

MID-COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – TELECONFERENCE CALL
Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
Board Room, 1113 Kelly Avenue, The Dalles, Oregon

2014 Board of Directors:

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| <u>Gilliam County:</u> | *Mike Weimer, Steve Shaffer, Denise Ball |
| <u>Hood River County:</u> | *Maui Meyer, Les Perkins. |
| <u>Sherman County:</u> | *Michael Smith, Cliff Jett, Tom McCoy |
| <u>Wasco County:</u> | *Rod Runyon, Scott Hege, Carolyn Wood |
| <u>Wheeler County:</u> | *Anne Mitchell, Chris Perry, Jack Lorts |

(*denotes Executive Committee Members)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Michael Smith, Chair.

Present: Michael Smith, Rod Runyon, Cliff Jett. Joining via teleconference Scott Hege, Denise Ball, Michael Weimar, Steve Shaffer, Tom McCoy, Anne Mitchell, and Chris Perry.

Absent: Ed Weathers, Les Perkins, Maui Meyer, Carolyn Wood, and Jack Lorts.

Staff: John Arens, Executive Director; Sarah Braumbaugh, Fiscal Director; Holli Francis, WIA Director; Tine Meriwether, Executive Assistant.

Guests: John Huffman, State Representative District 59; Trevor Humphries, Economic Development Director, Wheeler County.

John Arens addressed the Board. This special meeting is being called to order as a follow-up conversation following last month's board meeting regarding Workforce redistricting taking place in the State of Oregon. Arens stated a work group, headed by Agnes Balassa, Workforce Policy Advisor for the State, is looking at redistricting the workforce regions to potentially be more in alignment with the Regional Solutions Area and to create small regions that have more in common with their workforce coordination.

The Honorable John Huffman commented on Senate Bill 1566 which gives direction to remove regional boards. Huffman discussed the letter provided to each Board member from Ms. Balassa. The letter addresses the proposed redistricting and how Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIBs) can provide comment. LWIBs have until April 15, 2014 to file their requests for redistricting with the Governor's office.

The proposal before the Board is to initiate a request for redistricting our region by combining with Regions 9 (MCCOGs 5 County Region), 10 (Jefferson, Deschutes and Crook counties), and 11 (Klamath and Lake counties). Arens stated Region 10 (COIC) also must be onboard with combining the regions as requested by MCCOG.

In response to a question posed by Rod Runyon, Holli Francis, WIA Director, stated in the event that COIC is not onboard to combine, the Plan B would be for MCCOG to combine with Regions 12, 13, and 14 comprised of the entire eastern portion of the state. She stated this letter only gives MCCOG the ability to be at the table and allows us to be involved as much as possible. It does not commit MCCOG in any way at this time.

Cliff Jett questioned how the money is generated for WIA. Arens outlined the funding formula the state uses based off the unemployment rates of each county. MCCOG's WIA budget is about \$400K. Central Oregon has a budget of approximately \$1.2 million. He stated that by combining the 3 regions allows for a budget of about \$2.8 million.

Tom McCoy asked what the money goes to. Arens stated the resources create the WIA budget for Adult, Dislocated and Youth programs under the Workforce Program.

Scott Hege questioned Huffman regarding the letter from the Governor. He stated the concept makes sense. But, why now and not before? Huffman stated Ms. Balassa has had extensive work in Workforce and he believes her expertise and concept for redistricting, combined with years of conversations about this at LWIB is finally moving this forward.

Scott Hege moved, seconded by Rod Runyon, to sign the letter and interject ourselves into the redistricting discussion.

Arens stated that once our request is submitted, a state staff member will be assigned to us to help facilitate discussions. Huffman stated this action will make us more proactive in our destiny.

Following discussion, the question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Smith, Runyon, Jett, Hege, Ball, Weimar, Shaffer, McCoy, Mitchell, Perry (10).

Scott Hege moved, seconded by Rod Runyon, to have Chair Smith sign the letter of request.

The motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Smith, Runyon, Jett, Hege, Ball, Weimar, Shaffer, McCoy, Mitchell, Perry (10).

Arens stated the request will be sent to Andrew Spreadborough, Executive Director at COIC so he can present it to his board.


In other business, because there is no board business scheduled for April 22nd the regular Board meeting will be canceled and instead the Executive Committee will meet to discuss the process for the Executive Director's Annual Performance review.

Arens reported that at the May 27th Board meeting, he will be proposing to amend the Board calendar by alternating Board meetings with the Executive Committee.

ADJOURN

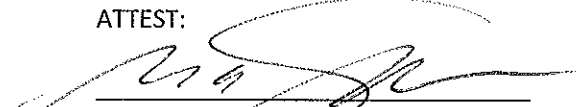
There being no further business to come before the MCCOG Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Tine Meriwether, Executive Assistant

ATTEST:



Michael Smith, MCCOG Board Chair