



Executive Committee Meeting Agenda Packet

October 25, 2018, 9:00 am

Cascades West Center
1400 Queen Avenue, SE
2nd Floor, Large Conference Room
Albany, OR 97322

The meeting locations are wheelchair accessible. If you need special assistance please contact Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments at 541-967-8720, forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

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**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA
October 25, 2018
9:00 am**

Cascades West Center
1400 Queen Avenue SE
Albany, OR 97322

An Executive Session may be called as deemed necessary by the Chair, pursuant to ORS 192.660.

NOTE: Please contact Lindsey Riley, lriley@ocwcoq.org, no later than noon on Tuesday, October 23rd to confirm your attendance.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Chair Sharon Konopa)
(9:00 – 9:05 am)

Minutes of the August 23, 2018 Executive Committee meeting will be reviewed for approval (Page 5).

ACTION: Motion to approve the August 23, 2018 Executive Committee meeting minutes.

2. Legislative Advocacy Update (Executive Director Fred Abousleman)
(9:05 – 9:15 am)

The Executive Committee will hear an update on legislative advocacy (Page 13).

3. OCWCOG Program Updates (All Program Directors)
(9:15 – 9:25 am)

Staff will be available to answer any questions from the Executive Committee on program updates (Community and Economic Development Program - Page 18; Community Services Program - Page 20; and Senior and Disability Services Program - Page 21).

ACTION: Motion to approve SSAC and DSAC Letter to the editor.

4. Topics of Regional Interest
(9:25 – 9:35 am)

Board members are invited to present topics that may be of interest to other jurisdictions. Emphasis should be on issues of regional significance.

ACTION: Information only, no action needed.

5. December Board of Directors' Meeting Agenda Items *(Chair Sharon Konopa)*
(9:35 – 9:40 am)

The Executive Committee will review and comment on proposed agenda items for the next Board of Directors Meeting. Staff will present items for the agenda known to date, including:

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Consent Calendar**
 - a. Approval of Previous Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
 - b. Financial Update
4. **Selection of a Nominating Committee**
5. **OCWCOG Budget Committee and Process for the Fiscal Year 2019**
6. **Approval of Proposed Salary Range for New Assistant Veterans Services Officer**
7. **Review of OCWCOG Election Language in Bylaws and Articles of Agreement**
8. **Legislative Advocacy Update**
9. **Program Update Question and Answers**
10. **Topics of Regional Interest**
11. **Other Business**
12. **Adjournment**

ACTION: Information only, no action needed.

13. Other Business
(9:40 – 9:45 am)

ACTION: Information only, no action needed.

14. Adjournment
(9:45 am)

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**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 23, 2018**

MEMBERS: Mayor Sharon Konopa, Albany; Commissioner Anne Schuster, Benton County; Councilor Bob Elliott, Lebanon; and Councilor Dann Cutter, Waldport.

STAFF: Executive Director Fred Abousleman; Deputy Director Rachael Maddock-Hughes; Finance Director Sue Forty; Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director Randi Moore; Community Services Program (CSP) Director Jennifer Moore; and Executive Assistant Jennifer Kelley.

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments' (OCWCOG) Executive Committee Meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Anne Schuster at 9:10 am on August 23, 2018 at the Cascades West Center in Albany.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Councilor Bob Elliott motioned to approve the June 28, 2018 Executive Committee meeting minutes, Acting Chair Schuster seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. OCWCOG Events Update

Executive Director Fred Abousleman noted that the *Tapas and Treasures* event made around \$7,000. The Rotary of Corvallis would like to continue to keep doing this event. The Oregon Cascades West Senior Services Foundation would probably like to continue the event as well. Executive Director Abousleman commented that if the event continued, he would like to see the venue rotated and to move the event from August.

Executive Director Abousleman said that he was at the Lebanon Rotary and talked about rotating the event around Counties.

Executive Director Abousleman provided an update on *CelebrateLBL*; approximately 50 registrations thus far and he would like to see 100 attendees. He thanked Councilor Dann Cutter for his work in getting great beer sponsors and vendors to the event. Councilor Cutter commented that he has a couple more meetings next week, so may have additional vendors in another week.

Executive Director Abousleman thinks that the event will hit between 100 and 110 attendees. He noted that the hotels were odd; the Holiday Inn Express was the only one that was willing to have a contract with OCWCOG to hold rooms. He also recommended the Elizabeth Street Inn. He noted that Staff was also talking to Lee Lazaro (Benton County Special Transportation Coordinator) and Peter Troedsson (Albany City Manager) about taking attendees to the Coast via a bus, so this is still a possibility.

Deputy Director Rachael Maddock-Hughes noted that if anyone has any questions, to please call her.

Acting Chair Schuster asked that if the bus became available, this would be only for the night, not for those that were staying overnight. Executive Director Abousleman confirmed that this is correct.

