

**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 2017**

MEMBERS: Mayor Sharon Konopa, Albany; Commissioner Anne Schuster, Benton County; Mayor Biff Traber, Corvallis; Councilor Bob Elliott, Lebanon; Commissioner Bill Hall, Lincoln County; Councilor Dann Cutter, Waldport; Mayor Marjean Cline, Halsey; Councilor Jeanni Cuthbertson, Monroe; Councilor Diane Gerson, Sweet Home; Mayor Jim Lepin, Millersburg; Commissioner John Lindsey, Linn County; Councilor Richard Nelson, Scio; Councilor Sarah Puls, Harrisburg; and Mayor Don Ware, Brownsville.

STAFF: Executive Director Fred Abousleman; Deputy Director Lydia George; Finance Director Sue Forty; Community and Economic Development (CED) Director Phil Warnock; Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Program Manager Randi Moore; SDS Program Manager Jennifer Moore; Technology Services Manager Brian Chytka; Senior Accountant Janet Cline; Union Treasurer Mandi Craig; and Administrative Assistant Jennifer Kelley.

VISITORS: Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) Vice-Chair Mike Volpe; and Home Care Worker Cathy Savage.

VIDEO: President Walter Chuck, Port of Newport; Councilor Max Glenn, Yachats; Councilor Dean Sawyer, Newport; Mayor Billie Jo Smith, Toledo; and Councilor Susan Wahlke, Lincoln City.

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments' (OCWCOG) Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Konopa at 2:11 pm on May 18, 2017 at the Cascades West Center in Albany.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Konopa welcomed everyone, and introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Consent Calendar

Councilor Susan Wahlke asked to remove agenda item a) Approval of the March 16, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from the Consent Calendar.

Commissioner Bill Hall motioned to approve items b – h on the Consent Calendar, Mayor Marjean Cline seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Wahlke asked that on agenda item a, she be added to the Minutes as an attendee, as she was not on the list.

Councilor Wahlke motioned to approve item a as amended on the Consent Calendar, Commissioner Anne Schuster seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Items presented on the Consent calendar and approved were:

- a. Approval of March 16, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes;
- b. Approval of Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC) Membership for Robynn Pease;
- c. Approval of Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) Membership for Carolyn Fry;
- d. Approval of FY2018-2019 Senior Meals Food Service Contract increases;
- e. Adoption of *Resolution #17-05-01*, regarding OCWCOG's RLF Plan;
- f. Approval of Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program Policies & Procedures Manual;
- g. Adoption of *Resolution #17-05-02*, regarding EDA Planning Grant submittal;
- h. and Financial Update for the period of July 2016 – March 2017.

4. Presentation and Adoption of the FY2017-2018 Work Program & Budget

Chair Konopa gave the Board a brief overview of OCWCOG's budgeting process.

Executive Director Fred Abousleman stated that the Finance and Budget Committees met prior to the full Board of Directors meeting, and that the Budget Committee had moved to recommend adoption of the *FY 2017-2018 Work Program & Budget (Budget)* by the Board.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that Senior and Disability Services (SDS) is the largest line item in OCWCOG's budget, with Medicaid programs being the largest portion of that program. The second largest line item in the budget is the *Ride Line* program, housed in Community and Economic Development (CED). Executive Director Abousleman stated that by law, OCWCOG's budget must balance, and reminded the Board that a financial update is provided each Board meeting. If large budgetary changes arise during the Fiscal Year, amended budgets are provided to the Board.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that staff had prepared a presentation to serve as an overview of the *Budget*.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided to the Board:

- Finance Director Sue Forty provided an overview of OCWCOG's budget as an organization.
- Deputy Director Lydia George provided an overview of General Administration's budget, including Finance, Technology Services, Human Resources, and Facilities (Non-Departmental).

Commissioner Schuster asked for a timeline for the Albany building remodel. Executive Director Abousleman stated that the remodel has been planned for 2.5 years; currently OCWCOG is in phase two of a roughly four phase plan. Phase one included SDS staff being combined into a common area, aside from support staff and the Eligibility department, which are still downstairs. Phase two includes expanding CED, which will take approximately 6-8 months. Phase three will include moving remaining downstairs staff upstairs, and phase four will include remodeling downstairs to create more conference space and areas accessible to the public.

