

# MINUTES & NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION

APPROVED April 2, 1996



## LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*This document, upon approval in a public meeting by the Board of County Commissioners, serves as official minutes of such meetings as required under the Open Meetings Law, ORS 192.650.*

Pursuant to notice made by mailing agendas to news media, a selected list of jurisdictions and individuals in Lane County, a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held.

Questions should be directed to The Board Office Specialist 3, ext. 4203.

March 5, 1996  
9:00 a.m.

WORK SESSION  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners'  
Conference Room

Chair Bobby Green, Sr. presided with Steve Cornacchia, Jerry Rust and Cindy Weeldreyer present. Ellie Dumdi excused. Sharon Giles, Recording Secretary.

1. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3. COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

To be held at approximately 10:40 a.m.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION as per ORS 192.660

To be held later.

5. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

## a. Announcements

Bill Van Vactor, County Administrator, announced that an application has been received from Kit Kesity with regard to an outdoor mass gathering to be held in July or August at the Oregon Country Fair site. Responding to Rust, Van Vactor observed that Lane County currently has no fee for these applications. He suggested that perhaps review of this particular fee issue could be dealt with by Finance and Audit, observing, however, that they already have a full slate of issues to deal with. Teresa Wilson, County Counsel, stated that the initial question will be a review of the limits imposed by the state. Responding to Green, Van Vactor explained that a mass gathering permit becomes necessary when a gathering attracts more than 3,000 for more than 24 hours and that the issues are limited to fire, life and safety issues. He observed that Kesity was very thorough on the last application he submitted. Green indicated that he would like to see the application.

## b. DISCUSSION/Job Creation from the 1994 Economic Development Special Project.

Peter Thurston, Community and Economic Development Coordinator, reviewed the agenda memorandum (see material on file), highlighting the statistics included in the exhibit. Cornacchia asked that the Board receive a memo with information on the salary and benefits paid to the four new people employed by Sweet Creek Farms and also background on specifically where the new employees came from. Thurston remarked that it is his understanding that these employees are mostly women providing second incomes. Responding to Green, Thurston stated that there are regular referrals between Lane County and the Metro Partnership, noting that Metro Partnership works on the evaluation of potential sites. Thurston reported to Green that funds are rolled over when a contract is awarded and a project fails. Cornacchia asked about the current situation with Wilderness Wood Products and previous County support for job retention, noting that it was not intended to be an annual subsidy. Thurston replied that the current application includes retention of jobs and capital improvements; but that during review, the group agreed to buy into the capital portion, but not ongoing retention. Responding to Green, Thurston and Cornacchia explained that in order to make a significant impact on a larger project (such as a new airline carrier for Eugene) it would require most or all of the budgeted dollars, which are now spread among rural communities in small percentages.

- c. DISCUSSION AND ORDER 96-3-5-1/In the Matter of Amending Lane County's Method of Indirect Cost Allocation and Adopting a Related Financial Management Policy.

David Garnick, Senior Management Analyst, reviewed the agenda item (see material on file), reporting the questions/concerns that were developed by the team. He outlined the requested implementation steps discussed in the memorandum. Responding to Green, Garnick provided the example of "legal staff" and how indirect will be dealt with. He reported that some of legal's work can be direct billed, but that the net cost needs to be covered. Garnick stated that a certain amount of legal's time must be covered by all departments, with the rest based on actual hours worked for the departments. Green summarized that the bottom line is that a base charge will be implemented for legal access.

Responding to Rust, Garnick reported that the Housing Authority had objected to the new method (because of their funding); the Fair Board seems comfortable with the process; and some departments provided lists of things they were concerned about, most of which have been dealt with.

Weeldreyer explained that the Finance and Audit Committee recommends the new process due to equity, incentives to departments and because it gives the Board flexibility to grant exceptions. She added that this method allows for tracking and addresses deferred maintenance, as well as providing benchmarks for future resource allocation. Cornacchia stated that he likes the concept, but has major concerns because the plan appears to create a priority in Lane County government that would put support services first and line services to the public would be secondary. He quoted a statement from the last page of the agenda memorandum which states that "Future General Fund reductions will be borne almost entirely by the line agencies." Cornacchia expressed concern that this program would take away budgetary considerations for the Board and create subsidization of general fund departments by all non-general fund indirect payors. He indicated that he would be willing to buy into this system if it would assure that 1) no line services to the public will be impacted by the program; and 2) no non-general fund resource pays the indirect of a general fund department. Cornacchia emphasized that his real concern is when, and by whom, the cost of support services is determined. He stressed that it needs to be shown that all central support services are on the same table as all the line services. Rust remarked that he would never vote to relinquish budget authority and that every position is always on the table. He indicated that he expects that the size of indirect will rise and fall with the size of staffing, i.e. that if the County loses one-third of its personnel, then there would be commensurate cuts in central staff.