Executive Director Abousleman noted that there will be no silent auction, but a small auction will be held. There isn't time at the event, the way the venue is set-up to focus on a silent auction.

Executive Director Abousleman asked if Mayor Sharon Konopa had thought about her Chair's Award. Mayor Sharon Konopa has picked two – a business and an individual.

Executive Director Abousleman noted that there will be a Mayors' Meeting before the CelebrateLBL event at the Aquarium (same venue) from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. The notice for this Mayors' Meeting is going out today. There is a Board room at the Aquarium, which will be used for the Mayors' Meeting. Staff will ensure that Mayor Konopa gets a ride to this meeting.

Councilor Cutter asked if any OCWCOG Council meetings will be held that day. Executive Director Abousleman said that none were scheduled.

3. Legislative Advocacy Update

Executive Director Abousleman commented on the 404 wetlands assumption and the proposal that the Executive Committee has in their Meeting Packet.

Executive Director Abousleman noted that while he had promised a September Legislative Roundtable, Staff had reached out and found either little interest in participating or scheduling conflicts. He's looking at scheduling this Roundtable for October. Councilor Cutter commented that if Staff doesn't get a lot of interest for October, if they could target a few individuals on the right Committees to do individual outreach. He's thinking about having a smaller Roundtable, but to have the right people at the table.

Acting Chair Schuster asked what issues would be brought to the Roundtable. Executive Director Abousleman is looking to build relationships around a regional agenda. Councilor Cutter made it clear that he believes that rather than a large Roundtable, which might address issues that are meaningless, he wants Staff to target the right people from the right Committees for this specific conversation.

Executive Director Abousleman discussed the housing proposal that Staff has brought back to the Executive Committee as a more definitive project, including better context and where Staff thinks the project could be value added for the community. Staff is not interested in using the \$25,000 exclusively for a study. Executive Director Abousleman noted that if Staff doesn't find other interested parties for funding, then he proposes not moving the project forward.

Councilor Cutter noted that it is critical that the project has community buy-in and buys in fiscally. Waldport's budget is tight, so this expense (to support the project) will need to be planned into the City's fiscal timeline. Councilor Cutter's willing to take it to the City to support the project, but it will take time.

Executive Director Abousleman wants to start with data (using some of the \$25,000), and then go to the communities and ask for the funding that is needed to continue the project. He does not need any short-term funding to accomplish the housing project.

Executive Director Abousleman comment that even if some communities have money available, the housing market is very odd – there is not enough land, and not enough builders. The goal of the project is to build a solution that is four-to-five years out to avoid what has just happened across the Region – where everything is expensive, and nothing is being built.

Executive Director Abousleman noted that if a community borders that of another state, then all housing is being built in the other state. Oregon is advised not to get into house, however fixing land-used, wetlands, and local codes will help speed up making Oregon a friendlier housing community.

Executive Director Abousleman would like to package projects of significance for the Region. He wants to combine several projects into a larger project to incentivize and attract builders to the Region. Councilor Cutter comments that each community may have different rules, so combining into one project could get messy. He asked where are the regulations for developers? Councilor Cutter inquired as to whether OCWCOG could start creating a revenue stream like that of business lending, but with housing.

Executive Director Abousleman said that OCWCOG could do that, though the State has recommended that unless the organization has extensive development experience to not move forward with this model. He commented that OCWCOG needs capacity to make this happen; to specifically partner with those who do development work instead, rather than to take this on in-house. He noted that other housing authorities can do other types of housing, they just need to be incentivized to do this work. Executive Director Abousleman noted that there is nothing prohibiting local jurisdictions from building housing.

Executive Director Abousleman reiterated that he is supportive of supportive housing, especially housing to the eldering and those with disabilities. He would like to see OCWCOG partner with an organization that is supportive of this type of housing, so that money can get into the communities faster to build this type of housing. For instance, he recommended a partnership between OCWCOG's Senior and Disability Services and the Willamette Valley Housing Authority, together releasing new dollars. He believes this type of partnership would be received positively across the Region – one where housing and Community Services can be brought together.

Deputy Director Maddock-Hughes reminded everyone that there is also a need for money for data before moving forward on any concrete projects.

Acting Chair Schuster commented that document recording fees could also go to any technical assistance costs. She noted that this is how Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) encourages their applicants to write their grants.

Councilor Cutter inquired about the Cascades West Economic Development Districts' (CWEDD) presentation in Lane County regarding a tracking database. Could housing data be included in this database? Executive Director Abousleman said that yes, this was possible. This specific tracking software's expertise was the tracking ability, so would need to see how housing data could be wrapped into it.

Mayor Konopa asked if advocacy could be done at the State level around supportive housing for the elderly and disabled. If the State is hindering non-profits from expanding to more income-based housing, then, could this be a place for OCWCOG's advocacy efforts? For instance, if there are certain projects that have extra requirements on the property owner that a regular market housing provider does not have to complete, then this is an unfair disadvantage to one property owner over another.

