

**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
September 21, 2017**

MEMBERS: Mayor Sharon Konopa, Albany; Commissioner Anne Schuster, Benton County; Mayor Biff Traber, Corvallis; Councilor Bob Elliott, Lebanon; Councilor Dann Cutter, Waldport; Mayor Marjean Cline, Halsey; Mayor Don Ware, Brownsville; Mayor Jim Lepin, Millersburg; Councilor Debbie Nuber, Scio; Councilor Diane Gerson, Sweet Home; Councilor Susan Wahlke, Lincoln City; and Commissioner John Lindsey, Linn County.

STAFF: Executive Director Fred Abousleman; Finance Director Sue Forty; Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Program Manager Randi Moore; Community Services Program (CSP) Manager Jennifer Moore; Community and Economic Development (CED) Program Manager Brenda Mainord; Technology Services Manager Brian Chytka; Communications Consultant Lindsey Riley; and Executive Assistant Jennifer Kelley.

VISITORS: Councilor Mike Neddeau, Brownsville; George Rice, Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT); David Jones, Mission Critical Partners, Inc.; and Suzette Boydston, Samaritan Health Services.

VIDEO: Commissioner Bill Hall, Lincoln County; and Councilor Max Glenn, Yachats.

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments' (OCWCOG) Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Konopa at 2:02 pm on September 21, 2017 at the Cascades West Center in Albany.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Konopa welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Consent Calendar

Councilor Dann Cutter motioned to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, Mayor Biff Traber seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent calendar items presented were:

- a. Approval of previous Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC) Membership
- c. Approval of Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) Membership

4. Regional Broadband Summit

Executive Director Fred Abousleman stated that OCWCOG previously conducted a study that acted as a snapshot of our Region around the 2012-2013 time period. This study looked at broadband connectivity and the related infrastructure. Executive Director Abousleman stated that because broadband continues to be an important issue, OCWCOG brought together industry leaders, member jurisdictions, and internet providers to have a discussion about the direction of broadband connectivity and infrastructure in our Region.

Executive Director Abousleman introduced George Rice, Executive Director of iCERT, and David Jones, Senior Vice President of Mission Critical Partners, Inc., and iCERT Board Member. Executive Director Abousleman stated that at the *Regional Broadband Summit (Summit)* held just prior to the Board of Directors meeting, George Rice had acted as moderator, and would be providing a recap of the *Summit* to the Board.

Mr. Rice stated that in his previous role as an Assistant Executive Director for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in Washington, DC, he gleaned that there is an important mix between the needs for the community, and public safety. He stated that Community Development is undergirded by public safety, and added that it is difficult to develop a community if it is unsafe to go into that community. Mr. Rice stated that these needs are also supported by broadband. He stated that with a base of affordable housing, broadband, public infrastructure and safety, development follows. Mr. Rice stated that public safety is also undergirded by the buildout of public systems, with public safety broadband networks having applications for emergency response.

Mr. Jones stated that in the interest of the broadband buildout, economic development is an important driver, but there is also a responsibility to build out broadband for public safety reasons. He stated that 9-1-1 systems, emergency radio communications, and public safety networks are all transitioning to broadband. Communities can determine how that is built into infrastructure. Mr. Jones stated that it is important for elected officials to plan, invest in legacy technology, and ensure that jurisdictions are making informed decisions about delivering adequate public safety infrastructure to constituents.

Mr. Rice stated that there is a current movement toward smart and safe communities, where robust connectivity is important. For example, smart metering saves utilities from sending an employee to every meter, and other remote monitoring can ensure safety and promote independence for seniors. He also emphasized the importance of cyber security, and stated that cyber security should be deliberately and thoughtfully written into Requests for Proposals, rather than being an afterthought of the process.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that the *Summit* illustrated that there is a gap between State agencies and what is seen on the ground. He stated that the State's Chief Technology Officer shared that the State is looking to build a 100-gigabit network loop to connect State and school district offices. This loop would not be accessible by the private sector initially, but there are plans to build a redundant network. Executive Director Abousleman stated that these are things that are good for communities to know, and that part of the problem with building infrastructure is that we don't know what we don't know.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that it would be beneficial to work with providers to map communities, with regard to what is available and what is needed. At that point, providers could come into communities and address needs. He stated that the overall sense from providers at the *Summit* was that they were not interested in stepping on each other's toes, but working around each other in ways that were most beneficial. However, providers had acknowledged that there were connectivity gaps in some communities.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that he would like to follow up on the topic by returning to key issues, such as public safety, rural connectivity, economic development, and public health. He stated that he would circulate a report from the National 9-1-1 program office.