Weeldreyer commented that this is a living document, subject to changes. Cornacchia stated that this program creates a building maintenance fund outside of budgetary considerations. Garnick explained that the intent is to recover dollars, remarking that nothing assumes that central support is not subject to budget considerations. He indicated that if line departments are reduced, then central support will be commensurate. Weeldreyer stated that as elected officials, the Board also has the fiduciary responsibility to maintain appropriate levels of legal, investment and other upkeep services of public investment as that infrastructure is important for others to survive. Rust stressed that this is a more precise method of allocating costs.

Green noted that the document may need more precise language that stipulates to the concerns of Cornacchia. There was consensus to add the phrase "as determined annually by the Board of Commissioners" between "costs" and "will" to statement #7 in the memo (Item #6 on the Order) and to add: "but will not be allocated outside of the budgetary process" to the end of the first sentence in #5 in the memo (Item #5 in the Order). There was also consensus to delete the statement "Future General Fund reductions will be borne almost entirely by the line agencies" in the "disadvantages" column on the last page of the memorandum. Rust asked that the minutes reflect that it is his opinion that the statement being deleted from the memo is one of the "advantages" of this plan.

Cornacchia also expressed concern about the statement "This is done by replacing central support General Fund dollars with indirect revenue" from the column entitled "Proposed Method" on the last page of the memorandum attachment. Garnick explained that this is for the first year of transition only.

**MOTION:** Approval of the Order with changes as agreed above, and with changes to be reflected in the agenda memo which will be made part of packet record of this action and be an attachment to the Order. Rust MOVED, Weeldreyer SECONDED. Weeldreyer commented that one of her goals has been greater accountability and efficiency and that she believes this gets the County closer to that goal than the existing system. **VOTE:** 4-0.

This meeting recessed at 10:39 a.m. to reconvene at 10:50 a.m..

## 6. PUBLIC WORKS

- a. STATUS REPORT/Accomplishments of Countywide Joint Labor/Management Committee.

Phil Hübler indicated that labor sees that progress has been made in moving away from a traditional autocratic way of conducting business to a collaborative/team approach.

He and Russ Cron highlighted accomplishments of the following groups: 1) the 626/Admin/Management problem solving team; 2) the Countywide Benefits Review Committee; 3) the Waste Management Quality Improvement Team; 4) Violence in the Workplace Committee; and 5) the Drug and Alcohol Committee. They urged the Board to continue to support collaborative team building concepts and quality improvement projects.

Cornacchia observed that the results are positive and that he hopes that there is intent to have this type of communication embraced by other formats, not just committees. He expressed his desire that this communication will happen within the teams on the ground and when any decisions are made that have an impact on a large number of people. Hibler remarked that it is desired to have communication from the Board level on down. Weeldreyer and Green expressed appreciation for the presentation. Responding to comments made by Hibler, Cornacchia indicated that he had met recently with Senator Hatfield who told him that the "timber safety net" is only guaranteed through 1997.

7. **REVIEW ASSIGNMENTS**

- \* Revise Order on indirect study, along with memo.
- \* Thurston to route memo to Board regarding pay/benefits for workers at Sweet Creek Farms.
- \* Possible referral to Finance and Audit regarding mass gathering fee.

8. **EMERGENCY BUSINESS**

None.

3. **COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

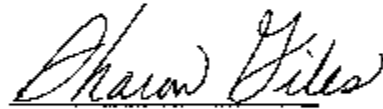
Weeldreyer reported that she had attended the Regional Strategies Visioning Conference where teams had worked to identify trends and talk about what the region may look like in 2015 in terms of doing business and liveability.

Weeldreyer indicated that, with regard to the Westfir Mill Site, the Westfir City Council is getting involved and details will be presented during Executive Session.

Green stated that a written report will be presented tomorrow concerning the recent lobbying trip to Washington, D.C.

Responding to Green, Weeldreyer indicated that the Board will be updated tomorrow about recent information on potential funding for watershed restoration projects.

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 11:35 a.m.



Sharon Giles  
Board Secretary