

*Approved March 31, 1993*

JOINT MEETING/LANE AND DOUGLAS COUNTY  
BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS  
TO FILL VACANCY IN STATE SENATE SEAT FOR DISTRICT 22  
March 4, 1993 9:00 a.m.  
Drain Civic Center Meeting Room

Present:

Lane County Board of Commissioners: Steve Cornacchia, Ellie Dumdi, Marie Frazier, Jack Roberts and Jerry Rust.

Douglas County Board of Commissioners: Joyce Morgan, Doug Robertson and Doris Wadsworth.

Nominees: Sam Dominy, Michael Dubick and Karsten Rasmussen.

1. WELCOME

Chair Cornacchia called the meeting to order on behalf of the Lane County Board of Commissioners. Chair Morgan called the meeting to order on behalf of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners. Cornacchia welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioners, nominees, staff and members of the audience introduced themselves.

3. STAFF REPORT

Annette Newingham, Chief Deputy County Clerk for Lane County, presented current voter registration figures for Senate District 22:

Lane County: 49,311  
Douglas County: 7,965

She noted that each county commissioner of their respective county was allotted the following number of votes based on the above figures:

Lane County: 9 4/5 votes per commissioner  
Douglas County: 2 2/3 votes per commissioner

Newingham clarified that the winner would be determined by plurality, the person obtaining the greatest number of votes.

4. CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS

**SAM DOMINY** distributed a folder to each Commissioner outlining his qualifications. He stated that he has been a voice for rural South Lane and North Douglas counties as a democrat, has been a member of both the majority and the minority in the House of Representatives and has been

successful in passing legislation in 1989 and 1991 sessions. He indicated that the top four issues for Senate District 22 are jobs, education, taxation and land use. Regarding jobs, he stated the most important issue was finding a solution to the timber situation and providing the infrastructure for new businesses to locate. With regard to education, he stressed retraining and keeping small rural schools open and funded equally. Regarding taxes, he observed the need for a solution to the revenue from O & C receipts and changes in the property tax structure. With regard to land use, Dominy stated that the counties need more flexibility.

**MICHAEL DUBICK** stated that he lives in Creswell and is a rural person. He observed that the people in Senate District 22 need family wage jobs and that lack of diversification in the area was a problem. He commented that the stated needs to press for more economic development. He noted that secondary wood products is a viable industry as has been shown in Drain. He stated that other needs are affordable health care and social services, replacement revenue and economic development. With regard to economic development, Dubick observed the need for more land and water to help open up opportunities for development.

**KARSTEN RASMUSSEN** noted that he was married, with three children, and grew up and graduated from high school in Junction City. He stated that six generations of his family have lived in Junction City. He observed that rural issues are extremely important and that he has experience in that area. He indicated that the number one issue is Measure 5 and budgeting issues at the state level. He expressed commitments to helping solve that problem, while supporting education, job creation and economic development. He stated that he has had extensive experience in budgeting with Lane County and the EPUD, and that he hopes to bring that experience to the budget debate. He noted that he had worked as an aide to Senator Frye in 1983 and on the Judiciary Committee as counsel in 1987.

## 5. CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Morgan asked the 3 nominees about their suggested solutions to the Ballot Measure 5 problem:

**Rasmussen** - stated that he believes in a progressive income tax; opposes a gross receipts tax as it is not conducive to business development; and that he traditionally has opposed a sales tax, but if it were dedicated to education - head start through college, including vocational programs - he would consider that as part of the solution.

**Dominy** - noted that he would support a package similar to the one proposed by Governor Roberts last fall.

**Dubick** - observed that he would look at supporting several bills in the legislature that would freeze Measure 5. He suggested that other

revenue sources could be redistribution of income tax and a gross receipts tax on larger industries.

Wadsworth asked the 3 nominees to comment on the possibility of school restructuring, termed "10 and 2".

Dubick - noted that Drain is already trying to restructure schools and that that fits in well with the rural perspective.