Mayor Traber stated that the *Summit* showcased a variety of providers and solutions, indicating that there is not one monolithic solution, but work to be done to understand gaps and how they can best be filled.

Executive Director Abousleman provided an overview of *Summit* panelists.

Councilor Cutter stated that his takeaway from the *Summit* is the idea that broadband is no longer an optional perk, but a requirement. He stated that by the end of the *Summit*, he was wondering at what point elected officials should start thinking of broadband as a utility. As a basic driver of economics and safety, it is difficult for a community to opt out and still thrive. Councilor Cutter added that there is an economic challenge to getting broadband in small rural areas, with very few having access to true broadband connectivity.

Chair Konopa stated that with regard to 9-1-1 upgrades, it would be beneficial for the City of Albany to have a conversation with Linn County.

Commissioner John Lindsey stated that upgrades in Linn County have already been done, and that the Albany Police Department is buying into the same system. He stated that Linn County sat down with other jurisdictions, to make sure all jurisdictions in the County had the same system.

Mr. Rice and Mr. Jones left the meeting.

5. CelebrateLBL Regional Award Nominations

Executive Director Abousleman stated that OCWCOG had solicited the Board, as well as community partners, for *Regional Award* nominations. He stated that the Board would need to reach consensus on the five award categories to be honored at *CelebrateLBL*. Executive Director Abousleman asked members to make a reasonable effort to keep award winners secret until the event.

Citizen of the Region Award:

Councilor Max Glenn stated that Ms. Sandy Dunn had previously been on the Yachats City Council, and was active in many other aspects of the community. He stated that she is a qualified candidate for the award, but noted that he saw another candidate on the list of nominations that may be more outstanding than the rest. Councilor Glenn stated that Dr. Larry Mullins has impacted the Region more than any of the other nominees, and although he knows Mr. David Price as well, Dr. Mullins stands out as the most appropriate for the award.

Chair Konopa stated that sixteen years ago, Ms. Wendy Kirby had the idea for Albany's Historic Carousel and Museum (Carousel). She added that Ms. Kirby could have met the criteria for any of the award categories. Chair Konopa added that Dr. Mullins is retiring this year, and this award could be in recognition for his service to our Region.

Mayor Jim Lepin stated that he volunteered with the Carousel, and that Ms. Kirby, though of limited means, had a vision that brought together over 200 volunteers, and provided an opportunity for many to engage on an ongoing basis with their community. He stated that Ms. Kirby provided an emotional benefit to the community, giving many, and in particular the elderly, a means of contributing in a meaningful way.

Ms. Suzette Boydston stated that Dr. Mullins continues to contribute to the Region, and will even after his retirement. She also stated that Ms. Kirby relocated from California after a tragic accident, had a dream of building the Carousel, and made it happen. Ms. Boydston stated that the community impact is already apparent, and even with limited means and while raising young children, Ms. Kirby rallied forces to make the Carousel happen.

Chair Konopa stated that when Ms. Kirby first arrived, she brought a Missoula newspaper to the City of Albany, and noted that Missoula had just opened a carousel. Ms. Kirby told the City that Albany needs one, too. Chair Konopa stated that as a City, there was criticism for giving public money to the project, as many were skeptical it would ever be completed, but Ms. Kirby made it happen.

Mayor Don Ware stated that he took his grandchildren to the Carousel, and while he doesn't know Ms. Kirby personally, his grandchildren were impacted in such a way that he would vote for Ms. Kirby.

