

# MINUTES

Public Safety Coordinating Council  
**Police Services Committee**  
LCOG 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conference Room  
99 East Broadway, Eugene

August 7, 2002 3:00 PM

PRESENT: Warren Weathers, Chair; Thad Buchanan, Jan Gund, Tim Laue, Lynn Reeves, Jerry Smith, members; Jan Clements, Becky Hanson, Kristi Wilde, alternate members; Doug Smith, staff.

ABSENT: Russ Burger, Mike Hudson, Ken Larsen, Brian Leavitt, Anna Morrison

GUESTS: Lynn Bringham, Jim Brown, Bobby Green, Gino Grimaldi, Jason Heuser, Galen Howard, George Kloeppe, Jeannine Parisi, Linda Phelps, Floyd Prozanski, Peter Sorenson, Jim Torrey, Byron Vanderpool, Emily Williams, Senator Ron Wyden

## 1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Weathers called the meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) Police Services Committee to order at 3:10 p.m. He stated that a quorum of members was present. He invited those who were present to introduce themselves.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Mr. Buchanan moved, seconded by Ms. Gund, to accept the minutes of the June 5, 2002, meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously, 9:0.*

## 3. PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT CONSOLIDATION PLAN

Ms. Reeves referred to a letter distributed with the agenda of the meeting from Mr. Howard to the Oregon 9-1-1 Program Manager, Ken Keim, and a document attached entitled "Preliminary 9-1-1 Consolidation Plan for the Lane County Area as Required by the Oregon Legislature."

Ms. Reeves reviewed the purpose of state legislation adopted in 2001 requiring the consolidation plan and described the process used in its development in Lane County. She explained that the plan was intentionally simple and included addenda prepared by primary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) in Lane County presenting reasons consolidation created operational difficulties.

Ms. Reeves discussed funding issues related to the consolidation plan – personnel and equipment costs of converting to a single PSAP, “runs” on designated 9-1-1 revenue to provide needed resources for other programs, and inequitable distribution of funding throughout the state.

Ms. Gund asked if 9-1-1 funding had been reinstated in the current state budget. Ms. Reeves replied that effects on revenue distribution by consolidation legislation would not be known until the plans were finalized. She explained that legislators appeared to not understand that accumulating surpluses in call taking resources were required to pay for the next advances in technology and that current funding levels for areas such as Lane County were not adequate. She described distribution formula which guaranteed small counties minimum funding and resulted in resources being inequitably available.

Mr. Jerry Smith asked how consolidation would affect funding. Ms. Reeves said the effects would not be determined by decisions made by the legislature. Mr. Howard added that consolidation would not likely take place for a number of years and that revenue would likely grow during that time because of the increased number of telephone services. He said efforts were being made to eliminate the current cap on funding of \$56 million.

Ms. Wilde observed that deficits were anticipated in Lane County for the next fiscal year because of alternate uses of designated funds enacted by the Legislature.

Mr. Weathers asked if it would be helpful to recommend to the Policy Committee that a PSCC position on issues related to PSAP consolidation and funding be adopted. Ms. Reeves said she believed such a position would be helpful and should deal with dedicated revenue use, distribution equity, and the difficulties caused by consolidation in Lane County. Mr. Heuser reported that each of the concerns was already incorporated in the Legislative Agenda being developed.

#### **4. EUGENE POLICE COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE ISSUE**

Mr. Brown stated that he was Chairperson of the City of Eugene Police Commission. He described its operation and responsibilities. He said it was seeking approval for a proposed legislative issue which had not yet been endorsed by the City Council or Police Department.

Mr. Prozanski stated that he was a member of the State Legislature. He explained that the Commission was seeking to build a coalition of support for a proposal to use System Development Charges (SDCs) to offset the costs of capital expenditures for public safety facilities.

Mr. Prozanski reviewed information contained in a document distributed with the agenda of the meeting which described the proposal. He explained that the Legislature would need to expand the definition of what SDCs can fund to include police and fire facilities. He discussed the purpose and use of SDCs.

Mr. Brown said initial research had shown that SDCs could be applied retroactively in a limited fashion and that public facility developments paid no taxes or other support for increased public safety services requirements they created.

Mr. Weathers asked why previously submitted legislation to expand the definition of the use of SDCs had been defeated. Mr. Prozanski replied that opposition to expansion argued that doing so would increase the cost of housing to an unacceptable level and reduce population growth.

Mr. Weathers suggested that consideration be given in development of the proposed legislation to avoiding having it include what those opposed found objectionable.

***Mr. Laue moved, seconded by Mr. Jerry Smith, to recommend to the Policy Committee that expanding the permitted use of Service Development Charges to include police and fire capital expenditures be included in the PSCC Legislative Agenda for 2003. The motion was adopted unanimously, 9:0.***

## **5. POLICE TRAINING LEGISLATIVE ISSUE APPROACH**

Mr. Heuser stated that he was Government Relations Manager for the City of Eugene and was helping the PSCC develop its 2003 Legislative Agenda. He reviewed a legislative issue identified by the Police Services Committee regarding the accreditation of regional police training academies. He described the difficulty that would be encountered in seeking the accreditation and recommended an alternate strategy.

Mr. Heuser stated that expansion of the Oregon Bureau of Public Safety Standards and Training (BPSST) supported academy facility at Monmouth would not be completed until after the time accreditation of the regional academies expired. He suggested seeking extension of the current accreditation until the 2005 Legislative Session. He said such an extension would provide time to develop strategies to deal with larger issues. He suggested that accreditation of regional police academies might be more possible after the 2003 legislative session.