Dominy - stated that he has worked on education reform bills. He commented that each school district does not need the same curriculum and they need to be allowed flexibility.

Rasmussen - observed that he supports the proposed reform. He suggested the need for more discussion regarding efforts to coordinate between all levels of education and noted the need for competition versus complacency.

Wadsworth asked for opinions regarding shifting lottery funds from economic development to education.

Dominy - observed that the effect would be minimal and would be "gambling" on good education. He did comment that it would be appropriate to use the money for construction of new school buildings.

Rasmussen - agreed with Dominy's assessment.

Dubick - noted that the funds are a major player in economic development for rural areas and would have minimal impact on education.

Robertson asked whether the nominees would oppose an increase in the beer and wine tax if it was dedicated to education, treatment and law enforcement.

Dubick - stated he would favor an increase only if the excess acquired by the increase would go for that dedication, but that the present money going to counties needs to remain the same.

Dominy - noted that if the money were truly dedicated, he would probably support it, but agrees with the present dedication to the counties.

Rasmussen - observed that he would not support taking revenues away from the counties and that he would look at new revenues dedicated as described in the question.

Robertson asked whether the nominees would support a ban on leghold traps.

Dubick - stated that he would oppose a ban.

Dominy - No.

Rasmussen - noted that he votes in favor of trapping.

Robertson asked the nominees about their position on the state's role in attempting changes in the endangered species act.

Rasmussen - observed that the state ought to take a role although the governor seems to have a different view, noting that the legislature will have limited abilities. He stated that he would support looking at this issue, although he noted that timber and environmental issues were not his area of expertise.

Dominy - noted that he was a leader in democratic caucuses regarding timber issues. He stated that a message needs to be sent to change Oregon's endangered species act and to send a resolution to congress on Oregon's position.

Dubick - stated that he would look at compromises and changes in the endangered species act.

Frazier asked for clarification that the nominees would support an advocacy role to make changes in the endangered species act to include consideration of the "human factor".

Dominy, Dubick and Rasmussen - each responded yes.

Frazier asked for the nominees opinions regarding in-stream water rights.

Dubick - commented that the state has taken their position to an extreme.

Dominy - commented that he supports the rights of people to have hearings if people feel their rights are jeopardized.

Rasmussen - noted that the best solutions are solutions involving the people who are themselves affected.

Frazier asked what the nominees would do to help displaced timber workers.

Rasmussen - indicated support for the timber summit, getting timber back into the pipeline, more diverse economic development in the district and vocational retraining for the affected workers.

Dubick - stressed the importance of retraining people into family-wage jobs and the need to bring more manufacturing into the area.

Dominy - stated that the state needs to take care of the supply problem, provide schooling for the workers while allowing extended unemployment benefits so that people are able to live during that

time, health care for people in transition, and continue emphasis on Regional Strategies.

Frazier asked the nominees if they would vote to lift the injunction if they were Judge Dwyer (to increase the timber supply).

**Dominy and Dubick** - each stated yes.

**Rasmussen** - stated that he could not answer that question without having access to all the files in front of Judge Dwyer.

Frazier asked if it were 1977 and the nominees were to vote on SB 100, would they vote yes or no.

**Rasmussen** - yes, as originally proposed.

**Dominy** - no, as it has been put together by rule making.

**Dubick** - stated that it was a good idea with lousy execution.

Dumdi asked the nominees for their views on LCDC/Secondary Lands.

**Dubick** - stated that LCDC seemed to be focused on land conservation and no development.

**Dominy** - commented that the rules adopted by LCDC do not have any flexibility. He stated that the issues need to go back to local control with the state only for dispute resolution.

**Rasmussen** - noted that the original purpose of land use planning in Oregon was statewide goals and local control and that is what he still supports.

Dumdi asked the nominees for their opinions regarding the elimination of Justice Courts.

**Dominy** - noted that there is a severe need to have the Justice Courts and he opposes the current Bill.

**Rasmussen** - stated that he opposes the Bill.

**Dubick** - commented that he feels the Justice Courts are serving a need and saving lives and stated that he opposes the Bill.

