



Executive Committee Meeting Packet

June 27, 2019, 9:00 am

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

**Next Finance Committee and
Board of Directors' Meetings:
July 18, 2019 at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm**

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:
August 22, 2019 at 9:00 am**

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



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**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA
June 27, 2019; 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 Janet Hughes, at 541.967.8720 or jhughes@ocwcoq.org, no later than noon on Tuesday, June 25th to confirm your attendance.

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

Minutes of the April 25, 2019 Executive Committee meeting will be reviewed for approval (Page 4).

ACTION: Motion to approve the April 25, 2019 Executive Committee meeting minutes.

2. OCWCOG Program Updates (All Program Directors)
(9:05 – 9:20 am)

Staff will be available to answer any questions from the Executive Committee on program updates (Community and Economic Development Program - Page 12; Community Services Program - Page 14; and Senior and Disability Services Program - Page 19).

Staff will provide an update on the *Regional Housing Assessment and Survey*.

ACTION: Information only, no action needed.

3. Topics of Regional Interest (Chair Biff Traber)
(9:20 – 9:30 am)

Executive Committee 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.

4. Events Update (*Executive Director Fred Abousleman*)
(9:30 – 9:35 am)

Executive Director Abousleman will update Executive Committee members on the recent Chamber Event at OCWCOG – *Business Unwind*.

Executive Director Abousleman will update Executive Committee members on upcoming events – *Tapas and Treasures*, and *CelebrateLBL*.

ACTION: Information only, no action needed.

5. July Board of Directors' Meeting Agenda Items (*Chair Biff Traber*)
(9:35 – 9:45 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
 - c. Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC) / Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) Membership Appointments and Renewals
4. Presentation of the *Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 Supplemental Budget*
5. *Regional Housing Assessment and Survey Update*
6. OCWCOG Events Update
 - a. *Tapas and Treasures*
 - b. *CelebrateLBL*
7. Topics of Regional Interest
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

ACTION: Information only, no action needed.

6. Other Business (*Chair Biff Traber*)
(9:45 – 9:50 am)

ACTION: Information only, no action needed.

7. Adjournment
(9:50 am)

The meeting locations are wheelchair accessible. If you need special assistance please contact Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, at 541.967.8720 or jhughes@ocwcoq.org, forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 25, 2019**

ATTENDEES: Mayor Biff Traber, Corvallis; Mayor Dann Cutter, Waldport; Mayor Sharon Konopa, Albany; and Commissioner Pat Malone, Benton County.

STAFF: Executive Director Fred Abousleman; Deputy Director Rachael Maddock-Hughes; Finance Director Sue Forty; Senior and Disability Services Director Randi Moore; Community Services Program Director Jennifer Moore; Community and Economic Development Director Phil Warnock; and Administrative Assistant Janet Hughes.

VISITORS: OCWCOG Legal Counsel Jim Brewer.

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments' (OCWCOG) Executive Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Biff Traber at 9:02 am on Thursday, April 25, 2019, at the Cascades West Center in Albany, Oregon.

Chair Traber called for an Executive Session, pursuant to ORS 192.600. OCWCOG Legal Counsel Jim Brewer and Human Resources Manager Ryan Schulze attended, and Deputy Director Rachael Maddock-Hughes recorded the Executive Session.

The Executive Committee Meeting resumed at 10:11 am.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mayor Dann Cutter asked that the extra "s" at the top of the February meeting minutes (page 1) be removed before approval. With correction made, Mayor Sharon Konopa made the motion to approve, with the clerical change, the February 28, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Pat Malone seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. OCWCOG Program Updates

Chair Traber asked if the Program Managers had any updates or significant items to add to their reports, which were submitted in the Executive Committee packet, or if Executive Committee Members had any questions. If not, due to time constraints, Chair Traber noted that the meeting will move on. There were no questions or additions.

Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Update

Executive Director Fred Abousleman stated there are a number of small cities that had signed onto a letter with the League of Oregon Cities regarding Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). He noted that he was not sure if the City of Albany had signed on. Mayor Konopa replied that yes, the City had signed on; Mayor Cutter noted that the City of Waldport had also signed on.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that the biggest battle regarding PERS is about who is going to get the \$2 billion, if the State implements the tax increases. Will this funding go to schools, local governments, special districts, or other agencies? He thinks that this is where the fight will be.

