

**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
May 4, 2017**

**MEMBERS:** Mayor Sharon Konopa, Albany; Mayor Biff Traber, Corvallis; and Councilor Dann Cutter, Waldport.

**STAFF:** Executive Director Fred Abousleman; Deputy Director Lydia George; Finance Director Sue Forty; Community and Economic Development (CED) Director Phil Warnock; Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Program Manager Randi Moore; and Administrative Assistant Jennifer Kelley.

**VIDEO:** Commissioner Bill Hall, Lincoln County.

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments' (OCWCOG) Executive Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Konopa at 9:17 am on May 4, 2017 at the Cascades West Center in Albany.

**1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Bill Hall motioned to approve the February 23, 2017 Executive Committee meeting minutes, Mayor Biff Traber seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**2. OCWCOG Special Projects Fund**

Executive Director Fred Abousleman requested that the discussion regarding OCWCOG's *Special Projects Fund* be tabled until more information could be provided. Chair Konopa agreed.

**3. OCWCOG Annual Dinner**

Executive Director Abousleman reminded the Committee that OCWCOG will be hosting an Annual Dinner on November 2nd at CH2M Hill Alumni Center. This event will be a celebration of the Region, have a *State of the Region* update, and be a fundraising event for the *Meals on Wheels* program. Executive Director Abousleman reminded the Committee that the event will gain sponsorships to raise funds. Tickets will first be made available to local government officials and community partners, then will be made available to the public.

Chair Konopa asked what capacity is available, and whether attendance numbers could be expanded providing large interest. Executive Director Abousleman stated that the venue can hold approximately 300 people. Chair Konopa asked whether the event could expand to host that many if enough interest arises. Executive Director Abousleman stated that it could.

Mayor Traber stated that more details regarding award categories would be appreciated, and that having the Executive Committee approve categories at the June meeting would be preferable. Executive Director Abousleman agreed, and stated that award winners will be selected by the Board of Directors at the September meeting.

Councilor Dann Cutter asked whether tickets will be subsidized for OCWCOG staff that wish to attend. Executive Director Abousleman stated that there is no current plan to do so, but with enough sponsorships, that could be an option.

Councilor Cutter stated that Hatfield Marine Science Center is building a new space that could be appropriate for hosting future OCWCOG Annual Dinners. Executive Director

Abousleman and Councilor Cutter discussed completion dates for the building and potential other hosting sites in Lincoln County.

Mayor Traber stated that hosting the event on the coast will lower attendance from those commuting from the Valley. Executive Director Abousleman stated that this is to be expected; similarly, attendance by those commuting from the coast decreases as the event moves inland. Councilor Cutter suggested timing the Annual Dinner near other events to increase attendance.

#### **4. OCWCOG Program Updates**

Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Program Manager Randi Moore stated that there had been recent conversations with Representative Dan Rayfield regarding potential cuts to Oregon Project Independence (OPI). Originally, cuts were projected at 75%, but now projected cuts have reduced to 50%. While this is still a major cut, discussions have made a positive impact. SDS Program Manager Moore stated that overall, OPI is a cost-saving program as it allows for greater independence and lower levels of care than Medicaid.

Chair Konopa asked whether other program cuts have been made to SDS programs. SDS Program Manager Moore stated that the *Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA)* program is looking at cuts.

The Committee discussed federal budgets, and passage in the House of Representatives of the Affordable Care Act.

Councilor Cutter asked Community and Economic Development Director (CED) Phil Warnock whether recent bikeshare bicycle vandalism in Portland has raised any concerns about *Pedal Corvallis* bicycles being vandalized. CED Director Warnock stated that thus far, no substantial losses have occurred to *Pedal Corvallis* bicycles. New, more technologically advanced locking systems will be released soon.

CED Director Warnock stated that with the addition of two new *Pedal Corvallis* stations on the Oregon State University (OSU) campus, the number of active members has risen from 93 to over 120 in the previous two weeks.

Mayor Traber asked whether there is a correlation between weather and ridership. CED Director Warnock stated that there is, and this correlation will be more apparent as time goes on.

Mayor Traber asked what coordination exists between the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to manage inter-city transit between Corvallis and Albany. CED Director Warnock stated that the Linn-Benton Loop Commission exists with participation by both MPOs, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and others. Presently the Linn-Benton Loop Commission is working on forming a Technical Action Committee (TAC).

