

September 12, 2006

To: LCOG Executive Committee

From: Mayor Sue Bond, Commissioner Anna Morrison, and Mayor Warren Weathers

Re: Report on Economic Development Committees purpose and effectiveness

The LCOG Board of Directors, on February 23, 2006, directed that a report be prepared “regarding the purpose and effectiveness of Lane Metro Partnership, Lane Economic Committee, and Economic Development Standing Committee of the Board of County Commissioners, evaluating if there would be value in encouraging their merger.” The motion was adopted unanimously, 15:0. Chairperson Williams appointed Mayor Sue Bond, Commissioner Morrison, and Mayor Weathers to serve on the committee.

Attached to this cover sheet is the survey sent to the LEC, LMP and EDSC, and their responses.

The initial and follow-up responses to the Overlapping Committee Questionnaire were reviewed by the committee. The responses plus the experience of LEC board members led the committee to a series of finding and recommendations that are attached.

The committee spent considerable time working through the recommendations in a manner that we feel would best benefit the members of the LEC.

The committee spent considerable time searching for an approach that would make it easier for economic development groups to coordinate their efforts and to address opportunities developed through LEC, County Economic Development standing committee and Lane Metro networking. The committee found that LEC was being underutilized by LCOG and lacked the forum needed to put legs on LEC ideas. The committee believes that local economic development efforts will be strengthened by expanding LEC's role to include advising the Board of Commissioners on economic development issues and allocation of economic development funds controlled by or sought by Lane County. LEC will continue to advise the LCOG board.

We are submitting the report and recommendations first to the Executive Committee and then to the Board of Directors in the hopes of reaching consensus regarding the next steps that should be taken in order to adopt the recommendations.

We wish to thank everyone who responded to the survey and gave us input and assistance during this process.

Sincerely,

Sue Bond
Anna Morrison
Warren Weathers

Committee found:

- 1) There is duplication of membership representatives among the three committees.
- 2) The LEC bylaws, and a lack of project funding and technical assistance opportunities at the LEC meetings, create a situation that is not results oriented.
- 3) That LMP because of the need for confidentiality can not have the open sharing of ideas that occurs at the LEC.

Committee believes:

- 1) That the LEC mission should be an active one, that the goal is to get community projects done and needs met.
- 2) That having a team approach with a wide membership helps with information sharing and prioritizing projects.
- 3) A change in the way the LEC committee operates would be more conducive for communities to get technical assistance and access to funding opportunities.
- 4) The County and LCOG staffs have the technical resources to help with projects, but they are not at the LEC table in a manner in which their time can be directed by management.

Committee Recommends:

- 1) The LEC, rather than acting as an advisory group to LCOG, serves as an advisory committee to the Lane County EDSC.
- 2) This new LEC meet on a quarterly basis with EDSC to share ideas and get direction on funding options and technical assistance.
- 3) The meeting should be attended by County ED staff, LCOG project staff and LMP project staff so that project referrals can be made by the EDSC.
- 4) There be a reporting mechanism from the LCOG Board to the EDSC in order to assure that requests from EDSC to LCOG for technical assistance on behalf of LEC members are followed up on.
- 5) The Cascades West funds currently used to support LEC functions be used to support the functions of the new LEC.

Diagram of Recommendation 1.