Executive Director Abousleman noted that he's spoken with colleagues and they are not weighing in on this issue, so he is recommending that OCWCOG not weigh in either; OCWCOG Staff will not do so unless directed to by Executive Committee or Board of Directors (Board). He continued by noting that OCWCOG, as a non-taxing authority, gets a double hit with these kind of PERS conversations. For example, OCWCOG will not get an increase in funding, but the organization will get an increase in liability, whereas schools may get an increase in funding and an increase in liabilities, such is the case for a number of agencies and cities. Executive Director Abousleman commented that he is not sure where the Counties stand on this issue. He also noted that he was concerned about this tax going exclusively to K-12 schools.

Commissioner Pat Malone stated that that was a good concern. From what he read, he felt there was enough push back regarding where this tax money was going to go, that it will be difficult to approve this revenue increase. The Commissioner also commented that he agreed with Executive Director Abousleman, he would be surprised if the revenue went exclusively to K-12 schools.

Mayor Cutter said he humbly hopes the revenue only goes to K-12 schools, as local governments can survive, but Oregon schools are in horrible financial shape.

Chair Traber said that Executive Director Abousleman had asked him Tuesday about his City taking a position. Chair Traber noted that Corvallis delayed taking a position, as the City does not like that the Legislators ignored local governments. He noted that local governments do not have any other revenue resources. As a County government, there are a number of other possible ways to get funding from the State, Chair Traber said, though explained that Benton County does not get any State funding. For this reason, the City of Corvallis has not jumped on this letter or the League of Cities. He continued by noting that the City has expressed other views to the Legislature, and no matter what, the legislature needs a solution that deals with all PERS employers. Chair Traber warned that the Speaker and the Senate President have something going and OCWCOG does not want to get on the wrong side of the education folks, until it is clear what that is, then join the fight depending on how it goes.

Mayor Konopa said that the City of Albany had not taken any formal action as a Council, but all the City Councilors have been asked to contact the Legislature regarding this issue. She did not know that the City included a five percent increase for PERS in their budget. In doing so, there were discussions at the Council meeting to lay off police and fire department personnel to cover this cost. This was the first such conversation in her 24 years of budget history with the City. Mayor Konopa noted that the City has never had to take such a cut. She commented that growth does not pay for itself and the current City's property taxes are not enough to support the services of the City, especially with the current PERS responsibilities. She continued that this five percent hit was tough and questioned where the City was going to get the revenues to cover this expense. Ultimately, the City will cut costs across the budget.

Executive Director Abousleman asked Finance Director Sue Forty how much OCWCOG's PERS costs went up this Fiscal Year. Finance Director Forty replied that the costs went up 20 percent this biennium.

Commissioner Malone commented that it is a mistake to start squabbling over increased revenue from possible tax increases, before the revenue is realized. The Executive Committee agreed and felt that it is going to be difficult to get it through the Legislature.

Chair Traber shared that the Corvallis City Council also discussed this topic last week. During that meeting, the City of Corvallis Finance Director stated that a number of the things the Council were discussing would have little or no effect on future PERS responsibilities. For instance:

- The legislation (tax increases) will reduce some cosmetic concerns to make everyone feel good.
- The State could pass a Statewide property tax to pay down the unfunded liability for PERS. Everybody would pay into it, that way the government and employer contribution does not keep increasing.)

Chair Traber noted that the City of Corvallis' Finance Director said that the State has this problem and will continue to have it until the State generates enough revenue to overcome the unfunded liability.

Mayor Cutter interrupted, saying that the legislation would not pass, and that the problem with property taxes is that it only affects one type of voter in the State. He noted that there are municipalities that have gone out of their way to avoid and have fought against the PERS deals made in the 1980's - intelligently, it turns out. Mayor Cutter continued, the most appropriate and efficient way to handle this is to focus on the part of the State where most of the PERS employees are sitting, avoiding a tax on the rest of the State that do not necessarily benefit the same way that people in the Valley do.

Mayor Konopa told Mayor Traber that she likes the fee set up of the City of Corvallis and that the City of Albany is looking into something similar, for instance, the utility fee schedule. Mayor Traber noted that these are new and the City has a local options levy being discussed. He also noted that as of yet, the City of Corvallis has not had to cut employees because of PERS increases.

Legislative Update

Executive Director Abousleman said that House Bill (HB) 2001 would be on the Regional Mayors' Meeting agenda, but that he did not have any specific updates on the bill.