Mayor Konopa specifically has a property in Albany that needs an annual audit, which adds to the rent cost. To complete the audit, requires two to three inspections from the

State, and there is a charge for each inspection. She has the ability to expand in Albany for more low-income housing but is hesitant to do so (go through the State for the tax-credit), because of these extra requirements. What's the incentive for the individual?

Mayor Konopa asked the same for a business; there are barriers for a business to come into a community and build low-income housing, including the community's housing policy and production, i.e. the lack of development-ready sites. System development charges are a major barrier. Cities and communities are forced to charge higher system development fees to make it fair and equitable for all rate payers, but this just increases the cost for everyone. Mayor Konopa is concerned that rather than raising the rate for everyone, she would like it to be balanced for all rate payers.

Mayor Konopa also noted that there is a market shift toward larger homes, though millennials are going toward smaller homes. In Albany, there is some shift toward large homes, but since the economic downturn, smaller homes are more popular because of energy costs. She says that her community is trying to save on their carbon footprint.

Councilor Cutter commented that this was probably a short-term vs. longer-term industry term. The long-term industry trend has seen individuals moving from smaller to larger homes. Mayor Konopa agreed with Councilor Cutter with the short-term trend, but she is not sure if this will be sustained. She noted that in the last five years, she has seen a shift to smaller homes, a recognition that larger homes are not sustainable. She also noted that millennials are not buying home as much, in general, but rather breaking market trends by continuing to rent. Mayor Konopa suggested that the Executive Committee and OCWCOG look at both short- and long-term trends.

Executive Director Abousleman noted that both national and State trends will be researched, and Staff will make it clear which data shows what. He noted that he did not, off the top of his head, know local trends vs. State trends vs. National trends.

Acting Chair Schuster asked if the report could include a set of recommendations, including types of housing (accessory dwelling unit [ADU], row-houses, etc.). Councilor Cutter commented that the report can recommend, but that it's a market factor. He started that people want to live in specific styles of homes based on the communities. For example, if a community saw a push for more sustainability, then homeowners/renters may want larger lots, so they can grow their food, etc. Councilor Cutter continued, in the City of Waldport, they have considered changing ordinances to allow for more than just chickens and ducks, but perhaps to allow for goats and larger farm animals (in backyards). He noted that the market will demand what types of homes, regardless of what OCWCOG demands.

Acting Chair Schuster noted that the OCWCOG report could fill the niches. For instance, millennials like to live where they work, they do not want to have to drive. If this could give the downtowns of the Region a boost, this could be a recommendation of the report. Councilor Cutter agreed, but reminded the Executive Committee that this is what millennials want today, but that this may change.

Executive Director Abousleman commented that the communities across the OCWCOG Region are so diverse the OCWCOG report would not start with a set of recommendations; rather, the report would make recommendations based on the type of community, but not promoted fixed recommendations. He noted that the Staff does not know what it does not know yet and does not want to make assumptions.

Acting Chair Schuster noted that to apply for OHCS funding, applicants must have everything in place before submitting any paperwork. Executive Director Abousleman replied that the housing crisis in the Region is on all scales, and that partnering with OCHS would be a great idea.

Deputy Director Maddock-Hughes noted that the focus of some of the research would more than likely focus on workforce housing. Executive Director Abousleman agreed and commented that this would probably be OCWCOG's niche.

Executive Director Abousleman continued stating that he was confident that the Executive Committee and OCWCOG Staff were on the same page about what the problem with housing was, but research needed to be completed to determine whether there was public and private market work available to incentive a report. He was also interested to see what barriers existed in the Region to housing and how these barriers could be overcome. He was aware that some cities do not want to expand, and others had codes in place that did not allow for building up; but each of these could be overcome with legislative and/or code changes.

Acting Chair Schuster commented that she thought it made sense to work on regulatory aspects of the housing code to begin the research for the report, but did OCWCOG know where to start? Executive Director Abousleman replied that Staff could look at codes and work with State agencies.

Councilor Elliott noted that in Lebanon all the new buildings that were being built were apartments, which are filled immediately. He noted that the biggest concern in Lebanon is a wetlands issue, which is holding back building quite a bit. He said that the City was going after other Urban Renewal Districts (URD) permits, that could help bring in alternate housing options, beyond apartments.

Deputy Director Maddock noted that she spoke with Kenny LaPoint, Assistant Director for Oregon Housing and Community Services, who also mentioned wetlands as being an issue for moving forward with housing, and specifically mentioned incentivizing individuals who were sitting on land that is not necessarily wetland to swap for wetland. Executive Director Abousleman commented on this land swapping or land banking practice, which is a place to start in some communities. He noted that OCWCOG Staff does not know how to do this but would research it for the report.