Commissioner Schuster asked where the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is currently located. Executive Director Abousleman stated that they are currently downstairs with support staff.

Commissioner John Lindsey asked when the roof replacement on the Albany building will be completed. Deputy Director George stated that OCWCOG is currently in the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, and that contractors are booked for this summer. Commissioner Lindsey responded that Linn County just put out an RFP to contract for a new roof, but received no responses. Commissioner Schuster asked about the

possibility of putting solar panels on the new roof. Deputy Director George stated that OCWCOG is looking into this possibility.

- CED Director Warnock provided an overview of CED's budget, and noted that as in daily operations, CED and Lending have been combined for the presentation.

Commissioner Schuster asked what "Travel Training" entailed. CED Director Warnock stated that a staff member can provide one-on-one training with an individual, teaching them how to use public transit and other ride services. This increases independence and self-sufficiency. Commissioner Schuster asked how people access this service. CED Director Warnock stated that currently the *Ride Line* transportation brokers refer clients, but there are discussions taking place with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to reach transit users.

- SDS Program Manager Randi Moore provided an overview of the SDS budget.

Commissioner Schuster asked how to access options counseling, and who it is available to. SDS Program Manager Randi Moore stated that anyone can access this service; if you call SDS and say you would like information on care options for yourself or someone you know, they will refer you to the appropriate person.

Chair Konopa stated that Oregon's Secretary of State is proposing Medicaid audits, and asked whether this would impact OCWCOG, or whether it would be on a State level. SDS Program Manager Randi Moore stated that likely what will happen is that the State will reach out to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Adults and People with Disabilities (APD) to request files. At that time, DHS or APD may request information from OCWCOG's SDS department. Commissioner Lindsey stated that his understanding of the audit's purpose is to check for misuse or fraud, not to investigate SDS staff.

Commissioner Bill Hall motioned to approve the *FY2017-2018 Work Program & Budget*, and adoption of *Resolution #17-05-03 Agency Budget for Fiscal year 2017-2018*. Councilor Bob Elliott seconded, motion passed unanimously.

5. Board Endorsement of the Older Americans Month Proclamation

Chair Konopa gave the Board a brief overview of the Older Americans Month Proclamation, and noted that many jurisdictions have likely already adopted the Proclamation.

Mayor Don Ware motioned to adopt the 2017 Older Americans Month Proclamation, Mayor Marjean Cline seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Priorities

Executive Director Abousleman reminded the Board that Commissioner Hall is President of AOC. OCWCOG requested that Commissioner Hall discuss AOC priorities with the Board.

Commissioner Hall stated that AOC's main priority is getting a transportation funding package this year. AOC currently has two policy managers working on transportation during this legislative session. State Representative David Gomberg predicted that the transportation package will pass last-minute.

Commissioner Hall stated that many members of the public don't realize that counties maintain more miles of bridges and roads than cities. Commissioner Hall stated that in order to manage the backlog of maintenance needs for roads and bridges, a \$0.41 gas tax would need to be implemented. Because that is unlikely to pass, it has been proposed that a \$0.06 gas tax be implemented.

Commissioner Hall stated that another priority of AOC was the passage of Measure 96, the Oregon Portion of Lottery Proceeds for Support of Veterans Amendment. This amendment passed in the 2016 election, and will allow for 40 new Veterans Services Officers around the State. Commissioner Hall stated that compared with Oklahoma, a state with a veterans population only slightly higher than Oregon, Oklahoma receives nearly half a billion dollars more in federal funding.

Commissioner Hall stated that one disappointment for AOC is that public health modernization efforts will not be happening this year. Oregon is near bottom in public health services within the state.

