

**OCWCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**February 25, 2016**  
**MINUTES**

- ATTENDEES:** Mayor Sharon Konopa, Albany; Commissioner Anne Schuster, Benton County; Mayor Biff Traber, Corvallis; and Councilor Bob Elliott, Lebanon.
- VIDEO:** Commissioner Bill Hall, Lincoln County and Councilor Dann Cutter, Waldport.
- STAFF:** Executive Director Fred Abousleman; Deputy Director Lydia George; Rideline Operations Manager Brenda Mainord; and Administrative Assistant Terri Sharpe.

**VISITORS:**

Chair Sharon Konopa convened the meeting of the Executive Committee at 9:05 a.m. at the Cascades West Center in Albany, Oregon.

**1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2015 Executive Committee Minutes made by Mayor Biff Traber, seconded by Councilor Bob Elliott. Motion passed unanimously.

**2. Review and Approval of the 2016 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule**

Councilor Dann Cutter suggested canceling the December meeting if there was no imperative business to be discussed. Deputy Director Lydia George stated action would be needed for the Consent Calendar for the Full Board meeting, but that could be done by email. Chair Konopa would like to keep the Executive Committee tentatively on the schedule as a place holder for any pressing issues.

Motion to approve the 2016 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule made by Councilor Cutter, seconded by Councilor Elliott. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Cascades West Financial Services, Inc. (CWFSI) Update**

Executive Director Fred Abousleman updated the Committee on CWFSI terminating their contract with Oregon Cascade West Council of Governments (OCWCOG), Lane Council of Governments, and Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments. According to CWFSI, the three Council of Governments (COGs) have failed to meet Small Business Administration (SBA) regulations. However, there is no proof of this claim, no audit concerns, and no indications of misappropriation of funds.

Letters from the Chairs of all three COGs to CWFSI were sent asking for further conversation regarding this decision. To date, only one response was received to the Mid-Willamette Valley COG, denying any further conversation from CWFSI's perspective about reevaluation of the contract status.

The letters from the COG's Chairs were also sent to the Governor and the Congressional Delegation, along with emails to all Board members.

The COGs have also sent letters to their banking partners to inform them that they are still open for business and still making loans. The COGs have signed two contracts with two other Community Development Corporations (CDC); one in Roseburg, and one in Bend. The CDC in Roseburg has

provided training and marketing tools; all things that CWFSI said they would provide, but failed to do so.

With the consent of the Board, the next course of action would be to pursue, with their Small Business Administration (SBA) Congressional Delegation, an audit of CWFSI.

Chair Konopa would like to give CWFSI's Board two weeks after CWFSI's next Board meeting (taking place next week) to respond to the letter. If there is no response, then Executive Director Abousleman should phone and ask for a response to OCWCOG's letter. Chair Konopa will also contact John Pascone and Doris Johnston, two of CWFSI Board of Directors, to find out if they received the letter and to state that a response is needed.

With severing of contract with CWFSI, Executive Director Abousleman informed the Executive Committee of OCWCOG would be short in the Lending department, and at some point may have to request the release of reserves so the Lending program can continue. This request will be held until the last possible moment, for with each week the amount they need decreases with each new loan they make. The situation will be closely monitored.

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

Mayor Biff Traber would like to reinforce the importance of the *Coordination Plan* with the economic development area and the various transportation groups. He feels anything done on a regional planning basis is very important and should be reinforced. He would like to see better alternative ways to get between Albany and Corvallis, and between the eastside of the Valley and back.

Commissioner Anne Schuster stated that she and Senior and Disabilities Services Director, Dave Toler, met yesterday and is very impressed and excited with what Director Toler has planned, i.e., simplifying of the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC), and his attending the *Represent Veterans* at the Homeless Oversight Committee.

Chair Konopa inquired of Director Toler if he has seen a higher demand for Medicaid bed space in assisted living facilities. Director Toler responded that he has not seen any significant shortages, but Senior and Disability Services' goal is in-home care, which is increasing. However, with the growth of in-home care and all the changes that are taking place, in-home care is becoming more expensive and is putting the program at risk. There is concern that it may push individuals back to institutional care. Chair Konopa is concerned with the lack of affordable senior housing and skilled nursing facilities in the area. Director Toler stated the two resources to keep up with the demand are adult foster homes and assisted living facilities in residential communities.

Mayor Traber inquired if there are ways to reduce the labor for certain clients that don't require as much care, and whether or not the OCWCOG is doing something with this. Director Toler stated that they can use funding to purchase equipment and prescriptions through *Oregon Project Independence*.

Executive Director Abousleman stated Director Toler is also working on a project with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in the three counties on three core issues: age friendly communities, lifelong housing, and lifelong economy. The Executive Committee will be invited to an AARP sponsored event on the issue of a lifelong economy where they will be discussing lifelong housing. Executive Director Abousleman asked Director Toler to provide a one-page report to the Full Board at their March Board meeting on where this will go.

Commissioner Schuster inquired what Director Toler has seen in the needs for transportation with seniors and people with disabilities. Director Toler stated that there is funding for individuals on Medicaid, but for people that are just above the Medicaid eligibility threshold, or on Medicare, the funding is not always there. The big problem, even for Medicaid consumers, is that transportation is not available except for medical appointments.

Chair Konopa inquired if Rideline keeps track of how many calls they have to deny due to the consumer not qualifying. Rideline Operations Manager, Brenda Mainord stated Rideline gets several requests for rides that they have to deny. She offered to pull the numbers for the next Full Board meeting, but it was decided the ADRC would be a better resource for this data; therefore, Director Toler would provide the numbers.

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

The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the proposed Full Board agenda items:

- 1. Consent Calendar**
  - a. Approval of Previous Full Board Meeting Minutes
- 2. FY 2014-15 Audit Presentation**
- 3. FY 2016-17 Work Program and Budget Presentation**
- 4. Program Update Questions and Answers**
- 5. Information Sharing**
- 6. Other Business**
- 7. Adjournment**

## **6. Other Business**

Executive Director Abousleman informed the Committee of Community and Economic Development (CED) Director Charlie Mitchell's departure from OCWCOG with his last day being March 11<sup>th</sup>. They are in the recruitment process with some strong candidates, and he will keep the Committee updated. He will also be working with the community so they will not lose any momentum on any ongoing projects.

A memorandum was presented on the percentage difference in the agency's donations revenue in which Mayor Traber inquired about at the January Finance meeting.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that the OCWCOG has signed a contract with Socrata who works with the city of Albany and Benton County on financial transparency. Socrata will be helping the OCWCOG and their community partners build a data pipeline, which will ultimately be their data center.

On Friday, Mayor Traber and Mayor Konopa will be joining Executive Abousleman to discuss the Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network's (RAIN) efforts on the hiring of a Developmental Director, and the OCWCOG's participation with that new employee. The OCWCOG will participate in the hiring process and pay half the salary of the selected applicant, if they meet up with what the OCWCOG is looking for in a major fundraiser. They are looking at a three-year commitment with a significant amount of money coming back into both organizations to make this profitable.

Executive Director Abousleman has proposed to the CED staff that they look at a *Transport and Economic Summit* in the fall to bring the three-counties together to talk about transportation issues (port, aviation, and rail) and relate them to the economy. The staff has been notified that they need to find a time and topics and the OCWCOG will look into getting the Summit sponsored.

**7. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

*Minutes by Terri Sharpe.*