



Fresh Approach Enhances the Tradition of OPI

Over 300 land use professionals from across the state gathered at the University of Oregon in September to discuss challenges and opportunities facing planning in Oregon today. Now in its fourth decade, the annual Oregon Planning Institute conference, coordinated by Lane Council of Governments and housed at the University of Oregon, continues to provide a forum that planners count on for a discussion of basics and beyond. The theme for this year's OPI was "From Nuts and Bolts to New Frontiers", and the topic was well covered by excellent speakers and informative sessions.

This year marked the first time that the beautiful new Lillis Business Complex was the conference's venue. The Lillis complex provided an excellent base for the conference, with its components of green construction and high technology. Another new component was the two-day format of this year's conference. Judging by the many positive comments received, both the new venue and format were successful.

John Van Landingham, the new Chair of the Land Conservation and Development Commission, along with Lane Shetterly, the new director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development, opened the conference and offered philosophical reflections and program specifics about the state's land use planning program, now in place for 30 years. Robin Roberts of the Governor's Economic Revitalization Team gave a keynote address concerning the economic climate of the state and strategies for improvement. Sessions addressed issues relating to transportation, 30 years' retrospective on the planning program, land use law, natural resources, economic development, and working effectively with advocacy groups, to name just a few. In addition to the informative sessions, a Land Use Board of Appeals hearing was held at the conference to provide insight on this component of Oregon's land use system.

The volunteer efforts of the Program Committee went above and beyond the call of duty, and were key to a stellar OPI 2004. The Program Committee energized the conference with a dynamic array of sessions, and included: Terry Harding (Satre and Associates), Tamra Mabbott (Umatilla County), Robert Parker

from NUTS
AND BOLTS



to NEW
FRONTIERS

(University of Oregon), Kent Kullby (City of Eugene), Anita Yap (City of Coburg), Michael Snider (Josephine County), Carol Lewis (City of Sweet Home), Alwin Turiel (Jackson County), Ron Eber (Department of Land Conservation and Development), Akin Owosekun (Oregon Department of Transportation), Tom Schwetz (Lane Council of Governments), and Leslie Wilson (City of Myrtle Creek).

The gracious sponsors who helped make OPI 2004 happen included the University of Oregon Planning, Public Policy and Management Department; Department of Land Conservation and Development; Oregon Department of Transportation; the Oregon City Planning Directors Association; Association of Oregon County Planning Directors; and Lane Transit District. Johnson & Sherton, land use attorneys, and the Law Office of Bill Kloos provided support including the wonderful sounds of the Jacob Svendsen Duo.

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West Coast Regional Councils Gather

I have noticed that some extended families are closer than others. The big reunions of aunts, uncles, cousins and in-laws that some folks regularly attend are unfamiliar territory for me personally. However, after three decades in the regional council business, I have developed warm feelings for the *extended family* of COGs around the nation and, particularly, those in the West. An annual reunion of Western COGs officials was held in late September in California, and LCOG was represented in San Diego by Cottage Grove Mayor Gary Williams, Springfield School District board member Al King, and myself. As in previous years, I found that bringing the family together to share experiences and to find common cause was enjoyable and fulfilling.

Traditionally, the annual Western COGs Conference alternates between Washington, California and Oregon for its summer gatherings. This year's Conference was delayed from its original July date due to scheduling conflicts and was hosted September 22-24 by the regional councils association in California at the Shelter Pointe Hotel and Marina in San Diego. The various tasks of facilitating these conferences are shared between the COG associations in the three states, and this year the Washington group handled the agenda, speakers, etc., while Oregon took charge of the registration, promotion and banking responsibilities.

While many topics were addressed and considered by the elected and appointed officials attending, a major focus of the Conference was trade and transportation within the West Coast Corridor. The work of the West Coast Corridor Coalition, which LCOG and other regional councils/MPOs has endorsed, was discussed extensively. Notably, a proposal to more formally establish the Coalition as an advocacy group was explored. The primary objective of such a move was seen as enhanced recognition of the national value and import of the corridor in the federal reauthorization process. Beyond regional councils, participants in the Coalition effort include business and

industry, shippers, truckers, and ports from Canada to Mexico. The efficiency of boarder crossings, both north and south was also discussed.

Participants in the San Diego Conference heard experts in transportation, immigration and economics, and seized the opportunity to share their own agencies' strategies for improving the well being of regional communities. Attendees also had the opportunity to hear from and interact with representatives of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO). The two major national associations provided conference attendees with reports on pending legislative and administrative actions, including the reauthorization of federal transportation legislation, reauthorization of the federal Economic Development Administration and Homeland Security issues and funding.