Rust asked the nominees for their views on doing away with the county assessment function.

**Dubick** - stated that the County's already have a difficult time accomplishing the task and cannot see how the state could do it.

**Dominy** - commented that he doesn't see how it could work.

Rasmussen - noted that he sees the need for local control.

Roberts asked the nominees to list the environmental groups to which they belong.

Dominy, Dubick and Rasmussen - all stated "None".

Roberts asked if any of the nominees belonged to 1000 Friends of Oregon.

Dominy, Dubick and Rasmussen - all responded "No".

Roberts asked the nominees how important higher education was to them and, specifically, the University of Oregon.

Rasmussen - noted the significant economic impact of the University of Oregon and stated that the opportunity for higher education should be available to all Americans.

Dominy - stated that he strongly supports higher education at all Oregon colleges; although he does have questions regarding structure, particularly the chancellor's office. He expressed concern regarding the closure of the veterinarian school at OSU.

Dubick - commented that he has worked hard to encourage his students to seek higher education and noted the need to produce and retain viable people.

Cornacchia asked the nominees if they believe that the Forest Practices Act needs to be amended to change logging practices on state and private lands.

Dubick - stated that he thinks the Act is okay as written.

Dominy - commented that he saw no problems with it.

Rasmussen - explained that he was not capable of answering because he had never read the Forest Practices Act.

Cornacchia asked the nominees if they support additional withdrawals by the Board of Forestry for non-timber values and uses on state and private lands.

Dubick - stated that he was not familiar with that.

Dominy - No.

Rasmussen - commented "no" on private lands; and generally "no" on public lands.

Cornacchia asked the nominees if they supported protected class status for sexual orientation in the state of Oregon.

**Dominy** - stated that he was not in favor of special rights.

**Rasmussen** - noted that he voted against Measure 9 and would support legislation that makes it illegal to discriminate against homosexuals, with no quotas, requirement or agenda. He stated that he supports equal rights.

**Dubick** - commented that he thinks all people should have the same equal rights to housing, jobs, etc.

**Cornacchia** asked the nominees for their beliefs about the Marine Mammals Protection Act and how it affects salmon.

**Dominy** - noted that he was not familiar with the particular Act.

**Dubick** - stated that, in principle, he doesn't think man should tinker too much with nature.

**Rasmussen** - commented that he thinks water and salmon issues are going to end up being bigger than the timber issues that face us now. He reiterated that natural resources is not his specialty.

**Morgan** expressed concern that Douglas County is a resource county and that this is a big issue for them. **Rasmussen** commented that he plans to increase his knowledge.

**Robertson** asked the nominees for any specific ideas on substantively cutting state government.

**Rasmussen** - noted that he has helped draft a piece of legislation that would eliminate the Department of Insurance and Finance, which competes with the private sector. He stated that this would have a fiscal impact of several million dollars.

**Dubick** - responded that it is necessary to look for duplication and for programs that have gone beyond their usefulness.

**Dominy** - reiterated his concerns about the Chancellor's Office and indicated that restructuring the Department of Higher Education could save \$1 million per biennium.

**Wadsworth** asked **Rasmussen** and **Dubick** for their opinions on the closing of the OSU veterinary school.

**Rasmussen** - stated that he supports its continued existence.

**Dubick** - noted that he thought it was absurd to go after such a unique program.

**Frazier** asked the nominees what they felt were the two greatest assets of the district.

Dominy - stated 1) rivers - for drinking water and tourism; 2) timber and secondary wood products; and 3) education.

Rasmussen - commented 1) its people; 2) its timber; and 3) its agriculture.

Dubick - indicated its natural resources and its small communities.

Cornacchia asked the nominees if they would run for office during the next election if appointed now.

Dominy, Dubick and Rasmussen each indicated that they would.

This meeting recessed at 10:43 a.m. to reconvene at 10:57 a.m.