Mayor Traber asked about the mission of the Linn-Benton Loop Commission, and whether it is focused around transporting between OSU and Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC). CED Director Warnock stated that the Commission's mission is around inter-city connections; the colleges and university are involved, but not the only focus. Inter-city connections include transportation connectivity, flow within the valley, and connections to adjoining communities.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that the *Regional Park and Ride Plan* is part of inter-city connectivity, along with Linn-Benton Loop transit, and eventually conversations among Corvallis and Albany's transit systems about further connections. Chair Konopa added that statewide, there has been a focus on rural areas coordinating transit.

## 5. **May Full Board Agenda Items**

Executive Director Abousleman requested that the Committee pull item six (OCWCOG *Special Projects Fund*) from the May Agenda until more information is gathered to present to the Executive Committee. Chair Konopa agreed.

The Executive Committee approved the May Board of Director's meeting agenda as follows:

### 1. **Consent Calendar**

- a. Approval of previous Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of Senior Services Advisory Council Membership for Robynn Pease
- c. FY2018-2019 Senior Meals Food Contract Increases

### 2. **Presentation and Adoption of the *FY2017-2018 Work Program and Budget***

### 3. **Association of Oregon Counties Priorities**

### 4. **Adoption of the Senior and Disability Services' 2017-2020 Area Plan**

### 5. **Board Endorsement of the Older Americans Act Proclamation**

### 6. **OCWCOG Annual Dinner**

### 7. **Program Update Question and Answers**

### 8. **Topics of Regional Interest**

### 9. **Other Business**

### 10. **Adjournment**

## 6. **Other Business**

Executive Director Abousleman stated that at the previous Regional Mayors' Meeting, sewage solid waste management was brought up as a problem among many jurisdictions. One suggestion was to turn sewage solids into fertilizer. However, while doing research for possible solutions, other options were presented.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that LBCC is considering developing a hydrogen fuel plant; additionally, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Ecology Lab is working on developing a char station. Both could use sewage solids as input. The biofuel facility can take waste and convert it into a fuel system. Large companies are interested in hydrogen fuel, so local governments could be making money by supplying fuel to a hydrogen plant. Char can be used to remediate mine tailings and brownfield sites, as it absorbs and holds toxic chemicals.

Mayor Traber asked whether LBCC is in the fuel business. Executive Director Abousleman stated that LBCC is interested in alternative fuels. This plant would be small-scale. A company is interested in siting a plant locally; this could provide educational opportunities for students at LBCC.

CED Director Warnock clarified that a problem was presented to OCWCOG, and solutions are still in preliminary research phases.

Mayor Traber stated that Corvallis's *Climate Action Plan* includes waste management, and that he would look further to see whether this type of project would be consistent with this

plan. Mayor Traber asked whether OSU could potentially be a partner in a project like this. Executive Director Abousleman stated that it is possible.

Chair Konopa stated that sewage waste management could be a good Topic of Regional Interest, and asked whether regionalized economic development should be a potential second topic. Mayor Traber stated that he did not want to discuss regionalized economic development.

Councilor Cutter stated that coastal and valley regions need different approaches in terms of economic development.

Mayor Traber stated that he likes Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network's (RAIN) approach to regionalization. Chair Konopa stated that these differences can be accounted for within one program, and that there should be one entity overseeing economic development locally.

Councilor Cutter stated that Waldport lost an economic development opportunity by not having an economic development resource.

The Committee agreed that sewage waste management would be the Topic of Regional Interest at the May Board of Directors Meeting.

Executive Director Abousleman informed the Committee that SDS Program Manager Jennifer Moore would be starting the following Monday, May 8th. Executive Director Abousleman discussed the different types of programs within SDS, and stated that SDS Program Manager Moore would be overseeing non-Medicaid programs, specifically those with a community-oriented base, such as the Senior Meals program, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and the Benton County Veterans program.

Executive Director Abousleman informed the Committee that OCWCOG held an all-staff retreat on May 3rd, and gave the Committee a summary of the retreat.

## **7. Adjournment**

Chair Konopa adjourned the meeting at 10:02 am.

*Minutes Recorded by Jennifer Kelley.*