Executive Director Abousleman continued noting that of the four pieces of legislation that OCWCOG has been watching, three are still alive, and one is unknown. Here is the status of the bills:

- *Wetlands Mitigation:* The wetlands mitigation issues are still moving forward, gaining lots of traction. Staff hopes to see a move towards some single permitting and potentially getting a wetlands mitigation bank for development in the Valley.
- *Rural Development Center:* Staff has seen positive motion on the rural development center to help rural communities.
- *Case Management Workload:* The one that seems to have dropped off is actually one of the biggest in the State - the case management workload bill. Staff is working to determine its status. This bill is the fix to the Medicaid issue, which is determining how many people actually need to be employed and how much the State needs to spend to manage the Medicaid expansion.

Executive Director Abousleman noted that this bill has been attached to an Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) funding package, rather than a standalone bill. If in fact the legislation is dead, it may not necessarily bode well for OCWCOG, as the bill was intended to rebalance Medicaid in the State, as workloads for Medicaid staff are off. OCWCOG has a lot of support regionally for this legislation.

Mayor Cutter stated that the wetlands legislation is great; he noted that both this and the Medicaid legislation needs to be a priority. Executive Director Abousleman agreed with Mayor Cutter, adding other funding packages were priorities, as well.

OCWCOG 2019-2020 Budget

Chair Traber asked about the *2019-2020 Budget*, as it will be discussed at the May Board of Directors' (Board) meeting, though it is not on the Executive Committee agenda. He noted that the Finance Committee meeting is meeting prior to Board meeting, so the Committee will find out more if there are any questions on the budget.

Executive Director Abousleman asked if there were any questions. He noted that Staff is rebalancing two reserve funds, where one fund is absorbing another fund, which will be the only significant change you will see in the *Supplemental Budget* presented during the July Board meeting.

Finance Director Forty explained that this was the only significant change; there were no revenue increases or expenditure increases. The Finance Staff updated the budget on the contract revenue, as when the *Budget* was published in March, Staff did not know what the plan was for the work on the Coast, so the indirect or direct costs were not changed. The changes made affects only the expenses and contract revenues in the General Administration's budget.

Finance Director Forty continued by noting that the *Supplemental Budget* will also include a change to the Community Service Programs budget, as the *Foster Grandparents Program* and *Senior Companion Program* are receiving some augmentation dollars.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that Community and Economic Development (CED) Director Phil Warnock was looking at two special transportation projects that are approximately \$2 million; if those projects are realized, then a *Supplemental Budget* will be needed for those projects. (He will not receive notice on funding until after July.) Executive Director Abousleman also noted that Community Service Programs (CSP) Director Jennifer Moore is working on another project that might require a *Supplemental Budget*. The good news, Executive Director Abousleman reported is that if Staff presents a *Supplemental Budget* it will be due to new revenue.

Finance Director Forty stated that Staff would present the *Supplemental Budget* as quickly as possible. She noted that if the *Supplemental Budget* had significant enough changes, then Staff will publish a new *2019-2020 Budget*, including the Supplemental Budget, rather than simply a *Supplemental Memo*. Staff will work to determine what makes the most sense and communicate that with the Executive Committee, Budget Committee, Finance Committee, and Board.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that OCWCOG's *Budget* is due prior to the State's revenue's completion, so if there is a Medicaid or transportation increase or

decrease, Staff has to go back and redo the budget. This is similar to if your City or County had to complete two or three budgets, waiting for confirmation from the State (or any other contractor) on funding.

Finance Director Forty stated that OCWCOG is fortunate in that the organization does not have to follow Oregon budget law, and can utilize Supplemental rules, acting as a special district. OCWCOG also does not have a taxing base, so this makes it easier as well. OCWCOG handles *Supplemental Budgets* like its member Cities and Counties.

3. Topics of Regional Interest

Chair Traber asked if anyone had any topics of regional interest. He stated that he thought the Executive Committee had already hit on those issues already. No one had any other regional issues to discuss.

4. Events Update

Tapas and Treasures

Executive Director Abousleman stated that towards the back of your Executive Committee packet, on the colorful pages, is the *Meals on Wheels (MOW)* fundraiser that the Corvallis Rotary sponsors, with the Oregon Cascades West Senior Services Foundation. He would love to have the Executive Committee's attendance. Revenue for the event looks to be \$10,000 this year.