Councilor Cutter motions to bring this proposal to the Full Board of Directors under the Special Projects Funding. Councilor Elliott seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Abousleman thanked the Executive Committee and noted that he believes that the market is good for this type of report. Councilor Cutter agreed with the market being good for many communities, there was a cornerstone business indicating that because of the rental market, they will be taking their business out of Waldport. While this business is not massively profitable, they are a keystone business, so if they go, it is not good for the City.

Executive Director Abousleman commented that he saw this not as a housing crisis, but as an economic development crisis, as Councilor Cutter pointed out, the housing market is affecting the businesses across the Region. The economy has been slower in the Region over the last five years because of the housing market.

Councilor Cutter noticed another trend – specifically for the Coastal communities – a small housing community recently opened five miles south of Waldport, and rather than becoming a

residential community, it has become a vacation rental community. Councilor Cutter noted that his City realizes that it is a bedroom community, so they are trying to figure out how to become a better bedroom community.

Councilor Elliott commented that the City of Lebanon's downtown revitalization is going well. The old hotel has been refaced, and other buildings are being remodeled. He noted that it has taken some time, but the City is on the brink of coming back.

4. OCWCOG Program Updates

Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director Randi Moore noted that that there is nothing critical in her report. She did comment that Sweet Home is losing its nursing facility, but the transition of clients to other facilities (mostly Lebanon) has gone well this far though. Acting Chair Schuster asked about the closure. SDS Director Moore commented that the closure was a financial decision. There were two facilities in Sweet Home, so the company consolidated down to one.

Community Services Program (CSP) Director Jen Moore commented that she and her team are continuing to plan suicide prevention and awareness funding for the Benton County Veterans Services Office. The Honor Flight will be sending another honor flight in September. The last Honor Flight happened in May and was completely sold out.

CSP Director Moore noted that the *Money Management Program (MMP)* is actively recruiting for volunteers. The program is trying to add five volunteers for each County before the end of October.

Finally, CSP Director Moore commented on the *Senior Corps Program* Press/Member Release that Staff is working on. This should be out in the next couple of weeks.

Acting Chair Schuster noted that Ed Bock is in Rotary and has participated in Honor Flight. CSP Director Moore has been in touch with Mr. Bock, who is very active in the Vet-Met community.

Councilor Elliott asked about the *Meals on Wheels (MOW)* program. CSP Director Moore replied that MOW is more stable than its been in some time. The program is still looking for additional funding opportunities, especially from different grant funders or other philanthropic sources. She also noted that she is working on developing a fundraising strategy for the Meal Site Managers. CSP Program Director Moore also commented on the *Giving Day* campaign program that was launched at *Tapas and Treasures*, where donors are able to pick a day to sponsor for \$1,000, and could purchase a *Giving Day* in honor or a loved one or occasion. Businesses could also fund a day to support *MOW*. The packaging and materials for this campaign are being finalized now, including a logo and talking points. There will be a gift box to go to the donor to help them publicize their day, as well as electronic swag.

Executive Director Abousleman noted that last year without the swag and marketing, five *Giving Days* were sold. He commented that \$88.33/month gets you a *Giving Day*.

Councilor Elliott commented that driver reimbursement was cut back; how has that impacted drivers and recruitment? CSP Director Moore noted that that change was made several years ago, and since that time there have not been any drivers expressing hardship. She did not that one reason why this change was made is that many drivers were not taking advantage of the reimbursement. Since the program is not expending as much in reimbursement, those dollars

go back into the program for other expenses. She has not heard any feedback from drivers that this reimbursement rate needs to increase.

Acting Chair Schuster noted that there is a housing webinar at 11:30 am – 1:00 pm today.

Deputy Director Maddock-Hughes thanked Acting Chair Schuster for mentioning this;

OCWCOG Planner Jeff Gepper will be running the webinar and it is open to everyone.

Executive Director Abousleman noted Community and Economic Development (CED) Director Phil Warnock is at the Coastal Caucus this morning, which is why he is not here. If there are any questions about the CED report, Executive Director Abousleman can answer them.

5. Topics of Regional Interest

Acting Chair Schuster would like to see housing in the Region as the topic for the Board meeting in September. Councilor Cutter agrees.

Mayor Konopa asked if there was something from the Regional Mayors' Meeting that should be included in the Board meeting again. Executive Director Abousleman said that this is possible, but let's stick with housing and maybe add other topics, if needed.

Deputy Director Maddock-Hughes noted that she will add housing to the Regional Mayors' meeting agenda. Mayor Konopa thanked her.

Councilor Cutter asked to add URDs as a topic of regional interest. He is surprised when he reviewed this City's how few communities are utilizing these. He noted that most of his Council did not know how they worked. Executive Director Abousleman is open to this discussion, or does someone need to present on this topic? Councilor Cutter thinks this can be an open discussion, with perhaps a handout on the process.

Mayor Konopa noted that she did a presentation on URD's a few years ago to the Oregon Mayors, as it is a valuable tool for cities, but it is often a tool that gets challenged.