Certainly, the *reunion* included attention to many issues and topics beyond those noted here. But, at a personal level, the chance to re-engage and re-acquaint with others pursuing regional approaches and solutions to the challenges of communities was well worth the trip. It is good to know that the *family* is doing well.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George".

LCOG's *Regional Focus* newsletter is distributed across Lane County to members and other interested parties, and is now available on our website at <http://www.lcog.org/rfnews.html>. We are conducting an ongoing review of our mailing list to cut costs associated with the distribution of the *Regional Focus*.

If you would like to stop receiving the *Regional Focus* by mail, please contact Ann Mortenson at (541) 682-4373, or by e-mail at amortenson@lane.cog.or.us.

Thank you for reading, and feel free to contact us with suggestions regarding topics about which you would like to learn more.

LCOG Receives Economic Development Funds

LCOG's economic development efforts received a \$500,000 shot in the arm from the federal government earlier this fall. When coupled with grants from Lane County and BL³ Regional Investment Board, the Revolving Loan Fund for local businesses is now capitalized at \$833,000. The revolving loan fund grant comes from the Federal Economic Development Administration. Sandy Baruah, chief of staff to Dr. David Sampson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, was on hand to announce the grant.

The Revolving Loan Fund will be used to build job readiness, gap financing for start-up or expansion of businesses, and jobs in Lane County.

"This award from the Economic Development Administration, coupled with match resources from the Regional Investment Board and Lane County, will provide a valuable tool to LCOG's business loan program to help local businesses create and retain family wage jobs," said George Kloeppel, executive director of Lane Council of Governments. "The Lane County Board of Commissioners and the BL³ Regional Investment Board, each contributed \$100,000 to the revolving loan fund."

U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith and Congressman Peter DeFazio pushed for the grant as well.

LCOG's business loan service currently accesses the programs of

the U.S Small Business Administration and a local Rural Business Development Fund, capitalized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. All of LCOG's business loans are made in partnership with local lending institutions.

Over the past seven years, nearly 200 Lane County businesses have received assistance through LCOG's loan programs. In fiscal year 2003 alone, LCOG made 34 loans to Lane County businesses resulting in 265 new jobs.



Significant RLID Upgrade Nearing Roll-out

For most of the past year, the Regional Land Information Database (RLID) development team has been revamping the RLID system to better support the growing number of users and make the system more user-customizable. During this time, a number of upgrades and enhancements to RLID have been readied for testing. When the new version of RLID is rolled-out later this fall, it will run on a faster and more powerful web server. All of the back-end software has been upgraded, with significant effort going into ensuring compatibility among the new versions of software.

RLID will include a new application for looking up street names across Lane County and will feature a new and improved version of the Lane Maps application.

In addition, the Detailed Property and Deeds & Records search tools have been refined to work better—particularly for searches that



RLID is a five-jurisdiction cooperative service that offers the most complete reporting of land and property information in Lane County. RLID is coordinated and maintained by LCOG.

have traditionally required use of wildcards. Users will also be able to set custom default settings, such as number of search records returned.

To go along with the new software functionality, RLID users will begin to see a number of enhancements in the area of data content during the year ahead. Work is underway to include Eugene historical properties register flags, Lane County Appraiser sketch files for selected commercial and industrial properties, expanded data field definitions, and new 2004 color aerial photography covering most of the county, to name a few.

More details on the new RLID will be posted on the RLID website (www.rlid.org) as the roll-out nears.

Regional Transportation Planning Organizations Hold Second Summit Meeting



On October 15, LCOG and the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) hosted a second "Summit" meeting of the six MPOs in Oregon. The all-day session, held in the Eugene Library, was a follow-up to a June gathering of the state's MPOs in Portland. Policy makers and staff from the metropolitan areas served by

designated MPOs were welcomed to the Summit by Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey, and for six hours considered a full agenda of legislative and administrative issues having impacts on transportation planning in urban areas. The Central Lane MPO was represented by Eugene Councilor Bonny Bettman, Springfield Councilor Anne Ballew, Lane County Commissioner Bobby Green, and LTD Board Member Susan Ban.

Participants concluded that, while individually responsible for transportation planning in distinct communities, they shared with one another significant common purpose. The group resolved to take the initial steps toward the formation of a "consortium" to serve and reflect the interests of transportation planning in the urbanized areas of the state. A third meeting of the MPOs was tentatively scheduled for February 2005.

