

MINUTES

Lane Economic Committee

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

September 22, 2003 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: John Tamulonis, Chair; DeAnn Cherbas, Darrell Hames (for Chuck Forster), Don Hampton, Scarlet Lee, Anna Morrison, Hal Reed, Rob Scoggin, Charles Spencer, John Sullivan, Lynnette Wikstrom-Smith, members; Jay Bozievich, Deb Schmidt, *ex officio* members; Tim Black, Howard Schesser, John Sullivan, alternate members.

Steve Dignam, Milo Mecham, (LCOG); Peter Thurston (Lane County); Mimi Swartz, Bob Warren (Oregon Economic & Community Development Department).

ABSENT: Glenda Poling, Michael Redding, Jim Ramseyer, Mike Sullivan, members; Kari Westlund, *ex officio* member.

GUESTS: Chris Nystrom, Sandi Young.

Mr. Scoggin 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. Mr. Tamulonis jointed the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

1. Public Comment/Comments from the Chair/Staff Comments

None.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Spencer moved, seconded by Mr. Scoggin, to accept the minutes of the July 21, 2003, meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously, 11:0.

3. Lane Venture Forum

Lane Venture Forum Program Director Chris Nystrom described the entrepreneur loan fund sponsored by the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce. She distributed copies of a brochure explaining its purpose and answering questions about it. She reported that 20 investors had participated in the program and that 50 application inquiries had been received in the past year.

Ms. Nystrom distributed copies of a document entitled “Contact: A Business Retention and Development Program – 2003 Report.” She explained that it provided optimistic business predictions for the coming year. Members discussed the program.

4. Revolving Loan Fund Grant

Mr. Dignam described an opportunity to apply for an Economic Development Administration grant up to \$500,000 to be used in the Revolving Loan Fund. He said operation of the grant was covered by interest and fees. He explained that a 40% local match was required, but would fill a void in funds available for mid-range business loans in Lane County. He said Lane Council of Governments could pledge \$75,000 for use as match, the Regional Investment Board might be able to allocate resources that could be designated as match, and it was possible to allocate video lottery funds for it. He said the amount of the grant would be determined by match funds available.

Mr. Reed asked what restrictions were placed on use of the grant funds. Mr. Dignam replied that its use was limited to job creation, but could be available to rural and urban areas. Mr. Warren added that Lane County had exceeded its share of urban Oregon Economic Development funds.

Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, to express support for Lane Council of Governments to apply for an Economic Development Agency grant to supplement the Lane County Revolving Loan Fund; and to encourage the securing of required matching funds for its use. The motion was adopted unanimously, 11:0.

5. 2003 Lane County Video Lottery Allocation Process

Mr. Thurston distributed copies of a draft document entitled “A Vision for Lane County Job Creation – 2003-2010.” He explained that it was a description of proposals that could be funded under the Lane County Economic Development Program. He requested that LEC provide feedback about the description. Ms. Lee, Mr. Scoggin, Mr. Tamulonis, and Mr. Warren volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to prepare recommendations regarding the proposal for consideration at the October LEC meeting.

6. Regional Investment Board

Ms. Swartz discussed actions of the 2003 Oregon Legislative Session that affected the Regional Rural Investment program. She said less than half of the resources available in the current biennium had been budgeted for 2003-2005. She reported that short- and long-term performance measures for job creation and resource leveraging had been adopted. She said she believed the current biennium would “make or break” the program.

7. Needs and Issues Process

Mr. Dignam reported that LEC involvement in the annual “Needs and Issues” prioritization process was scheduled to begin, but that funding and coordination of it by Oregon was unsure.

Ms. Schwartz reported that state resources had not yet been identified for the process and that those from federal sources were not adequate. She said it was likely the effort would be postponed until spring to better coincide with the budgeting processes of local jurisdictions. She said

efforts were being made to computerize submission of applications, but that LEC ranking assistance would continue to be needed. She said project funding available from state and federal resources was more limited and that support for infrastructure projects might be eliminated.

Ms. Swartz distributed copies of a document entitled "Oregon Economic and Community Development Department Reorganization." She said it identified new divisions, managers, and functions in the department.

Mr. Tamulonis announced that the next meeting of the LEC would be held on October 20, 2003.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)

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