Commissioner Lindsey stated that he had just been at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis, and had a conversation about a building that had recently been completed. He stated that all of the new development through Samaritan is because someone took on each project. He stated that it takes someone with a vision to build a community, and emphasized that Dr. Mullins has had a driving impact on community development.

Mayor Traber noted that Dr. Mullins has had a wider Regional impact, and has acted as more than just the head of a hospital.

Commissioner Lindsey stated that not everyone has the capacity to have a Regional impact, and suggested that there could be criteria for volunteers or citizens from each County. He suggested that there should still be a Regional award, but with the addition of Volunteer of the Year awards for each County. Executive Director Abousleman suggested Citizen of the County categories.

Councilor Bob Elliott stated that none of the nominees are more deserving than Dr. Mullins, and that Lebanon would not have had near as much progress without his doing. He stated that two medical colleges and the new hotel are all Dr. Mullins' doing.

Mayor Traber stated that there is a Samaritan clinic in Waldport, and that Dr. Mullins has made sure there are medical facilities even in smaller communities. Commissioner Lindsey stated that there is also a clinic near Pony Village on Interstate 5 (I-5), which serves truck drivers, and can act as a triage center within a couple of miles of the music festival in Brownsville. Mayor Marjean Cline and Mayor Ware both stated that they had used that clinic. Mayor Cline stated that it had saved her from needing to go to Urgent Care further away.

Councilor Susan Wahlke stated that Dr. Mullins had wanted a cooperative effort between Lincoln City and the hospital. She added that Lincoln City also has a wonderful childcare center because of Dr. Mullins' efforts.

Mayor Lepin motioned to select Dr. Larry Mullins as the 2017 *Citizen of the Region*, Councilor Elliott seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Boydston stated that she agreed with the decision, but also agreed that next year should have a winner from each County. Commissioner Lindsey agreed, stating that if you don't look at a more local level, people will get overlooked that should be recognized.

Business or Community Partner of the Year:

Mayor Cline stated that she was amazed when Alyrica Networks, Inc. (Alyrica) came to her City Council, and proposed bringing fiber to the entire town. She stated that Alyrica asked for an agreement with the City, which was a normal thing for the City to do, but otherwise covered costs of the fiber installation. Now residents in Halsey have access to high-speed internet. She stated that Alyrica expects to have the project done by next year.

Mayor Cline stated that Alyrica had people working, digging in town, even in the winter, and excitement in town has been amazing. She added that when Alyrica approached City Council, they felt they could not say no, because they felt like all communities should have access to high-speed internet.

Commissioner Schuster noted that in the *Summit*, Alyrica representatives had stated that they are almost done with Harrisburg, and asked who wanted to be next.

Mayor Cline stated that Harrisburg is luckily not far from one of the main lines, and added that the new broadband will service the community for many years. She stated that now businesses needing high speed internet can come into town. Mayor Cline stated that Alyrica staff had been pleasant to work with.

Councilor Cutter stated that from his perspective as an Information Technologies (IT) Director, he understands the cost and infrastructure investment Alyrica made in a small community. He stated that Waldport previously approached virtually all providers in the area, and they had shied away from adding high-speed service to the City. Councilor Cutter stated that at the *Summit*, the President of Alyrica gave him his business card, and said "Let's talk." He stated that this attitude exemplifies a *Business or Community Partner of the Year*.

Mayor Cline stated that Alyrica's impact is not just on an individual level, as now businesses can come into town, and the school has access to high-speed internet.

Mayor Traber stated that one of the criteria for the award is to be a proven leader in their field. He stated that Alyrica started with innovation, and has made a successful business.

Chair Konopa asked if anyone on the Board would like to present more information on the Brooks Foundation.