Councilor Cutter is not suggesting this as a topic for September, but perhaps to take a poll at the December Board meeting to see if the Board knows/understands URDs, and to see if they want more information. He's simply surprised at the number of communities that are not taking advantage of them.

Councilor Elliott commented that a handout on URDs would be great, but someone to talk about them would be helpful as well. He noted that City of Corvallis and Benton County Economic Development Officer Kate Porsche and City of Albany Economic Development Manager Seth Sherry were handling the one for the City of Lebanon. Executive Director Abousleman suggested someone from the Urban Renewal Association (URA); Acting Chair Schuster noted that Economic Development Officer Porsche is involved in the URA.

Executive Director Abousleman noted that OCWCOG Staff will put together one-pager on URD.

6. October Executive Committee Agency Items

Mayor Konopa asked that OCWCOG's fiscal policies be added to the October Executive Committee agenda items. She also requested DAS procurement training.

Acting Chair Schuster asked what was happening in Toledo. Executive Director Abousleman noted that things were quiet. The financial audit was submitted on time.

Executive Director Abousleman noted that the Special Projects Fund request needs to be added to the September meeting agenda.

7. Other Business

Executive Director Abousleman noted that there is one walk-on item, which seeks approval from the Executive Committee to have alcohol on premise for an Albany Chamber Business After Hours Event. Executive Committee motioned to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Adjournment

Adjourned 10:20 am.

Meeting minutes taken by Jennifer Kelley.

Legislative Policy Education

Broad Issue Areas

Background

The Board of Directors (Board) of the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG), representing 25 local, tribal, and port districts in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties has developed the following policy education issue areas for consideration for Legislative and Administrative action. These areas represent the coordinated efforts of local elected leaders and staff in developing solutions to problems facing our residents, businesses, and governments in our tri-Counties Region. These areas are inclusive and supportive of the League of Oregon Cities (LOC), the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), our industry, and national associations, but may, in some cases, reflect priorities most relevant to our localities or affecting specific geographic or policy areas in detail.

The OCWCOG service area, spanning the three Counties, serves five Senate, seven House districts, and two Congressional districts. Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties are home to a population of over 270,000 residents, Oregon State University, Linn-Benton Community College, Oregon Coast Community College, Hatfield Marine Science Center, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Western Ecology Division Laboratory, the U.S. Department of Energy's Albany Research Center, two major fishing and fleet repair ports, numerous docking ports, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Operations Center - Pacific Research Fleet, and numerous international and national high tech, marine, science, and manufacturing and distribution businesses. Our Region has an expanding international aquaculture and agriculture presence worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The three Counties are intersected by Interstate 5 and 101, and State routes 34 and 20, all with increasing commuter and truck traffic, four commuter airports, and numerous rail lines.

Local Control

The core tenant of OCWCOG programs is to support local control over State and Federal funding to the greatest extent possible. As such, OCWCOG supports increased local control, autonomy, and funding for local jurisdictions, tribes, and special districts in statutory and legislative decision-making. Local governments have diverse and varied needs, and need the ability to respond effectively with "home-grown" solutions to complex situations, as appropriate.

Issues to address:

- *Impacts of Legislation and State Agency Actions on Small Cities and Rural Counties*
Policy, and the costs associated with implementation, may not be effective for small cities and rural counties. OCWCOG supports procedural changes pertaining to Legislation and State agency actions, to improve research and information gathering practices regarding policy cost implications on small and/or rural communities.



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Transportation – Equity, Mobility, Access, and Safety

OCWCOG supports comprehensive and robust State and Federal funding to maintain, build, and support a safe, balanced, multimodal, and intermodal transportation system in our tri-County Region. OCWCOG supports a fair, transparent, and equitable allocation of resources to local and tribal governments. Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties are unique in their needs, including urban and rural connectivity, supporting Valley growth in population, the distribution of goods and services, the support of our maritime facilities, and the individuality of Valley and Coastal connectivity.

Issues to address:

- Support and feed into the work of the Continuous Improvement Advisory Committee established under House Bill 2017.
- *Improving working relationships with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).*
Local jurisdictions attempting to work with ODOT for capital improvements can face inefficiencies, creating additional costs, delays, and confusion around policy. OCWCOG supports improvements in procedures relating to ODOT, specifically regarding transparency, data sharing and accuracy, timeliness of processes, cost-effectiveness, and overall efficiencies.
 - Timeliness – ODOT can take two-to-four years, for example, to process requests for projects and Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs). During this timeframe, personnel transitions within ODOT create a breakdown in the flow of information, and a jurisdiction starts the same conversation over again with new people every year.
 - IGA Terms and Cost Control – ODOT's boilerplate IGAs include a clause billing all project overages to a city. However, acting as project manager, ODOT is in control of the project costs and their own timely control of the process. For example, a jurisdiction within our Region prepared to pay a specific match for a project is not equipped to pick up an additional coverage of unexpected or unanticipated overages.
 - Lack of coordinated small city and rural county coordination pertaining to information exchange, opportunity finding, planning, project prioritization, regulation compliance and communications.