#### 6. CONCLUDING STATEMENTS BY CANDIDATES

Rasmussen stated that he thinks he can bring experience and knowledge to the office. He indicated that he has a proven record of facilitating debate and a proven ability to work with people of divergent views. He noted his budget experience and the need to look at services and replacement revenues. He commented that he has a knowledge of the local government process and has knowledge of the legislative process and its members. He expressed his belief that he can learn quickly and could hit the ground running. He also indicated that it would be least disruptive for the District if he were appointed.

Dubick noted that he was proud to be a candidate and wanted to maximize the possibility that a rural person would be sent to serve this rural constituency. He indicated, though, that he is not naive and knows the person appointed should be the one with the most experience.

Dominy commented that he is a native Oregonian, grew up in Lane County and has been a forklift operator for 28 years. He stated that he feels he is a true representative of people in District 22. He noted that he had worked up through the various levels of community involvement and he gave examples of his work with rural constituents.

#### 7. DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

MORGAN expressed grave concern regarding Rasmussen and stated that she was surprised that he hadn't exhibited a better breadth of knowledge. She indicated that she found Dubick interesting, but stressed Dominy's experience and indicated she would be supporting him.

WADSWORTH indicated that there were three qualified candidates; but, noted that Dominy had paid his dues and that the legislature is in session, so he has an advantage in the process. She stated she would recommend Dominy.

ROBERTSON stated his considerations revolved around the critical issues before the legislature today involving natural resources, noting that he feels an active state legislature is important to the federal government on these issues. He indicated that a great deal of weight needed to be given to Dominy's position, having successfully gone through the elective process and having the ability to hit the ground running. He stated he would vote for Dominy.

FRAZIER agreed that the District needed someone who had first hand knowledge of rural issues, particularly resource issues. She noted that Dominy had garnered two-thirds of the District's votes in the House and that he has a broad range of support. She stated that he is a strong advocate for private property rights. She commented that timing is crucial in this appointment, that each nominee could do the job, but Dominy can.

DUMDI indicated that she was looking for balance in the District and thought that Dominy in the House and Rasmussen in the Senate would be good representation.

RUST noted that Oregon is in a serious crisis and that the legislature needs new brains, new blood and new leadership.

ROBERTS stated that he believes people represent their districts when elected and expressed his concern regarding polarization between rural and urban. He indicated that he had known Rasmussen on a personal level for the last three years on the Lane County Budget Committee, had great faith in him and would be supporting him.

CORNACCHIA indicated that he had been looking for individuals willing to take a stand or position on the issues and noted that only one nominee had made an attempt to take a position on each and every issue and that was Dominy. He stated that the people of the District would be best served by Dominy.

Frazier asked about Rust's priority for new blood in reference to his own term length. Rust indicated that Dominy was serving well in the House; and that Rasmussen's experience in budget work would work well in balancing the finances of state government.

Frazier asked Dumdi if she wasn't concerned about Rasmussen's lack of knowledge on the resource issues of the district and his limited grasp of the timber situation. Dumdi noted the diversity of the District, and stated that Rasmussen knows agriculture and is a quick learner.

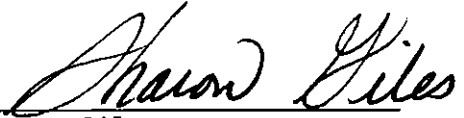
## 8. VOTE

Morgan	Dominy	2 2/3 votes
Wadsworth	Dominy	2 2/3 votes
Robertson	Dominy	2 2/3 votes
Frazier	Dominy	9 4/5 votes
Dumdi	Rasmussen	9 4/5 votes
Rust	Rasmussen	9 4/5 votes
Roberts	Rasmussen	9 4/5 votes
Cornacchia	Dominy	9 4/5 votes

TOTAL:	DOMINY:	27 3/5
	RASMUSSEN:	29 2/5

Cornacchia read the official statement into the record and each Commissioner signed the vote tabulation.

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.



Sharon Giles  
Recording Secretary