Event details are: Friday, July 12th at 5:00 pm at Garlands Nursey.

CelebrateLBL

Executive Director Abousleman continued with *CelebrateLBL*, which will be in Linn County. There is no date yet. He asked if the Executive Committee saw the email about dates and locations – there are three Fridays in October, the 11th, 18th, and 25th. Do any of those dates work? Staff was trying to get away from September as it was too soon after the *Tapas and Treasures* event. Executive Director Abousleman noted that Staff was looking at a Friday to try to drive attendance, given feedback from the previous two years. He also stated that Staff avoided Beavers football games, and events scheduled throughout the Region. Executive Director Abousleman asked Executive Committee members to look at calendars and see if any of those dates will work.

Mayor Konopa stated that fundraisers on Tuesday or Thursday nights tend to get a lot of attendance; she has been to fundraisers on those nights. She noted that she went to a "Helping Hands" fundraiser on a Tuesday night, where more than 500 people attended; she also attended a fundraiser for the ABC House where they had 500 attendees on a weeknight. Mayor Konopa explained that businesspeople think this is part of their duty show up on weeknights for fundraisers. She is worried about holding *CelebrateLBL* in the fall on a Friday night would lose attendees. She said Fridays are especially tough.

Executive Director Abousleman said that Staff will look again at a Tuesday or Thursday night. Mayor Konopa agreed. Mayor Cutter said that on the Coast, they try to avoid Friday night events. Former Lincoln County Commissioner Terry Thompson had his retirement ceremony on a Friday, and it drove everyone nuts.

Executive Director Abousleman said he would talk to his Communications Staff to look into a Tuesday or Thursday night. He then asked if the Executive Committee would look at their calendars for the Thursday evenings in October – 10th, 17th, and 24h.

Executive Director Abousleman asked Mayor Cutter about Coastal attendees and if they would come on a Thursday night, knowing they may have to work on Friday. Mayor Cutter responded that Friday night works best, as it provides a chance to go out and get away for a night for those coming from the Coast. However, if there is a Beavers football game on Saturday, it is impossible to get hotel reservations. Executive Director Abousleman noted that Staff will take the football schedule into consideration when determining the date.

Executive Director Abousleman asked about the location of *CelebrateLBL*. In Linn County there are three options: Flinn Block Hall (Flinn Hall), the Historic Carousel (Carousel), or the Eagles Lodge. We also have the Linn County Expo Center (Expo Center). Mayor Konopa said that the Albany Golf and Country Club (Country Club) could also be a consideration.

Mayor Konopa said that the Carousel is unique. Executive Director Abousleman noted that if the event were held at the Carousel, a tent would more than likely need to be put up for the awards presentation, driving up the costs. It would end up being about the same price as Flinn Hall. The Carousel has a 100-person maximum occupancy in any one room.

Executive Director Abousleman said that if they were interested in the Carousel, Staff discussed that it can be set-up as a fun and games event. If the event was at the Flinn Hall, it would be a formal dinner. He noted that he was concerned with the Commissioners wanting to do it at the Expo Center, as this is a very large space. However, if the Executive Committee would like it there, then Staff will support it.

Mayor Konopa said the Expo Center is fine, it's just not great. Chair Traber said that it is too utilitarian. He noted that the Flinn Hall looks nice and he has been there before. He liked the idea of the Carousel, but was unsure of the tent. He continued by stating that a street would have to be closed to hold the tent, but that would not be a problem. Mayor Konopa was concerned about the weather in the fall.

Mayor Konopa commented that at the Oregon Coast Aquarium (Aquarium) last year, many attendees were walking around mingling, but when it came to the Awards, then everyone found a seat. She thought if there were additional bistro type tables around the edges during the Awards presentation, people may have made less comments. She said that not all attendees were seated, and many stood around on the perimeter. She feels that if there was a microphone set up (as she has seen successfully at other events), some attendees can stand and others can sit while Awards are presented.

Executive Director Abousleman said that some attendees at the Aquarium felt the presentation last year was not formal enough for an Awards ceremony. Feedback came in that the presentation was rushed.

Executive Director Abousleman further stated that Staff are not opposed to a tent at the Carousel, so this should not be an obstacle, just something to be aware of. In fact, the tent vendor may support the event with a partial donation.

