



MID-COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

MCCOG offices – 1113 Kelly Ave, The Dalles, OR 97058

- I. 3:00 p.m. **Call to Order**
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Approval of January 25, 2011 minutes.

- II. 3:05 p.m. **Open Agenda**

(This time set aside for the public and board members to introduce subjects NOT on the agenda).

- III. 3:10 p.m. **Award Presentation**
 - A. Appreciation Award for Maui Meyer for his years of service as Chair of the Board.

- IV. 3:15 p.m. **Discussion/Action Items**
 - A. Community Renewables Presentation;
 - B. National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Proposal for Analysis and Assessment of Energy Use and Generation in our Region;
 - C. Gary Raines, Raines Marketing, LLC;
 - D. Appointment to TOC Executive Committee.

- V. 4:00 p.m. **Reports/Communications**
 - A. Marti Kantola, CMS Director
 - B. Executive Director's Report.

- VI. 4:30 p.m. **Executive Session – ORS 192.660 (2) (e)**
 - A. Real Property

- VII. 5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you have a disability that requires any special materials, services, or assistance, please contact the Executive Assistant (541) 298-4101 at least 48 hours before the meeting.

MID-COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:00 p.m.
1113 Kelly Avenue, The Dalles, OR 97058

2011 Board of Directors:

Gilliam County: *Pat Shaw, Jeff Bufton, Mike Weimer.
Hood River County: *Maui Meyer, Les Perkins, Lance Masters.
Sherman County: *Cliff Jett, Steve Burnet, Michael Smith.
Wasco County: *Sherry Holliday, Brian Ahier, Rod Runyon.
Wheeler County: *Jeanne Burch, Jack Lorts, Patrick "Chris" Perry.
(*denotes Executive Committee Members)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Cliff Jett, called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. Roll call of Board members and introductions of guests. A quorum was present.

PRESENT: Maui Meyer, via telephone, Mike Weimer, Pat Shaw, Cliff Jett, Michael Smith, Steve Burnet, Sherry Holliday, and Jeanne Burch.

ABSENT: Les Perkins, Brian Ahier, Rod Runyon, Lance Masters, Jeff Bufton, Jack Lorts and Chris Perry.

STAFF: John Arens (Executive Director), Sarah Brumbaugh (Finance Director), Marti Kantola (Community Mediation Director), and Tine Meriwether (Executive Assistant).

GUESTS: Gary Rains, Rains Marketing, Paul Woodin, CREA, David Meriwether, Hood River County, Rodger Nichols, Haystack Broadcasting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sherry Holliday moved, seconded by Mike Weimer, to approve the January 25, 2011 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION – ORS 192.660 (2) (e)

Pat Shaw moved, seconded by Jeanne Burch, to move into Executive Session as authorized under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) to discuss an interfund loan from Building Codes to pay off the remainder of the note on MCCOG's office building (1113 Kelly Avenue) thereby realizing a significant cost savings by reducing the interest rate.

Following discussion, Holliday moved, seconded by Weimer, to approve Resolution No. 10-4 and for staff to check the loan documents for the FDIC limit. Following the reading of Resolution No. 10-4 in full, the question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Appointment to TOC Executive Committee.

Vice Chair Maui Meyer stated he would be willing to take Barbara Briggs' position on the Board. He stated if Rod Runyon were willing to take the position he would not object.

This issue was tabled until the next regular Board Meeting.

B. Gary Rains, Rains Marketing, LLC

Mr. Rains was present to discuss the marketing concept behind the logo design for CORE. He presented a page of six designs. Although the Board has voted on their favorite design on the lower right-hand side of the page, Mr. Rains has not had an opportunity to discuss each concept and come up with a "mark to build a story around." Rains is recommending use of the building blocks design on the upper right to build the story around. Following discussion, and by a show of hands, the Board reaffirmed unanimously to stay with the design (on the lower right of the page) that they previously voted on.

C. Community Renewables Presentation.

John Arens, Executive Director, addressed the Board regarding meetings between MCCOG, CREA, and Hood River County regarding community renewables. The perfect concept would be that we end up with a 10 megawatt project for each of the 5 counties. MCCOG could provide administrative services, serving as an agent for the 5 counties.

David Meriwether, Hood River County Administrator, stated Hood River County is looking at different options to be sustainable over the long-term. He discussed the loss in the timber revenue and the need to look at other income potentials.

Sherry Holliday and Jeanne Burch stated they were on-board with the concept. Both were excused from the meeting at 3:45 p.m. There was not a quorum present for the remainder of the meeting.

Paul Woodin, Community Renewable Energy Association (CREA) conducted a Power-Point presentation and discussed the various projects and entities interested in community renewables and additional revenue sources.

Arens discussed the NARC report included in the Board's packets. He stated MCCOG staff has met with MCEDD and soon to meet with EDA to see if there are resources through MCEDD or directly from EDA. He stated he would like to have a follow-up with BLM and Dept. of State Lands to see if we could partner with them on their lands. He wants the Board to know what staff is working on before going further into discussions with these entities.

Possible land lease agreements were discussed with Dept. of State Lands and perhaps BLM. Woodin stated the State is interested, but not sure about BLM. Arens stated our starting point is to go to BLM in Salem for discussions.

The issue of financing was discussed. Sterling Bank is lending for Public Works projects. They are interested in large projects. Woodin stated the goal is to find some sites to develop and find partners. Cliff Jett stated the City of Rufus would be interested in helping to identify land in their area.

Meriwether stated the County's land (18,000 acres) in the east county area has leasing potential but is not a good wind site. However, this land might be a good swap for another parcel.

The next steps are to meet with Dept. of State Lands and BLM in Salem to see what opportunities might come from that. Arens suggested forming a simple work group comprised of staff and Executive Committee members to brainstorm and move forward. Staff will have more information to share with the Board at our next meeting in May. By then, staff will have met with the Dept. of State Lands and BLM.

Jett suggested that staff contact John Jennings with the Dept. of State Lands prior to meeting with that department in Salem. He could provide some insight and direction.

V. REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS

A. Marti Kantola, CMS Director

Ms. Kantola gave an update on the activities of Six Rivers Community Mediation Program. Services provided are Neighbor-to-Neighbor services and parenting plans. A new program through a Federal grant from USDA, Six Rivers has been designated a Certified Mediation provider for the State of Oregon to mediate USDA farm cases such as loans, crop insurance appeals, conservation issues, all determined by USDA. This service is an official option for those farmers who desire mediation based on a USDA determination at no cost to them. This has not been an option in Oregon for the past 14 years due to the loss of the Federal grant. Her first case may be with Josephine County regarding pesticide use. The USDA has not ruled on the case yet, but she is being kept informed of the issue.

Kantola stated one of her grants is through the University of Oregon Law School. She stated in the transition from Four Rivers to MCCOG, a requirement of the grant has been overlooked which consists of quarterly meetings. She stated she would like to form a group of five individuals who meet quarterly and report on their activities to the MCCOG Board.

Arens suggested staff provide the Board with a draft resolution to consider at the next Board meeting.

Kantola stated Six Rivers is seeking volunteers interested in training to become mediators. Steve Burnet stated individuals representing the agriculture community would be good to have on-board. Kantola will follow-up with Burnet on contacts. Oregon State Experiment Station, Department of Agriculture and local Extension Agents might also be good resources.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

Respectfully Submitted by:

Cliff Jett
Chairperson

Tine Meriwether
Executive Assistant