Councilor Glenn stated that he knows Sam and Margaret Brooks, the founders of Brooks Foundation. He stated that Mr. Brooks previously started an organization to support minority entrepreneurs, and has done a great deal through mentorship. Councilor Glenn stated that the Brooks family now live in Yachats, and run the Brooks Foundation, which Ms. Brooks operates. Councilor Glenn stated that the Brooks Foundation fills a niche in the community, supporting single-parent households by providing immediate help to pay bills. Councilor Glenn stated that the Brooks family has done a great deal elsewhere in the State, and is now helping in our Region. He stated that the Brooks' are also challenging others with wealth to act philanthropically within their communities. Councilor Glenn stated that the Brooks Foundation's focus is on individuals in need, rather than projects.

Chair Konopa asked about the budget of the Brooks Foundation. Councilor Glenn stated that he was unsure of their budget.

Councilor Glenn stated that he would see this award as honoring Mr. Brooks, who has been a leader in Oregon, has brought his wealth to the coast, and is challenging others to use their wealth for community benefit.

Communications Consultant Lindsey Riley stated that the Brooks Foundation is based in Portland, was nominated by Ms. Caroline Bauman, and initial searches for numbers showed that in 2003, their budget was less than \$25,000 annually.

Mayor Billie Jo Smith stated that people who come to a social services agency could use this resource, because oftentimes there are no other resources to accommodate these needs. Mayor Smith stated that it does not necessarily require a large dollar amount to pay someone's bill, but it has a large impact.

Commissioner Lindsey stated that philanthropic individuals demonstrate that they will quietly take care of a problem themselves, demonstrating vision and a desire to help their communities.

Mayor Smith asked whether Alyrica charges franchise fees, and whether residents pay for their internet access. Mayor Cline stated that the cost of the internet for consumers is not free. She stated that there are franchise fees, which account for City Hall, the library, and a City shop. She added that there is a charge for internet access, but Alyrica installed the fiber themselves. She stated that customer payments for internet access will not cover the cost of Alyrica's investment for many years.

Chair Konopa asked if any Board members would like to comment on da Vinci Days. Mayor Traber stated that it is a wonderful event illustrating collaboration and partnership. He stated that some of his favorite parts of the event are not mentioned in the nomination, such as the kinetic sculptures. Mayor Traber stated that he thinks there are stronger candidates for this year's award, but sees this event potentially winning once it has been re-established for a couple more years.

Councilor Cutter stated that he felt the same about Brooks Foundation, and added that he does not see the impacts in Waldport. He stated that maybe when Brooks Foundation is more established, it would be a better candidate to win.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that in a sense, all three nominees are startups. Councilor Cutter responded that he supports Alyrica, because they are not still figuring out how to accomplish their mission, they're already putting fiber in the ground. He added that the challenges with getting fiber in the ground are amazing, and it was a six-month project just for Hatfield to get fiber installed.

Mayor Cline stated that Alyrica has had to deal both with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the railroad, so there were additional challenges. She stated that in spite of challenges, they have continued to work hard, maintain a positive outlook, and maintain their commitment to the project.

Councilor Cutter motioned to select Alyrica as the 2017 *Business or Community Partner of the Year*, Mayor Traber seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meals on Wheels (MOW) Volunteer of the Year:

CSP Manager Jennifer Moore stated that Ms. Georgiann Jones had been a Relief Meal Site Manager at the south Linn County meal site, as well as being a delivery driver. Ms. Jones recently and unexpectedly passed, and her meal site would like to honor her with the award.

Project of the Year:

Chair Konopa asked whether there could be a winner and a runner up for the award. Mayor Cline and Commissioner Lindsey suggested a tie.

Chair Konopa stated that the Carousel has been an anchor for economic development in downtown Albany. She stated that the project started 16 years prior, and that in looking at the guest book for the Carousel, there have been visitors from many other countries. Chair Konopa stated that the Carousel is sustainable for many years to come, because the carving and painting studio is in the building, and brings people back to watch the artwork take place. She stated that once the Carousel is full, the artists plan to make animals for every storefront downtown, so people can walk around and view each animal. She stated that the project keeps people engaged in their community, and attracts a variety of age groups.

There was a suggestion that if the Carousel did not win the *Project of the Year* award, it could be a contender for the *Chair's Award*.