Deputy Director Rachael Maddock-Hughes stated that what she had heard was that attendees needed more places to sit once dinner was served and during the Awards presentation. There were a lot of tables, but not quite enough for everyone to be comfortable. Mayor Cutter noted that it was not a meal that one could eat with fingers. Executive Director Abousleman stated that technically, it was only supposed to be finger food served, but the Aquarium flipped the food on us at the end.

Mayor Konopa asked Staff to reach out to the Country Club; it is between Albany and Corvallis. Executive Director Abousleman asked if Mayor Konopa preferred the Country Club over the Carousel, noting she does not like having a tent as people would be going in and out, and if it is raining, it would be a mess.

Deputy Director Maddock-Hughes stated that the Communications Staff will look into both options and compare the costs. Executive Director Abousleman asked if we could take anything off the table, it was agreed to take the Expo Center off the table.

Mayor Konopa stated that elected officials all are used to “sit down banquets.” Executive Director Abousleman stated that Staff also wanted to get away from that. Mayor Konopa said that she liked the Aquarium last year because it was a little bit different and unique; Executive Director Abousleman said that this was what he and Staff were hoping to provide with their events.

Executive Director Abousleman asked if Mayor Konopa was open to the idea of the tent being attached to the door of the Carousel, so attendees will not have to walk in the rain. Mayor Konopa thought it might be hard to fit it, but was open to the idea.

The consensus of the Executive Committee is that they like the Country Club, but it is not in Linn County, so that is off the table. The Country Club would also be similar to Flinn Hall. Finally, Lebanon has the Boulder Falls Conference Center (where OCWCOG held the *State of the Region* Summit); it is formal, but not unique.

Chair Traber commented about the Carousal with the Awards, he requested that the food not require two hands to eat, and there be plenty of places for attendees to sit, but also provide a location to pull people into the room for the Awards. He would be supportive of the Carousel, if it can do these things.

Commissioner Malone likes the Carousal idea. He also stated that the earlier in October, the better for a chance of good weather. Mayor Cutter said the Carousel would be interesting; he liked the games and carnival theme idea.

Chair Traber said that it sounds like the event is headed to the Carousal; the Country Club is an alternative with Boulder Falls as a third option, if the other two fall through.

Executive Director Abousleman said that Staff will start fundraising for both *CelebrateLBL*, and *Tapas and Treasures*. Staff is looking for sponsors, so please share the word. OCWCOG’s signature sponsor is Oregon State Credit Union.

5. May Board of Directors' Meeting Agenda Items

The proposed May Board of Directors' meeting agenda was reviewed and agreed upon by the Executive Committee. The proposed agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of Previous Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
 - b. Financial Update
 - c. Adoption of Economic Development Administration (EDA) *Revolving Loan Fund Plan Resolution*.
4. *FY2019-2010 Work Program and Budget Presentation*
5. Board Endorsement of the Older Americans Act Proclamation
6. OCWCOG Program Update
7. Events Update
 - a. *Tapas and Treasures*
 - b. *CelebrateLBL*
8. Topics of Regional Interest: *Shared Service – Water Treatment Plant Operator as a joint service agreement?*
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

Additions to the May Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Executive Director Abousleman said one item was left off the agenda for the May Board, an Audit presentation. Finance Director Forty said that the Audit has already been sent to the Federal Clearinghouse. The Auditor will present the Audit during the Finance Committee meeting in May, then again during the Board meeting in May, where it will be accepted by the Board.

CED Warnock stated that there will be another addition to the May Board meeting, the adoption of the Economic Development Administration Resolution for match commitments.

CSP Director Jennifer Moore said there also would be an informational item, on the *Meals on Wheels* provider request for proposals (RFP).

6. Other Business

Chair Traber said that OCWCOG Staff was trying to schedule the Regional Mayors' Meeting.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:43 am.

Meeting minutes taken by Janet Hughes.



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 27, 2019
TO: OCWCOG Executive Committee
FROM: Phil Warnock, Community and Economic Development (CED) Director
RE: **CED Program Update**

Business Lending:

Business Unwind

- OCWCOG partnered with the Oregon State Credit Union to co-host an Albany Chamber *Business Unwind* event on May 21st. The event was a success! More than 70 people attended, representing many of Albany's businesses, allowing for productive networking time. The *Cascades West Business Lending* program, who participated in the event, has been an integral part of the community for over 30 years.
- Special thanks to the OCWCOG Board of Directors for granting special approval for this event, and to the facilities team who went above and beyond.