Commissioner Schuster asked Commissioner Hall what his priority is as President. Commissioner Hall stated that he supports the *Stepping Up Initiative*, and encouraged the Board to look at their website, stepuptogether.org. Commissioner Hall stated that this initiative is a national project launched two years ago by the National Association of Counties. The initiative is designed to promote program collaboration between criminal justice, healthcare, and the community, with goals of reducing the number of incarcerated individuals with mental illnesses.

Commissioner Hall stated that in Lincoln County, there is one jail counselor, and his estimate is that 30% of inmates at any given time have been treated for mental health issues. Approximately a third of that group are severely and persistently mentally ill. Commissioner Hall stated that he hears often from law enforcement that they are not equipped to deal with mental illness, and that those arrested due to mental illness should be diverted to treatment services. Commissioner Hall discussed with the Board the cost-effectiveness of treatment options, and the reduced cost of treatment versus repeated incarceration. He stated that he will co-Chair a mini task-force pushing for better state and local collaboration on this topic.

Executive Director Abousleman asked Commissioner Hall how aligned AOC is with League of Oregon Cities (LOC) priorities. Commissioner Hall stated that he was not entirely sure, as there could be better collaboration among the two groups. Chair Konopa stated that transportation is also a LOC priority.

Councilor Jeanni Cuthbertson stated that she has seen people who are referred to treatment but are released before they have received enough care, creating a cyclic system where they end up back in treatment. Commissioner Hall noted that this problem has been exacerbated by a court case that accelerated a trend of mental health facilities shutting down due to the cost of facilities upgrades.

Commissioner Lindsey stated that with the imminent closure of Oregon State Hospital's Junction City campus, violent criminals will be released, some to jails or prisons. Commissioner Lindsey suggested that the increased public interaction with violent offenders may create increased stigma toward non-violent people with mental illnesses; additionally, increased public interaction with violent offenders is a public health issue.

Commissioner Hall stated that there is inadequate funding for these programs, as well as inadequate support services for offenders with mental illnesses.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that Samaritan Health Services has been exploring transportation options to assist low-income or homeless individuals released from the hospital. Commissioner Hall asked Executive Director Abousleman to share any future progress.

7. OCWCOG Annual Dinner

Executive Director Abousleman introduced a walk-on item: *CelebrateLBL* Award Categories and Nomination Form Information. This document outlines award categories for the OCWCOG Annual Dinner, now renamed *CelebrateLBL*, as well as information on nominating and selecting candidates for the awards.

Executive Director Abousleman provided the Board a recap of previously discussed details for *CelebrateLBL*, including the date, location, and format for the event. Executive Director Abousleman stated that an email will be sent with this information, as well as directions to the venue.

Mayor Biff Traber asked for a schedule regarding picking award winners. Executive Director Abousleman stated that nominations will open in June, with the OCWCOG Board of Directors picking winners at the September meeting.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that OCWCOG is seeking sponsors for the event, with sponsorship tiers ranging from \$2,500 and under, up to \$10,000. Commissioner Lindsey clarified that this sponsorship is a donation to the program, and not a membership, making it tax deductible. Executive Director Abousleman confirmed this.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that approximately \$12,000 in sponsorships has already been committed. Ticket prices will cover the event costs. The specific price of tickets is still being determined, but will be between \$27 and \$32 per person.

Commissioner Schuster asked what will happen at the event. Executive Director Abousleman stated that the event will last two hours, and include fundraising activities such as silent auctions, a *State of the Region* update, a keynote speaker, and awards.

Mayor Traber left the meeting.

8. Program Update Question and Answers

CED Director Warnock asked the Board whether there were any questions regarding the CED Program Update. There were no questions.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that the U.S. Department of Agriculture microloan program funding has been formalized, providing funding for non-urban area small business loans. CED Director Warnock clarified that this program provides small loans for microentrepreneurs.

Commissioner Lindsey asked about the interest rate for these loans. CED Director Warnock stated that the rate is between 6% and 9%, and that this is one of seven categories of loan products that the *Business Lending* program offers.