Solutions:

- Continue to examine and support ODOT efficiency and timeliness proposals and processes to shorten project approval and IGA drafting time.
- Revising the ODOT IGA Boilerplate Language. ODOT should build in cost overrun contingencies that are reasonable though an accepted planning and engineering standard. If a project is overly complex or presents a higher risk of overruns these contingencies should be established and agreed to before an IGA is signed. ODOT must also own the risk of cost overruns that are not within the control of, or legal ownership of, a jurisdiction.
- The establishment of Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs). RTPOs are an accepted form of local/state engagement over rural planning for transportation projects within a rural region. They function much like Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) that serve regions over 50,000 population. RTPOs bring local elected and appointed officials together with department of transportation counterparts to plan for and execute a mobility, accessibility, safety, and multi-modal and intermodal plan for a rural region. The establishment of RTPOs connects a whole region (urban and rural) into a multi-jurisdictional planning process. The inclusion of RTPOs across the State of Oregon would give small cities and rural counties access to information, opportunities, and advocates with elected officials and state officials sitting at a neutral table as equals. The planning process for RTPOs can be funded out of existing ODOT dollars without affecting the funding of other established agencies like Area Commissions on Transportation (ACTs) or MPOs. RTPOs are often co-located with a multi-purpose, multi-jurisdictional planning agency like a Council of Governments or Intergovernmental Council.
- OCWCOG encourages MPOs be the primary contract mechanisms for ODOT funded local projects.

Health, Community, and Social Services

As a lead agency in Medicaid delivery, transportation options, services for seniors and people with disabilities, Meals on Wheels, and a myriad of other programs for our aging and susceptible populations, OCWCOG supports a State and Federal commitment to protecting our most vulnerable populations.

Issues to address:

- *Continued and Sustainable Funding for Programs Serving Seniors and People with Disabilities*
OCWCOG supports efficient and effective care for senior and disabled populations as a vital part of community health. Thus, OCWCOG supports continued and consistent funding for Medicaid programs, as well as other cost-saving programs such as *Oregon Project Independence (OPI)* and the *OPI Pilot*.

Solutions:

This concern has led Department of Human Services (DHS) leadership to prioritize funding of APD case management at 100% of the workload model in the biennial 2019-2021 Agency Request Budget. Previous funding has been at 97% of the workload model. OCWCOG agrees that increased funding for case managers should be a top priority.

Additionally, the factors above have increased the time a Case Manager spends on each consumer's case over the last two years, though this is not captured in the State's allocation model at this time. DHS should assess its allocation models, work with Medicaid agencies on an agreement to more consistently fund case management activities and work to capture accurate data.

- *Improvements in Home Care Worker (HCW) Programs*
HCWs continue to be in high-demand. OCWCOG supports investments in systems and supports to improve the quality, safety, and satisfaction of HCWs, by providing improved administrative support, trainings, and timely background checks.

Solutions:

OCWCOG supports an increased allocation to agencies who manage HCW programs to cover the increasing administrative cost of managing these programs.

- *Improving Working Relationships with the State's DHS Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) Program*
Agencies working with APD can experience confusion regarding budgetary allocations, creating problems as individual Area Agencies on Aging attempt to anticipate impacts on their programs. OCWCOG supports improved transparency and better quality of data regarding funding allocations.

Solutions:

Empower a Blue-Ribbon panel of agencies and stakeholders to recommend to the Legislature ways to improve DHS transparency, data collection, funding allocations, pilot project initiatives, and communications.

Economics, Development, and Environment

OCWCOG supports a comprehensive, but balanced approach to the economic future of our tri-County Region, and to ensuring its continued environmental qualities in water, land, and air. OCWCOG recognizes the unique nature of our three Counties, their role in innovation, education, manufacturing, maritime, and scientific industries, as well as the need to identify and support local businesses and growth opportunities.

OCWCOG supports creating access to opportunities in housing, job training and support, and other essential areas that allow the building and support of a well-trained and flexible workforce; access to capital to build business; and environmental policy that protects our natural resources, ensures our quality of life, and integrates with housing, transportation, and business needs.

Issues to address:

- *Housing affordability and availability*
Access to affordable, quality housing is a regional problem with broad impacts, including health and economic stability. OCWCOG supports increased State and Legislative focus in implementing and funding localized policies, to promote increases in affordable, quality housing, with emphasis on low-income and workforce populations.
- *Wetlands*
Wetlands permeate the OCWCOG Region, creating confusion and challenges regarding land development. OCWCOG supports increased clarity, transparency, timeliness, and consistency regarding working with the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL). OCWCOG supports improvements regarding analysis of wetlands locations, and policies and procedures for mitigation, while supporting our water, land, and environmental quality.