Transportation:

Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Discretionary Grants

- The preliminary list of projects for *STIF* Discretionary funds is now available for public comment. This list is the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) staff recommendation to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC). The PTAC will make a recommendation to the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC), which will make the final decision.
- Two projects that the OCWCOG Community and Economic Development (CED) Department submitted are recommended to be funded. This includes:
 - A 99W Transit Corridor feasibility study, and
 - A project that intends to provide a "Seamless Transit Experience," across the Lincoln, Benton and Linn Region.

Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO)

- Staff is preparing for the *Fiscal Year 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* process.
- The AAMPO Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Board have been discussing and updating allocation policies and application materials for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding.
- The *Strategic Assessment* with the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and ODOT is on-going. Staff is currently working through a sensitivity testing process.

Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO)

- The *Fiscal Year 2021-2024 TIP* process is underway and selected projects will be available for public comment in July. Staff is utilizing a bi-lingual virtual open house for the first time to gather input from the public.
- The DLCD recently attended a CAMPO Policy Board meeting to discuss the implementation of regional transportation performance measures as part of the *Regional Transportation System Plan (RTSP)*.
 - The RTSP is required when a local *Transportation System Plan (TSP)* does not meet the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction requirement outlined in Goal 12 of the Oregon land use system, also known as the Transportation Planning Rule (TPR). Additional progress on this task is expected over the next six months.
- Staff will be attending a regional transportation study trip in Denmark and The Netherlands for two weeks in July. CAMPO was invited through the University of Oregon.
 - The class brings 18 students and five working professionals together to learn best practices and implementation techniques from European cities. A blog will be updated regularly and will be accessible via CAMPO's website, www.CorvallisAreaMPO.org.

Planning:

Community Development Planning

- Planning Staff are providing planning support for the City of Sweet Home, including assisting with counter support, land use applications, and planning commission meetings.
- Staff are providing current and long-range planning for the City of Yachats, including code audit and updates, and planning commission support. Staff is also beginning work on an interpretive signage and wayfinding plan for Oceanview Drive, and updating floodplain ordinance and a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).
- Staff is finalizing their involvement in the *Lincoln County Housing Strategy Implementation Plan*, which included participating on the Technical Advisory Committee and the Policy Advisory Committee.



Community Services Program

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 27, 2019
TO: OCWCOG Executive Committee
FROM: Jennifer Moore, Community Services Program (CSP) Director
RE: **CSP Program Updates**

Benton County Veterans Services Office (VSO)

- VSO applied for and has been awarded funding available for veteran suicide awareness and prevention made available by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA). Activities related to the grant will begin in September.
- Veterans Service Officer Gwendolyn Morris and Assistant Veterans Service Officer Molly Murphy completed training and accreditation through the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO).

Meals on Wheels (MOW)

- Longtime Sweet Home Meal Site Volunteer Joan Schroder was interviewed by Sean Morgan of *The New Era*. Meal Site Manager Norene Dennis and MOW Supervisor Anita Lengacher also provided information. (Article is attached.)
- MOW Supervisor Lengacher presented to the Lincoln County Social Accountability Fund granting committee and the Philomath City Council granting committee in support of MOW grant applications. MOW was awarded \$15,640. She also participated in the Central Linn Community Foundation (CLCF) Gala, which celebrated CLCF award recipients.
- MOW Supervisor Lengacher participated with Newport Meal Site Manager Charlotte DiNolt in the annual *Veterans Meal*, hosted by the Newport 60+ Center.
- The *Meals on Wheels* Advisory Committee (MOWAC) met at the Sweet Home meal site.
- Longtime partner, Altrusa International of Albany, recently extended the senior book program to include Corvallis, Sweet Home, and Lebanon. By doing so, the average request for books went from 12 to 75 homebound seniors requesting and receiving books.

Money Management Program (MMP)

- Conducted an in-service for volunteers, held in Benton County, with presentations from *Adult Protective Services (APS)* discussing how to identify fraud and abuse, and from *Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)* about the benefits of registering as a volunteer through RSVP.

Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative (OABHI)

- Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist Helen Beaman was honored as a top Mental Health First Aid trainer for the State of Oregon at the annual *Mental Health First Aid Summit*.