Chair Konopa asked if the *Chair's Award* must be given to an individual. Executive Director Abousleman stated that Chair Konopa could award as she saw fit.

Mayor Ware stated that Brownsville City Administrator Scott McDowell and Harrisburg City Manager Brian Latta were the driving factors behind the Sheriff agreement. He stated that they developed a format for anyone in Linn County who would like to use it. Mayor Ware stated that there had been ongoing issues between Cities and the Sheriff's Office, and stated that a great effort was made to work together to improve the relationship for many.

Mayor Cline stated that Halsey has had much better communication with the Sheriff's Office since the project started, and added that there is more trust on both sides than before. She stated that this project was not noticed by many, because it was only impactful for small communities that contract with the Sheriff for law enforcement. She stated that for larger jurisdictions with their own police department, the project may not seem as important, but it is for smaller communities.

Councilor Wahlke stated that the *Tour to Die For* is a Lincoln City event, with cooperation between the North Lincoln County Historical Museum, Taft Pioneer Cemetery Association, and Theatre West. Councilor Wahlke stated that the event was five nights, and sold out in 2016. She stated that the event will be expanding to more occurrences this year, plus a more kid-friendly matinee. She stated that the event won an award from Travel Oregon in 2016, for the best new event.

Mayor Smith stated that the Port of Toledo Boatyard has impacted the City of Toledo, and beyond. She stated that the expansion is important to fishing fleets, especially those that travel to Alaska. Mayor Smith stated that the project has added a boat dock, and a large lift that can pick up large boats and move them around. She stated that boats need to be refurbished every year, and now the Port of Toledo's Boatyard is the second largest on the Coast to do this. Mayor Smith estimated that up to 150 jobs will be brought to the area from the expansion.

Mayor Smith stated that because there was no boatyard of this scale in Oregon, the fishing crew previously had to stay in Alaska during their boat refurbishment. Now crews can come home to their families sooner. Mayor Smith stated that the Port of Toledo is now constructing a large building for the boats to be housed during the sanding and painting processes, making the process environmentally contained with filtration, etc. She added that the Port of Toledo is now building boats.

Mayor Smith stated that Governor Kate Brown had been to the Port of Toledo Boatyard a few weeks prior, and was impressed. Mayor Smith stated that the Boatyard has had an amazing impact on the area, with over 75 different businesses on port properties being supported.

Commissioner Bill Hall stated that he has friends in the fishing industry that often complain about "flatlanders" not understanding all the impacts of the fishing industry. Commissioner Hall stated that in 2015, the Port of Newport became the top commercial fishing port on the entire west coast, with 124 million pounds of fish coming through, equating to \$53 million in direct revenue. He stated that the Port of Toledo Boatyard will potentially create 150 new jobs, with ripple effects on the economy. He added that the project has been a great partnership with Local and State governments.

Chair Konopa stated that the criteria for the award all fit with the Port of Toledo Boatyard. She stated that it would be nice to have someone from each County, but that she could potentially select Ms. Kirby or the Carousel for the *Chair's Award*, if the Port of Toledo Boatyard wins for the *Project of the Year*.

Mayor Smith motioned to select the Port of Toledo Boatyard as the 2017 *Project of the Year*, Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that all of the projects were impactful, but the Port of Toledo Boatyard has national significance, as it serves the fishing fleet of the Pacific Ocean.

Mayor Traber left the meeting.

Volunteer of the Year:

Mayor Cline stated that when she worked in Brownsville, Ms. Joni Nelson was a mover and shaker, and was always front and center any time anything needed done. Mayor Cline stated that at 82 years old, Ms. Nelson is still going strong, and is passionate and persuasive in doing what is best for Brownsville.

Councilor Cutter motioned to select Ms. Joni Nelson as the 2017 *Volunteer of the Year*, Councilor Elliott seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Smith asked whether dress was to be formal for *CelebrateLBL*. Executive Director Abousleman stated that attire could be whatever was comfortable for attendees, and that business casual would be appropriate, as well.

