurston (Lane County); Bob Warren (Oregon Economic & Community Development Dept.)

ABSENT: Anna Morrison, Glenda Poling, Jim Ramseyer, Hal Reed, members; Deb Schmidt, *ex officio* member.

GUESTS: Talal Arahbi, Anne Berblinger, Jay Bozievich, Terry Hartzell, Aaron Pfeifer, Gloria Perez, Mitch Soukup.

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

None.

2. Comments from the Chair

Mr. Pawlowski announced that he and his family were moving to Medford, Oregon, and that he was resigning as a member of the LEC. He commented on economic development opportunities in Lane County and expressed appreciation for his experience on the committee.

3. Staff Comments

Mr. Dignam expressed appreciation for the service of Mr. Pawlowski.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hampton moved, seconded by Mr. Schesser, to accept the minutes of the May 19, 2003, meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously, 11:0.

5. Membership Report

Mr. Dignam stated that, following LEC Bylaws, Vice Chairperson Tamulonis would preside at the next meeting, which would include the election of a new Chairperson. Mr. Pawlowski suggested that Mr. Tamulonis be considered for election as Chairperson.

Mr. Dignam reported that Ms. Wikstrom-Smith was no longer a member of the Port of Siuslaw Board of Directors and could not serve on the LEC representing government. He suggested that she could be re-appointed to represent business from western Lane County. Mr. Pawlowski said Ms. Wikstrom-Smith had been a LEC member for many years and that he supported the suggestion of Mr. Dignam.

Mr. Pawlowski moved, seconded by Mr. Spencer, to appoint Lynette Wikstrom-Smith as a Lane Economic Committee member, representing business. The motion was adopted unanimously, 10:1, with Ms. Wikstrom-Smith abstaining from voting.

Mr. Dignam requested that members seek to identify potential new LEC members. He said elections would be held in November. He recommended that persons of color and/or primary language other than English be identified to improve the diversity of experience represented in the membership.

Mr. Spencer recommended that targeted outreach for members from the minority community be undertaken. He volunteered to assist with such recruitment.

Mr. Dignam announced that Jay Bozievich would replace Mr. Shine as *ex officio* member representing the Lane Community College. He expressed appreciation for the service of Mr. Shine.

Mr. Tamulonis recommended early advertisement of the open membership positions to attract the most qualified candidates. Mr. Dignam said they would be posted immediately.

7. Economic Development Administration Strategy and Priorities

Anne Berblinger stated that she represented the Office of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) responsible for managing US Department of Commerce programs in Oregon. She described EDA funding of Economic Development Planning Grants, Development Districts, Revolving Loan Fund Grants, and Short-Term Technical Assistance Grants.

Ms. Berblinger explained that the EDA emphases in the coming year would include support of Industry Clusters, and closer alignment of Workforce Development and Business Development resources.

Members discussed the presentation.

8. US Forest Service Economic Strategy and Priorities

Gloria Perez stated that she was Community Development Specialist for the Willamette and Siuslaw National Forest Districts. She explained that the economic development strategy of the Forest Service was to assist communities impacted by national resource management issues. She said project proposals were received through the annual Needs and Issues Inventory prepared by the LEC.

Ms. Perez said priority was given to funding projects affecting impacted communities with populations of less than 10,000 within 100 miles of a National Forest. She said most grants were for technical assistance and required a 20 percent local match. She said the Forest Service also participated in distribution of Title II funds of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. She explained application and funding procedures and identified examples of recently funded projects. She distributed copies of material describing the Rural Community Assistance Program.

Members discussed the presentation.

9. Video Lottery Strategic Investment Allocation

Mr. Thurston referred to a document entitled "Video Lottery Allocation Matrix – FY 2003-04" distributed with the agenda of the meeting. He noted that LEC comment was required on Strategic Investment allocation recommendations before final decisions were made about funding them by the Board of County Commissioners. He distributed copies of a document entitled "Summary of 2003-04 Lane County Economic Development Request for Proposals" and reviewed its description of the focus and evaluation criteria of the program. He requested that an *ad hoc* committee be formed to develop recommended LEC responses to applications.

Members discussed the allocation process. There appeared to be agreement that it was appropriate to include an Economic Development Reserve in the Strategic Investment allocation matrix, possibly no larger than 20 percent of the total allocation.

Mr. Bozievich, Ms. Cherbas, Ms. Lee, Mr. Scoggin, Mr. Mike Sullivan, Mr. Tamulonis, and Ms. Westlund volunteered to serve on an *ad hoc* committee to develop responses to eligible applications.

10. Port of Siuslaw

Mr. Kartrude distributed copies of a draft letter to be considered by the LCOG Board of Directors advocating the inclusion of \$574,000 in the 2004 Federal Budget for maintenance dredging and jetty repair at the Port of Siuslaw. He noted that the letter also requested support for an application by the Port to receive \$51,000 from the Omnibus Transportation Fund to begin design work and engineering for Phase I of its Waterfront Redevelopment Program.

Members discussed the presentation.

Mr. Tamulonis moved, seconded by Mr. Shine, to recommend that the LCOG Board of Directors approve submitting the letter to appropriate government officials. The motion was adopted unanimously, 11:0.

Mr. Dignam announced that the next LEC meeting was scheduled for July 21, but that it might be replaced by a special meeting that could be called for July 14, if action on recommendations regarding Video Lottery allocations was needed earlier.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)

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