

MINUTES

Lane Economic Committee

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

July 30, 2007 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: Rob Scoggin, Chair; Mike Blommé, Jay Bozievich, Mike Galvin, John Sullivan, John Tamulonis, Ellen Teninty, Jenny Ulum, *members*; Kari Westlund, *ex officio member*; Paul Alexander, Betsy Boyd, Lawrence Brice, Leah Carter, Robin Onaclea, *alternate members*

Steve Dignam, Milo Mecham (LCOG), Mike McKenzie-Bahr (Lane County)

ABSENT: Tim Black, Denny Braud, DeAnn Cherbas, Bill Fleenor, Chuck Forster, Glenda Poling, Lynnette Wikstrom, *members*; Jim Ramseyer, Deb Schmidt, *ex officio members*

GUESTS: Debra Boush

Maintaining a tradition begun by previous Chairpersons, Mr. Scoggin arrived late. In his absence, Mr. Galvin called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Lane Economic Committee (LEC) to order at 11:35 a.m. He determined there were no requests to change the Agenda. He also determined there was no one present wishing to make a public, chair, or staff comment.

1. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Blommé moved, seconded by Ms. Ulum, to accept the minutes of the April 23, 2007, meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Scoggin joined the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

2. Needs and Issues Process

Mr. Mecham reported that the 2007 Oregon Legislative Session had raised concerns about Regional Investment Boards (RIBs) fulfilling their economic and community development priorities and had withheld allocation of funds supporting job creation in the adopted Budget. He explained that the action affected the Oregon Economic & Community Development Department (OECDD) by eliminating its funding for infrastructure and public works projects. He said the issue would be revisited at the Legislative Session to be held in February. He said the RIBs had been asked to prioritize projects identified in a way similar to the Needs and Issues process used by the LEC. He said details of how the state process would operate remained to be determined.

Mr. Mecham distributed copies of a document dated July 30 entitled “Needs and Issues – 2007 Ranking.” He reviewed discussion points it contained, highlighting information about develop-

ing a six-year “time horizon” regarding infrastructure funding, and prioritization factors contained in a July 1 fax attached to the document from Cynthia Solie, Community and Economic Development Director for Cascades West Council of Governments.

Mr. Dignam said he concluded from a conversation with OECDD staff Bob Warren that developing a process to establish priority factors could translate into funding for infrastructure projects at the special Legislative Session. He said he believed regional economic development staff should be involved in the work under the leadership of the RIBs. He noted that the timeline included in the document received from Ms. Solie provided for its completion by December.

Mr. Dignam and experienced members reviewed the Needs and Issues process as developed and used by the LEC.

Members discussed the process:

- A “lot of cooks were in the kitchen” to develop the process (*Sullivan*).
- Infrastructure projects were likely to be funded, not job creation projects (*Sullivan*).
- Under staffed small cities will have the most difficulty in preparing applications for prioritization (*Galvin*).
- Lane County is the only county in the State having recent experience with a needs and interest prioritization process (*Mecham*).
- It will be important for LCOG to make staff support available to assist small cities in preparing applications and that funding for the work should be provided (*Tamulonis*).
- Development of an on-line application form created during the most recent Needs and Issues prioritization process in Lane County needs to be completed (*Tamulonis*).
- Opinions about the value and difficulties of previous Needs and Issues processes and their use in accessing funding (*Members*).

Mr. Scoggin determined there was agreement to schedule a special LEC meeting on August 20 to consider further development of the Needs and Issues process.

4. Comprehension Economic Development Strategy

Mr. Mecham distributed copies of a document entitled “Cascades West Economic Development District Work Program.” He noted that it had been discussed at previous LEC meetings in draft form and that it had been given final approval at a recent meeting of Cascades West District.

Mr. Mecham distributed copies of a draft document entitled “LEC Work Plan 2007-08.” He reviewed its proposals for additional LEC work, areas needing continued active LEC involvement, and measurements of LEC success. He requested that members study the document and provide feedback for later consideration.

Members discussed the document.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)

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Last Saved: August 6, 2007