SDS Program Manager Randi Moore stated that on May 17th, the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) held a *Day at the Capitol* event. Advocates from Senior Services Advisory Council and Disability Services Advisory Council attended, and discussed with legislators the importance of funding Oregon Project Independence (OPI), as well as the importance of a transition plan for those individuals that will no longer be eligible for Medicaid when rule changes take effect.

SDS Program Manager Randi Moore stated that proposed cuts to OPI, which started at 75%, have now been reduced to 50%. While this is positive movement, the cuts are still substantial.

9. Topics of Regional Interest

Executive Director Abousleman stated that at a previous regional Mayors' meeting, the problem of solid sewage waste was brought up, along with potential interest in developing a regional fertilizer plant to process this waste. In doing research on this, other options were presented for ways to process this waste. However, there was some disagreement from City/County Managers/Administrators on whether this problem was a priority.

Mayor Billie Jo Smith stated that Toledo has had problems with spreading their sewage sludge on fields, so the fertilizer plant had seemed like a solution, with regional collaboration providing a better means to accomplish funding needs.

Chair Konopa stated that Albany currently hauls sewage solids to a landfill, which incurs approximately half a million dollars annually in costs.

Executive Director Abousleman stated one additional option for handling waste, including sewage, land, and food waste, is to use it as input material for a hydrogen fuel production facility. Currently Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC) is interested in developing such a facility with a potential business partner, to act as a functioning fuel producer and as an educational resource.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that another option was presented during a visit to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Ecology Lab. They are interested in developing a facility that would take waste and produce charcoal (char) to capture contaminants in the environment, such as mill tailings. The only existing facility on the west coast is in California.

Executive Director Abousleman asked the Board whether they would be interested in OCWCOG taking on an intern to do an assessment on the need and feasibility of these projects. In addition to exploring these options as a more effective solution for waste management, a project such as this could be an economic development tool. Executive Director Abousleman stated that OCWCOG is prepared to launch this assessment project, but needs confirmation from the Board that it is a priority.

The Board discussed what jurisdictions are currently doing with solid sewage waste.

Councilor Dann Cutter stated that transportation for waste seems to already be set up, as most jurisdictions are already transporting solid sewage waste to another location.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that LBCC has proposed that if municipalities can provide input fuel, the hydrogen plant would provide fuel in return. Buses could be converted to use hydrogen fuel, in addition to other possibilities.

Commissioner Schuster asked whether LBCC could contribute time to an information gathering assessment. Executive Director Abousleman stated that they could.

Commissioner Lindsey stated that costs for permits could be prohibitive. Executive Director Abousleman stated that he believed the scale of the project would be small enough to avoid prohibitive permit fees, but that this would be determined.

Chair Konopa asked the Board whether there was agreement that an assessment would be helpful. The Board agreed.

Chair Konopa asked the Board whether their jurisdictions had seen any evidence of price gouging for hotel rooms during the solar eclipse. Councilor Cutter stated that he had seen some small-scale lodging facilities cancelling reservations to raise rates due to increased operational costs, but no large-scale price gouging practices.

Chair Konopa asked whether jurisdictions had received requests from the public to lease their field or lot for camping during the event. Councilor Cutter stated that he has not heard of people asking, but has heard of people planning to do this.

Chair Konopa stated that Albany has had people asking to do this, and has also had petitions from neighbors in opposition. Albany has laws against camping within city limits, meaning you cannot legally charge someone to camp on your property.

Councilor Cutter stated that he has heard people talking about renting backyards, trailers, etc. He stated that many people are not following guidelines, but that there is not the capacity to enforce violations. There have also been complaints that the City is not planning enough, however most complaints have been around services that the City does not oversee.

10. Other Business

SDS Program Manager Randi Moore introduced SDS Program Manager Jennifer Moore. SDS Program Manager Jennifer Moore will be overseeing community-based programs within SDS, such as *Meals on Wheels*, *Benton County Veterans*, *Retired Senior Volunteer Program* and the *Foster Grandparent Program*.

11. Adjournment

Chair Konopa adjourned the meeting at 4:01 pm.

Minutes recorded by Jennifer Kelley.