Senior Corps Programs: Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and Senior Companion Program (SCP)

- Program Supervisor Alicia Lucke presented to the Lincoln County Non-Profit Social Services granting committee, in support of a Senior Corps grant application. Senior Corps was awarded \$11,068 in support of its *RSVP*, *FGP*, and *SCP* volunteers who served 1,202 hours of National Service in Lincoln County during the month of May.
- Senior Corps Administrative Assistant Taylor Owings participated in a two-day Senior Corps seminar in Washington D.C. organized by the Corporation of National and Community Service that focused on independent living and elder justice.
 - Materials from training session, held by the Administration for Community Living, were used to train our local Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) volunteers during their May 2019 counselor trainings held in Albany, Corvallis, and Newport.
- Senior Companion staff conducted several client “ride-a-longs” in Philomath, Corvallis, Lebanon, Albany, Sweet Home, Otis, Lincoln City, and Newport this past quarter. Staff were able to experience first-hand both the strong interpersonal connections made, as well as the critical access the Program provides to daily nutrition, financial, and medical needs of our local homebound seniors.

The New Era - All about Sweet Home since 1929

Meals on Wheels volunteer helps keep program humming in SH By [Sean C. Morgan](#)



JOAN SCOFIELD and Norene Dennis stand at Scofield's vehicle, with a meal container on its roof.

For nearly two decades, delivering Meals on Wheels has been something Joan Scofield has enjoyed because it keeps her busy and because she is helping out.

Scofield has had to slow down recently and stopped delivering, but she still cannot stay away. Since retiring from her route, she has been volunteering in the dining room at the Senior Center during senior meals.

"I enjoy it," Scofield said. "It was to get out of the house. I like to drive. I like to be helpful and useful."

Norene Dennis, Sweet Home senior meals site manager, said Scofield drove the same route all of the time she volunteered, subbing on other routes as needed. She rarely took any time off – Every few of years she would take a vacation.

She counted five times she took time off to visit to visit family and friends, twice for hip replacement and to attend her grandson's wedding in California.

"For me, she has been a loyal, long-term volunteer," Dennis said.

"She is very, very passionate about this program," said Anita Lengacher, Meals on Wheels Supervisor with the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, which operates the program.

"They need it," Scofield said. "Somebody's got to go to bat for them."

Dennis said Scofield "keeps it from being boring."

"She's had a very interesting life. I'm amazed about some of the things she's told me about, growing up and her childhood."

"She always has really interesting things to talk about."

Scofield's territory included around 14 "consumers," ranging at times from seven to 23, in the area of Elm Street and the avenues.

"I rode with her a few times," Dennis said. "She just knows what road turns into the next one," threading her way through the avenues avoiding some stop signs and effortlessly moving from one stop to the next.

A retired typesetter for The New Era, Scofield said she was overseas for 10 years, volunteering for Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea, Peru, Colombia and Australia. She would go wherever she was needed, returning to Sweet Home between countries to check in on her farm and kids. She was a typesetter with The New Era in the 1970s and 1980s, and she took those skills overseas. She would enter translations into a computer for printing in local languages.

"I came back to Sweet Home, and I'm thinking, 'What am I going to do now? Rather than twiddle my thumbs,'" Scofield said.

She had been seeing an ad seeking drivers in the Tell and Sell, and she finally decided to call. When she learned she didn't have to stay and visit, she went for it.

Since then, she said, she has gotten to know her consumers, and "i just enjoyed so many of the people. I've made some friends. A lot of my people are so friendly. I enjoy doing it, seeing their faces"

She worked for Dick Hooton initially, `and she has spent the past 13 years working for Dennis, who served as a volunteer for three years prior to becoming site manager.

Before delivering meals, Scofield was a tax aide at the Sweet Home Public Library for five years.

At 89, Scofield has been delivering to people who are much younger than she is.

The average age of the volunteers is 75, Lengacher said. Most 60- to 70-year-olds are still working and don't have the time to volunteer.

The average age of people eating senior meals is 80, she said.

Scofield still drives fine, but she decided to quit driving her route, she said. Sidewalks are cracked in some places, and worried about tripping and falling, she was getting to a place she didn't want to walk over those rough surfaces.

Now, she is working the dining room, counting money for deposits and labeling the menus.

Meals on Wheels delivers to some 89 consumers Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, and up to about 29, including volunteers, may eat in the dining room. Meals on Wheels provides frozen meals for Wednesdays and Thursdays. On weekends, Medicaid pays for meals for some, and others get help from their families.