Mayor Cline stated that she would recommend combining the Carousel and Ms. Kirby into an award, and stated that if she had the Carousel in her town, she would make that decision. Mayor Ware agreed.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that the cost of tickets for *CelebrateLBL* would be covered for Board members, unless staff hear otherwise from individual Board members. He stated that at time of reporting, the event is \$6,000-\$7,000 short for covering costs, and after those funds are raised, all other money will go toward the *MOW* program. He asked Board members to register early.

Commissioner Schuster asked whether there would be an announcement to media listing award nominees. Executive Director Abousleman stated that this could be discussed. Chair Konopa asked whether nominees had been invited. Executive Director Abousleman stated that they had.

Executive Director Abousleman reminded the Board that next year's event would be in Lincoln County.

6. Program Update Question and Answers

CSP Manager Moore stated that *Tapas and Treasures* occurred at the end of August, and was successful, with approximately 150 registrants and around 100 attendees. The event raised approximately \$12,000 for *MOW*. Councilor Cutter stated that it was a great event.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that the event is a good template for any other clubs or social groups that may want to host an event for *MOW* or other programs, and stated that Rotary raised enough money that they will be sponsors for *CelebrateLBL*.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that CED Director Phil Warnock and Planner Seth Sherry are now taking classes to become Certified Economic Developers through the International Economic Development Council. He stated that this will increase their capacity to provide certain services.

7. Topic of Regional Interest – Eclipse Debrief

Chair Konopa stated that jurisdictions planned for a long time, and the eclipse was a beautiful event. She stated that she heard complaints about governments going overboard, but stated that if there had not been encouragement for people to stay in, logistically the event would have been worse. She stated that I-5 was backed up until the evening.

Mayor Ware stated that traffic from I-5 was being redirected, so Brownsville traffic was backed up for hours. Councilor Debbie Nuber stated that the City of Scio liked the added traffic, stating that the whole town was full, churches were providing meals, etc. She stated that the City received letters from attendees, stating how happy they were that they chose Scio to view the eclipse.

Councilor Nuber stated that Scio had hired some of Lebanon's police force, which received positive feedback. Mayor Cline stated that in Halsey, the Sheriff's Office had someone patrolling town, and that there were people parked on the side of streets to watch the event. She stated that our area was lucky to have clear weather.

Chair Konopa stated that crowding in central Oregon was worse than our area. Councilor Cutter responded that the Coast was quiet, and that he took to social media encouraging people to go into town. Councilor Cutter stated that businesses had ordered supplies expecting large crowds, but the crowds did not happen. Councilor Mike Neddeau stated that in Brownsville, restaurants ran out of food.

Councilor Elliott stated that Lebanon was over-prepared, and everything went smoothly. Councilor Wahlke stated that Lincoln City was prepared, but did not have crowds. She stated that the next two weekends were busy though, with weather in the Valley being too hot. Councilor Diane Gerson stated that Sweet home was also over-prepared, but that there was value in finding holes in their emergency preparedness plans. Mayor Lepin stated that the event was a great practice activity.

Councilor Nuber stated that Scio asked citizens whether they wanted extra policing, and they did, so they received no complaints for over-preparedness.

Chair Konopa thanked OCWCOG for starting the eclipse conversation initially.

Councilor Cutter suggested skipping Topics of Regional Interest as an agenda item for the next Board meeting, as the last meeting tends to have a full agenda. Chair Konopa agreed, and asked members to let staff know if there are any pressing issues that they need to discuss.

Executive Director Abousleman thanked Mayors who participated in September's Regional Mayors' Meeting, and stated that the next meeting would be in January.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that OCWCOG currently has an intern working on solid sewage waste management, as directed by the OCWCOG Board. This intern is working with communities, assessing cost, what communities do with waste, and where the waste goes. Executive Director Abousleman stated that there will be a report on these items, and the Board can decide what will be done with the information.

Commissioner Schuster stated that Chair Konopa was awarded the Mayor's Leadership Award for 2017, in the Large City category. Chair Konopa thanked Executive Director Abousleman for writing a letter of recommendation, and stated that she had been humbled reading all the letters.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Jennifer Kelley.