Mr. Laue said he was not opposed to the suggested strategy, but emphasized that there were significant policy and operational issues involved in the recognition of regional training academies. He said the Eugene Academy currently provided a more complete training program with more awareness of local training needs than the BPSST academy.

Mr. Clements pointed out that legislative decisions regarding regional training would require the “dumbing down” of the program offered in the Eugene Regional Academy and were self contradictory in that they allowed the Oregon State Police to continue to provide its own officer training academy. He said he also agreed with the strategy proposed by Mr. Heuser.

Mr. Jerry Smith said current legislative positions on police training eliminated the possibility of the development of a program in which individuals would carry out their own training in accredited programs before submitting application for employment in a law enforcement agency. He also suggested that in effect, the regional training academies in Portland and Eugene made it virtually impossible for the BPSST academy in Monmouth.

Mr. Weathers determined that there appeared to be agreement about approving the alternate legislative issue strategy proposed by Mr. Heuser.

## **6. COMMUNITY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FUNDING**

Mr. Howard referred to a document distributed with the agenda of the meeting entitled “Developing a State of Oregon – All Hazards Warning System.” He described uses of the Community Emergency Notification System (CENS) in Lane County and reviewed its funding by a public/private partnership. He explained the proposal for a statewide CENS-type system contained in the document and explained options for its funding – Federal Homeland Security resources, Health-related resources, Army Corps of Engineering, existing federal communication taxes, charges imposed by the Public Utility Commission, and a new telephone user fee. He reviewed preliminary cost estimates for a statewide system. He said endorsement of the concept by the Committee would be helpful in further development of the proposal.

Mr. Jerry Smith said he liked the proposed concept, but said an ongoing funding source would be needed for it to be successful.

Mr. Clements suggested that support for the concept would be possible from the associations of police chiefs, sheriffs, and 9-1-1 communication directors.

*Mr. Laue moved, seconded by Mr. Clements, to recommend to the Policy Committee that the PSCC endorse the concept of a State of Oregon All Hazards Warning System. The motion was adopted unanimously, 9:0.*

## **7. RIGHT ROUTE PROJECT**

Mr. Doug Smith described the progress of a “Right Route” project he managed as a member of the LCOG Planning Staff. He explained how grant funded research would utilize Global Positioning Satellites (GPS) to provide in-vehicle visual display of the most direct travel route response to emergency calls for service. He described data gathering, software development, and hardware construction phases of the project. He said many hours of volunteered labor had been contributed to development of the project. He said demonstrations of the system would soon begin and that it would be regularly used thereafter in a prescribed rural area of Lane County.

## **8. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH U.S. SENATOR**

Mr. Weathers welcomed U.S. Senator Ron Wyden and his Lane County representative to the meeting.

Mr. Wyden expressed pleasure at the re-funding of the Lane County Department of Youth Services “Breaking the Cycle” federal grant supporting alcohol and drug abuse programs.

Mr. Wyden described implementation of the federal Homeland Security legislation. He said he believed it could only be effective if local law enforcement interests were involved in determining distribution of funds. He said he was considering proposing a “local impact statement” be required in the use of all such funds.

Mr. Wyden reviewed his position on the importance of both prevention and punishment in the criminal justice system.

Mr. Sorenson said he had engaged in personal enquiries of local law enforcement officers and determined that there was a similar commitment to the same dual emphases.

Ms. Reeves asked if Homeland Security resources could be available to fund the CENS. Mr. Wyden said it was unlikely the federal government would assume funding responsibility for local emergency networks. He said there would be some demonstration project funding available for interoperability issues and that it might be possible to use some rural development funds for such programs.

Mr. Clements suggested that federal support for the value of the CENS system could encourage its prioritization in distributions of Homeland Security funds by states.

Mr. Weathers expressed appreciation for the efforts of Mr. Wyden in bringing about adoption of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. He asked if its resources could be used to provide for radio repeater installations to make more effective use of Sheriff’s Office deputies serving in national forests. Mr. Wyden said he believed elements of the act could be used to fund such installations. Mr. Clements said he believed such a use was possible only indirectly.

Mr. Torrey said he was concerned that cities, counties and other local jurisdictions be able to participate in the prioritization of Homeland Security resources. He encouraged Mr. Wyden to take a lead in developing Congressional insistence on such participation.

Mr. Wyden said he supported the involvement of local government in such prioritization processes. He described “Net Guard” legislation that provided for the development of databases of health services personnel to be used in an emergency. He said his idea of requiring a local impact statement for expenditure of Homeland Security resources was an attempt to ensure the involvement of local government in its distribution.

Mr. Torrey said he believed criminal justice prevention started when the first contact was made with a child. He said the State of Oregon was facing a crisis in education funding which would be highlighted by the veto of budget bills by the Governor.

Mr. Torrey suggested that Mr. Wyden investigate the possibilities of federal resources being provided for federally mandated special education programs in public schools. Mr. Wyden replied that he shared the concern about unfounded education mandates and was seeking to develop increased resources for

their implementation. He said he did not believe Oregon's education problems would ever be solved in Washington DC.

Mr. Sorenson said he believed that since Lane County was the largest recipient of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 resources, and an audit of its use of the funds was likely. He said he was concerned about the division of the resources made by the Board of County Commissioners between Title II and Title III funds.

Mr. Wyden said carefully documenting uses of the funds would be most important to meet auditing requirements. He said he was not aware of any preconceived appropriate division of the resources between Title II and Title III programs. He said he was especially interested in receiving reports of individual success stories in the use of the funds, especially how they benefit federal lands, because they would be helpful in convincing his congressional colleagues of the value of renewing the legislation.

Mr. Weathers expressed appreciation for the discussion with Mr. Wyden.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)

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