Solutions:

- Ensure DSL personnel are adequately trained on wetlands assessment, mapping, and mitigation rules, statutes and procedures; and, that they apply these same rules and statutes reasonably, equally, and equitably across the Region and State.
- Ensure Oregon wetland, endangered species, and water runoff, and collection laws and statutes are no more prescriptive than Federal law.
- Consider the proposal outlined within the paper, How to Reduce Wetlands as a Barrier on Development, as a possible solution to Oregon growth issues. The solution as framed is to “add wetlands to the list of constrained lands in the inventory of buildable lands within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) when considering an UGB expansion.”
- Work with State and Statewide partners on Oregon 404 Assumption:
 - Section 404 of the Clean Water Act¹ (CWA) establishes a program to regulate the discharge of dredged² or fill³ material into waters of the United States⁴, including wetlands. Activities in waters of the U.S regulated under this program include fill for development, water resource projects (such as dams and levees), infrastructure development (such as highways and airports) and mining projects. Section 404 requires a permit before dredged or fill material may be discharged into waters of the U.S., unless the activity is exempt from Section 404 regulation⁵ (e.g., certain farming and forestry activities).
 - The CWA provides states and tribes the option of assuming administration of the CWA section 404 permit program in certain waters within state or tribal jurisdiction. This fact sheet describes reasons why states and tribes might assume administration of the section 404 program from the Federal government, which waters could be administered by states or tribes under this program, and the process for assuming administration of these waters.

- Disaster resiliency and planning
OCWCOG's Region is an economic hub with diverse industries and access needs. Planning for disaster recovery and resiliency is essential to ensuring the wellbeing of residents, and the ability of our Region to recover quickly in a post-disaster environment. OCWCOG supports increased initiatives regarding disaster resiliency and planning, including localized disbursements of funding for improved effectiveness.

Solutions:

The State of Oregon should regionalize disaster preparedness and planning, and fund multi-purpose, multi-jurisdictional planning organizations to coordinate disaster response and recovery planning in coordination with local jurisdictions and with State and Federal agencies. It is not uncommon for states to regionalize disaster preparedness and response planning as a cost effective and efficient way to manage and coordinate a complex process across multiple jurisdictions in the event of a catastrophic manmade or natural event.

- *Land Use Planning*
In our geographically diverse State, land use issues vary greatly, as do urban growth needs and annexation issues. OCWCOG supports greater local control pertaining to land use issues, including annexation processes, and development of urban growth boundaries.

Acronym List

ACT	Area Commission on Transportation
AOC	Association of Oregon Counties
APD	Oregon's Department of Human Services Aging and People with Disabilities
Board	Board of Directors
CWA	Clean Water Act
DHS	Oregon Department of Human Services
DSL	Oregon Department of State Lands
HCW	Home Care Worker
IGA	Intergovernment Agreement
LOC	League of Oregon Cities
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
OCWCOG	Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments
ODOT	Oregon Department of Transportation
OPI	Oregon Project Independence
RTPO	Rural Transportation Planning Organization
UGB	Urban Growth Boundary

References

1. <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/clean-water-act-section-404>
2. <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/further-revisions-clean-water-act-regulatory-definition-discharge-dredged-material>
3. <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/further-revisions-clean-water-act-regulatory-definition-discharge-dredged-material>
4. <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/definition-waters-united-states-under-clean-water-act>
5. <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/exemptions-permit-requirements>



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 25, 2018
TO: OCWCOG Executive Committee
FROM: Phil Warnock, Community and Economic Development (CED) Director
RE: **CED Program Update**

Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation (CWACTION)

CWACTION is preparing for engagement with the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) to take place this fall, including the annual OTC Workshop in Silverton, which took place on October 18th. CWACTION convenes on transportation policy topics of regional significance, as an advisory body to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The Workshop will provide an opportunity for elected officials and other CWACTION members to address transportation priorities and projects with OTC members and stakeholders Statewide.

Linn-Benton Loop Transit Service

The Albany and Corvallis Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are working with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Board of Directors of the *Linn-Benton Loop* (The Loop) transit service regarding an analysis of the service. The Loop is operated by the City of Albany and provides a vital link between Albany, Corvallis, and surrounding communities. The service is heavily utilized by commuters for education and employment, and its routes and schedule need optimization to best serve the Region.

Keep Oregon Moving, Oregon's landmark transportation funding package passed by the Legislature last year, provides funding for intercity connections. The service analysis is expected to be completed this year and will enable The Loop to be competitive for these Statewide funds.

Pedal Corvallis Bikeshare

Pedal Corvallis, a community bikeshare program operated by OCWCOG in collaboration with several partners, added two new stations and nine new bikes on the Oregon State University (OSU) campus in September. This addition brought the program to a total of ten stations, 50 bikes, and two adult trikes. *Pedal Corvallis* is available to anyone age 18 and older. As of October 9th, there are a total of 1,326 bikeshare members who have taken a combined 8,978 trips since the program's June 2016 launch.