Regional GIS Partners Successfully Update Datum Standard

LCOG and its regional GIS partners successfully converted their GIS data over the summer, modernizing from the North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27) standard to the currently accepted NAD83/91. Nearly all of the agencies at federal, state and local levels had already standardized on the new datum, which made data sharing increasingly problematic and potentially error prone for those using the older standard. The new data sets are being created from higher resolution sources of remotely-sensed data or from high-accuracy GPS.

A datum is a set of parameters defining a coordinate system, and a set of control points whose geometric relationships are known, either through measurement or

calculation. A horizontal datum provides a reference point for measuring locations on the surface of the Earth, and it defines the origin and orientation of latitude and longitude lines.

The jointly planned and coordinated effort was partly a response to several data enhancement initiatives underway in the region, including the implementation of wireless phase II that offers the ability to provide a call-taker with the location of an emergency wireless (cellular PCS) caller, and recent state and county efforts to adopt new spatial accuracy standards for digital GIS tax lot data.

The North American Datum of 1983 is based upon both Earth and

satellite observations. The origin for this datum is the Earth's center of mass. This affects the surface location of all latitude-longitude values enough to cause locations of previous control points in North America to shift, sometimes as much as 500 feet.

The state has completed an effort to readjust the NAD83 datum to a higher level of accuracy using state-of-the-art surveying techniques that were not widely available when the NAD83 datum was being developed. This project, known as the High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN), or High Precision GPS Network (HPGN) is a cooperative project between the National Geodetic Survey and the individual states. This adjusted NAD83 datum is often referred to as NAD83/91.



Helen Shannon

After 16 years of service at LCOG's Senior & Disabled Services, **Helen Shannon** is retiring on November 30. Helen began work at LCOG on June 18, 1979, after 12 years at the Oregon Adult & Family Services Unit. Helen's work has been in the clerical unit during her career at LCOG, primarily in Medical Transportation area, and she also was responsible for all of the data entry for Meals on Wheels, Senior Connections, Caregiver Support, Oregon Project Independence, and the Emergency Response System. Even after all her years of service, Helen plans on returning to S&DS in near future to do volunteer work.

LCOG's GIS department has brought in several new staff to assist in the increasing number of services being offered to member agencies. Warren Roe, Will Jensen, and Kim Meacham are all settling in to their new positions with LCOG.

Warren Roe joined the team in June as the CAD Geofile Coordinator. Coming to the agency from Alexandria, Virginia, Will previously worked as GIS Analyst with Razavi Application Developers, Inc. and a consultant at the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Technology Officer and the DC Department of Transportation.



Warren Roe

This summer also saw the hiring of **Will Jensen** as LCOG's new IRA Products Specialist. Will was a GIS Analyst and Cartographer with the University of Oregon InfoGraphics Lab, where he participated in the creation and implementation of a new geodatabase designed to expedite the UO campus mapping process.



Will Jensen

Kim Meacham will be moving to Eugene from Medford, where she worked as the MSAG/Geofile Coordinator with Southern Oregon Regional Communications (SORC) and Assistant Project Manager/E9-1-1 Database Coordinator with Jackson County Public Safety Agencies (JCPSA). Kim will take on the role of GIS Site Address Coordinator with LCOG.

Jim Walsh has joined LCOG as Human Resources Manager, replacing **Linda Aday**, who retired on October 11 after 5 years with the agency. Jim has years of human resources experience, the last ten with the State of Oregon Transportation Department and



Jim Walsh

the Department of Corrections. He worked for Lane County for seven years prior to his employment with the State.

Linda intends to use her retirement to spend time with her family and focus on her natural healing practice. She has over 14 years experience providing natural healing for body, mind, and spirit.

Adult Foster Home Provider Trainings Fill A Need

With diminished resources for state-sponsored training opportunities, it has been difficult for foster home providers to satisfy their 10 hours of continuing Education, a requirement for annual renewal. In response to this need, and the burden placed on providers to acquire the hours, the Senior & Disabled Services Licensing and Monitoring Unit has been providing local trainings for Lane County adult foster home providers.

The training schedule kicked off May 11, with approximately 60 providers in attendance. The Licensing and Monitoring Unit was represented by Debbie Boures, Margaret Hogue, Sigrid Kuhs and Criminal History Specialist Vicki Smith. The morning session mainly focused on the new criminal history rules, and the afternoon session featured a panel of presenters from the State of Oregon that answered questions from the providers regarding the

rules and best practices. Presenters for the State included Patty Hall, Mickey Tate and Marie Collins.