Some of those receiving deliveries are homebound, while others have difficulty getting out or don't want to be around others, Dennis said. "If they do drive, we encourage them to come here to socialize."

Meals on Wheels can always use volunteers, particularly drivers, she said. "I like to have some, just to be ahead, to learn the routes," so they can be available when she needs them.

Volunteers are reimbursed 25 cents per mile and lunch.

"For institutional food, it's pretty good," Scofield said.

The dining room is open to everyone 60 or older and spouses, Native Americans 55 or older and their spouses and disabled adults with qualifying seniors no matter what the age.

Delivered meals have the same qualifications and will feed spouses and disabled adult children living at the same house.

Meals on Wheels also provides pet food for cats and dogs once a month using left over food from SafeHaven. The food is gluten free. The food is intended to be supplemental.

Even when the weather is bad and Meals on Wheels cannot get the meals from Salem, seniors will still get their meals, Scofield said. The program has boxed meals available thanks a grant from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

Meals on Wheels has been operated by the COG for 39 years when it took over the program from Loaves and Fishes.

The program traces its roots to World War II when meals were delivered to British servicemen. In the United States, the program began delivering meals and providing congregate dining to seniors in the 1950s.

The CWCOG is an intergovernmental program among Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties and the cities in those counties, Lengacher said. It provides senior services along with community and economic development services. Among other activities, it is part of the Safe Routes to Schools program, provides representative payee service for Social Security recipients and offers small business loans.

Meals on Wheels also covers small portions of Marion and Lane counties, including communities up the North Santiam Canyon, which delivers as far as Idanha, Lengacher said.

Meals on Wheels receives money for Meals on Wheels from the Senior Services Foundation, other foundations, Medicaid Title 19 funding, the Older Americans Act, Oregon Project Independence, grants, donations, the Siletz tribe and fund-raising, Lengacher said. The program costs about \$2 million. Each meal costs \$9.81.

From July 1 to March 31, Sweet Home Meals on Wheels delivered or served 18,169 meals, Lengacher said. It averages some 2,000 meals per month.

The program has no wait list, Lengacher said. The only limit is the number of volunteers who are willing to serve.

The Sweet Home Community Foundation contributed \$2,500 to the program as one of seven grants it awarded in March, and Meals on Wheels has a fund-raising chicken pizza with garlic sauce at Spoleto's. Spoleto's donates a portion of the proceeds from each of sale of the pizza.

The Point Restaurant has been supportive of the program, Dennis said, sometimes providing meals for annual volunteer parties. The community has been generous donating raffle gifts.

For more information, to volunteer, to donate or to request services, contact Dennis at (541) 367-8843.

Connect With Us

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Area Agency on Aging

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 27, 2019
TO: OCWCOG Executive Committee
FROM: Randi Moore, OCWCOG Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director
RE: **SDS Program Updates**

Aging and People with Disabilities Budget Released and Includes Money for Additional Staff, but Advocacy May Still Be Needed

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) released their recommended budget for the Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) Program to the Human Services Subcommittee.

OCWCOG supports the following recommendations:

- To maintain the assessment methodology used to determine consumer eligibility for long-term services and supports. Past budgetary reduction strategies involved changing the assessment methodology to cut the number of people eligible for services.
- Workload in APD and Area Agency on Aging offices is being addressed with the proposed addition of 143 positions; the majority of these are case manager positions. Additional staff to counterbalance workload was one of OCWCOG's legislative priorities.

OCWCOG does not support the following recommendations:

- Elimination of \$1.3 million in general funds used to educate seniors on topics ranging from falls prevention to diabetes management; funds are distributed to the local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) offices.
- Elimination of \$2.2 million in general funds that was added to the AAA budgets when sequestration reduced Older American Act funding distributions to states. The federal funds have been partially restored since those cuts.

OCWCOG is neutral on the following recommendations:

- Five percent cost of living adjustments (COLA) for assisted living facilities, residential care facilities, memory care, and in-home agencies that will take effect on July 1, 2019 and a second five percent COLA on July 1, 2020.
- Adult foster homes serving APD clients will have a ten percent increase on their rates on January 1, 2020 and an additional rate increase of five percent on July 1, 2020.
- To help reduce a backlog of inspections and to keep up with facility oversight, twenty client care surveyor positions are added to APD's safety, oversight, and quality unit.



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