

MINUTES

Lane Economic Committee

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

October 20, 2003 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: John Tamulonis, Chair; Tim Black (for Michael Redding), Denny Braud (for Mike Sullivan), Chuck Forster, Anna Morrison, Glenda Poling, Hal Reed, Rob Scoggin, Charles Spencer, Lynnette Wikstrom-Smith, members; Jay Bozievich, Deb Schmidt, Kari Westlund, *ex officio* members; Mike Galvin, Howard Schesser, alternate members.

Steve Dignam, Milo Mecham (LCOG); Peter Thurston (Lane County).

ABSENT: DeAnn Cherbas, Scarlet Lee, Jim Ramseyer,

GUESTS: Don Hampton, Phillip Hudspeth, Sandi Young, Ken Miller,

In the absence of Mr. Tamulonis, Mr. Reed 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. Agenda Approval/Public Comment

Mr. Reed determined there were no requests to change the agenda or to make public comment.

2. Comments from the Chair and Staff

Mr. Tamulonis joined the meeting at 11:40 a.m. and reported that he had been present at a meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors on Saturday in Oakridge. He said the LEC had been asked to provide feedback on economic development priority actions.

Mr. Dignam stated that the LEC meeting would end early to allow members to attend a meeting of the Regional Investment Board.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Scoggin moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to accept the minutes of the September 22, 2003, meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously, 11:0.

4. LCOG Business Loan Programs

Mr. Dignam made a report on LCOG Business Loan Programs. He reviewed information about the number and location of business for which loans were approved in the last year. He said the

number of loans and jobs created were comparable to previous years. He described the eleven currently available loan programs and the partners involved in each. He said an application for resources from the Economic Development Administration to fund a new loan program discussed the previous month had been submitted.

Mr. Dignam described the benefits of the LCOG loan programs – attractive, fixed rates; low cash equity requirement; and improved access to capital. He showed pictures of 16 projects funded through one of the programs in the past year and described their operation and contributions to economic development in the county.

Members discussed the programs and criteria for eligibility.

5. Regional Investment Board

Mr. Reed explained that Lane County participated in the Oregon Regional Investment Board that also included representatives from Linn, Lincoln, and Benton counties. He said the Video Lottery resources it allocated were set by the legislature and required the approval of each Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Reed reported that the Regional Investment Board was currently developing its plan for distribution of \$860,000 in the coming year. He said the primary focus for grants would be on job creation. He said the state had established a requirement that one job be created for each \$3,000 invested. He said it was possible that the current biennium would be the last in which funds were made available.

Mr. Reed said the meeting to be held following the LEC meeting would likely consider a plan similar to that of Lane County which emphasized business development, site development, workforce development, and capacity development in job creation. He said setting up loan programs and how to advertise for projects would be decisions to be made.

6. LCOG Board Focus on Economic Development

Mr. Tamulonis distributed copies of a document entitled “Follow-up to Goal Setting Session – Strengthening the Region’s Economy” and explained it was an issue paper prepared for a recent meeting of the LCOG Board of Directors. He reviewed six action suggestions it contained to increase LCOG involvement in economic development. He noted the strategy had four components – Training, Infrastructure Development, Business Assistance, and Recruitment.

Members discussed the increased involvement and appeared to come to agreement that the November 17 LEC meeting would include a Work Session devoted to its suggestions.

7. Higher Education Budget Report

Mr. Black distributed copies of the September 19 issue of *Government Affairs Update* published by the University of Oregon and reviewed highlights it reported of actions of the 2003 Oregon Legislative Session that affected the University and higher education in the state.

Mr. Bozievich distributed copies of documents entitled “Budget Report and Measure Summary – 72nd Legislative Assembly” and “Lane Community College General Fund Budget.” He reviewed their content and said he did not believe community college districts would face insurmountable financial problems in 2004, but that the following years were uncertain.

8. Vision for Lane County Job Creation Committee Report

Mr. Tamulonis referred to minutes of an October 1 meeting of a LEC Subcommittee and a draft document entitled “A Vision for Lane County Job Creation – 2003-2010” distributed with the agenda of the meeting.

Mr. Dignam reported that the subcommittee had requested additional direction from the Board of County Commissioners and feedback from the LEC to make evaluation of the draft document more meaningful.

Commissioner Morrison and Mr. Thurston reviewed staff questions reported in the minutes of the subcommittee meeting and encouraged members to consider providing feedback at the next LEC meeting.

Members discussed development of the draft document and preparation for the Request for Proposals process for allocation of Lane County economic development assistance resources.

Mr. Dignam announced that the next LEC meeting was scheduled for November 17.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)

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