The next training session is scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday, December 1 at Ed's Room in the Schafers Building in Eugene. Pat Preston, an infectious diseases consultant and lecturer, will conduct the training.

The Licensing and Monitoring Unit also conducts a monthly orientation and or record keeping classes. For additional information or questions regarding opening an Adult Foster Home in Lane County, contact the Licensing and Monitoring Unit at 682-4367 or Becky Strickland, Program Supervisor at 682-4454.



Adult foster home providers listen as Debbie Boures, Adult Foster Home Licensor for Lane County, gives a presentation.

LCOG Computer Staff Assisting City of Veneta

Most small cities struggle with keeping their computer systems up to date. City staffs are finding it critical to have a stable connection to the outside world as well as having a secure internal network. Ric Ingham found this to be the case when he began work recently as City Administrator in Veneta. In search of a solution, Ric came to LCOG and asked for assistance. A

survey of the current computing environment was performed, and LCOG computer staff began work on updating and documenting the computer configuration in Veneta.

In addition to installing new PCs to the Veneta offices, LCOG recommended and installed an all-in-one type server to provide firewall, virus protection, file sharing and

printing services. Veneta will also be acquiring some of LCOG's surplus used PCs and printers to increase their computing capacity.

Veneta is well on the way to having a more reliable computing environment for a reasonable investment. The payback in terms of staff productivity should quickly justify the expense.

Agency Restores Services to Seniors and People with Disabilities

LCOG's Senior & Disabled Services is restoring long term care services to some senior citizens and people with disabilities who lost them a year-and-a-half ago due to state budget cuts. Two recent actions of the Legislature's Emergency Board make these restorations possible. First, in April 2004, it authorized the Department of Human Services to seek approval from the federal government to reinstate Medicaid-funded long term care services to people at Levels 12 and 13 on Oregon's long term care assessment scale. Once approval was received, S&DS opened its Medicaid long term care program to eligible individuals, including both former clients

and new applicants. Second, at the same meeting, the Emergency Board increased the biennial appropriation for an in-home services program for senior citizens – Oregon Project Independence (OPI) – by \$1 million. S&DS' share for Lane County is approximately \$95,000. These extra funds enabled the agency to open intakes to new OPI applicants (the program was closed in 2002 due to budget constraints), as well as to restore services to former clients assessed at Level 15.

To handle the work associated with serving additional long term care clients, S&DS added four staff positions to its payroll – two

case managers and two clerical support staff. Once these latter positions were filled, the agency also restored access to its services by increasing public hours in its Eugene office from six hours to seven-and-a-half hours per day. The Eugene office is now open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.; the Florence and Cottage Grove offices remain on a six hour public access schedule (9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.).

For information on these services, contact Senior and Disabled Services at 682-4038 or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-441-4038.

Senior Connections Undergoes Changes

Senior Connections (formerly known as Senior Outreach) has experienced many changes in the past year. Increasing costs and stagnating revenues have required the program to plan for operating efficiencies and accessing new sources of revenue.

As a cost cutting strategy, the part time Senior Connections position serving Junction City was merged with the part time position serving Veneta last winter. Kim Kaufman was selected as Senior Connections Area Coordinator to replace Robin Samora in both Junction City and Veneta this past spring. Kim maintains office hours in Junction City

on Tuesday mornings and all day on Wednesdays and Fridays 998-8445, and can be reached in Veneta at 935-2262 on Mondays, Tuesday afternoons and Thursdays.

In addition, there have been two other staff changes in the program. Kristine Sirman was selected as the Senior Connections Coordinator in Florence this summer following the untimely death of Sharon Porter. Kristine has lived in Florence for

the past twelve years and brought a thorough knowledge of the service network with her. She is available Monday through Friday at the Florence Branch Office, 902-9430, ext. 7831.

Joan Taylor came on board in July as Senior Connections Supervisor, replacing Jan Silva. Joan brings an extensive background in senior services to our agency. In addition to serving as AAA Director, she also served as a medical case manager and nursing home administrator in Helena, Montana. After arriving in Eugene in 2003, Joan worked as a Loaned Executive for the 2004 United Way Campaign.



Community Services for Seniors and Family Caregivers

LCOG ON THE WEB: www.lcog.org

For more information on the programs and activities mentioned in this newsletter, visit the Lane Council of Government website at www.lcog.org



CALENDAR: www.lcog.org/calen.html

Current meeting schedules are now available on the LCOG website at www.lcog.org/calen.html



REGIONAL FOCUS

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