Regional Park and Ride Plan

OCWCOG Planning Staff are in the process of developing a *Regional Park and Ride Plan*, and completed a public involvement survey in September that received over 550 responses from residents, visitors, and employees across the Region. The survey addressed commute options and utilization of park-and-ride facilities, including recommendations of locations for new *Regional Park and Ride* sites; suggested amenities for new and existing sites; and suggested selection criteria for future site development. A needs analysis is underway in partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) evaluating travel data and demand forecasts. The *Plan* is expected to be completed in 2019 and is being developed with stakeholder input across the Region.

Transportation Options

The *Cascades West Transportation Options* program promoted the Statewide *Oregon Drive Less Challenge*, October 1st-15th. Participants can track their non-drive alone trips (by carpool, bus, walking, biking, etc.) at www.DriveLessConnect.com for their chance to win gift cards to Columbia® Sportswear, Dutch Bros.® Coffee, Airbnb®, and more.



Community Services Program

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 25, 2018
TO: OCWCOG Executive Committee
FROM: Jennifer Moore, Community Services Program (CSP) Director
RE: **CSP Program Updates**

Benton County Veteran's Services Office (VSO)

The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) recently held its annual Statewide training at the Boulder Falls Conference Center in Lebanon Oregon. VSO staff attended the week-long event. Assistant Veterans Service Officer James Jarrell took and passed the accreditation exam required to become officially recognized by the Federal Veterans Administration (VA).

Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative (OABHI)

The *2018 Behavioral Health Conference on the Coast*, designed for Health Care Professionals (Social Workers, Nurses, Care Managers, Case Managers, Residential Care Staff) and others serving older adults is scheduled for October 25th-26th. The event is almost at capacity with 45 individuals from across the Region registered.

Senior Corps Programs

On Friday, October 5th the *Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)* and *Senior Companion Program (SCP)* volunteers met at the Albany Art Studio to share a meal and try their hand at an artistic harvest painting. Twenty volunteers attended; old friends carpooled and new friendships were made! Within the group, 13 volunteers were from Albany, three from Sweet Home, four from Lebanon, and one from Corvallis. One volunteer had recently moved to Corvallis from Albany and another expressed interest in moving to Lincoln City next year. Both *FGP* and *SCP* are active in all three Counties of the OCWCOG Region. This means our Senior Corps volunteers have flexibility in volunteer assignments, and can serve in a variety of settings based on skills and interests; often, their volunteer assignment can move with them during relocation. We love our volunteers!



Senior and Disability Services

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Area Agency on Aging

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 25, 2018

TO: OCWCOG Board of Directors

FROM: Randi Moore, Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director

RE: **Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC) and Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) Chairs' Letter to the Editor**

The OCWCOG Issues and Advocacy Committee is made up of members of the Senior and Disability Services Advisory Councils (Councils). One of the Committee's purposes is to develop strategies to effectively advocate in the best interests of seniors and people with disabilities.

At the Committee meeting held on September 17th, Members received information about the potential landscape for the Oregon Department of Human Services Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) budget for the 2019-2021 biennium, and looked ahead to the November election and the 2019 Legislative session. In preparation for the advocacy that will be completed by OCWCOG and supported by the Councils around sustainable funding for long-term services and supports, the Committee requested a letter be written and submitted to the newspapers, introducing OCWCOG's Senior and Disability Services programs, sharing information on how many consumers receive OCWCOG services, and urging Legislators to support sustainable funding for these programs in the upcoming Legislative session.

Knowing that the Councils serve at the behest of OCWCOG member governments, the following is submitted for your input and approval before submitting to the newspapers within OCWCOG's Region. The hope is to have it published as close to Election Day as possible.

Dear Editor:

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) is a voluntary association of member governments that assists communities across the Region; facilitates collaboration and problem-solving; and connects member governments, businesses, and individuals with a wide variety of resources. OCWCOG programs include public safety, emergency preparedness, economic and community development, lending, and transportation. As the State designated Area Agency on Aging for Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties, OCWCOG also provides a variety of long-term services and support options for seniors and people with disabilities.

These State and Federally-funded services provide approximately 2,900 vulnerable residents in OCWCOG's tri-County service area with transportation, meal preparation, medication management, toileting, and bathing in their own home or a community-based care community. Not only does this provide

increased quality of life and maintenance of dignity, but also provides a cost-effective way of reducing cost related incidents of injury, illness, and hospitalization.

As respective chairs of the Senior and Disability Services Advisory Councils at OCWCOG, we'd like to express support for these services and urge our Legislators to assure continued sustainable funding of them in the Department of Human Services Aging and People with Disabilities budget for the next biennium.

It is important to us that our most vulnerable citizens continue to be cared for with the compassion and respect we all deserve.

Bob Daley, Chair
Senior Services Advisory Council

and

Carolyn Fry, Chair
Disability Services Advisory Council

Notes



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