

MID-COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
**Executive Committee \*Special\* Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, February 20, 2015 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**  
Board Room, 1113 Kelly Avenue, The Dalles, Oregon

2015 Executive Committee:

<u>Gilliam County:</u>	Mike Weimer
<u>Hood River County:</u>	Maui Meyer
<u>Sherman County:</u>	Michael Smith
<u>Wasco County:</u>	Rod Runyon
<u>Wheeler County:</u>	Chris Perry

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**I. Call to Order**

**A. Roll Call and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Michael Smith, Chair.

Present: Rod Runyon; via phone: Maui Meyer, Michael Smith, Mike Weimer.

Absent: Chris Perry

Staff: John Arens, Executive Director; Cecilia Lamas-Guiney, Executive Assistant.

Guests: Steve Shaffer

**II. Reports/Communications**

John Arens addresses the Committee. This special meeting is called to order to discuss the subject of Mid-Columbia Building Codes Services (MCBCS) and issues raised by Mr. Wayne Lease.

Arens requested this meeting prior to having an opportunity to go to Wasco County Courts' meeting on Wednesday. Arens sent the MCCOG Board of Directors (BOD) an email in regard to conversations around MCBCS.

About a year ago, Mr. Lease presented MCCOG with questions. MCCOG answered as many questions as they could, and haven't heard anything since. Arens stated his concern about the process at this point. He thinks it more appropriate if the process and the issues were brought to the MCCOG Board to hear the concerns; to allow MCCOG the opportunity to go through a process to determine if they can answer those questions or if there are things they need to change. Arens requests that the Committee ask Rod Runyon for his thoughts on the subject of MCBCS and Mr. Lease.

Michael Smith asks Rod Runyon if he would like to take this opportunity to discuss the matter with the Committee.

Rod Runyon provides input on the subject. He says that they have been dealing with Mr. Lease, and others, for over a year, both at MCCOG and at the County. Commissioner Hege has been more involved in this than he. In regard to Mr. Lease, he states he does not feel any differently than the Committee. Runyon states that Mr. Lease does have points, however. Mentions that Tyler Stone came up with the idea to form a task force to get this issue off the table. Mr. Lease has been taking up a ton of Tyler's time--hours at a time. Wayne does not feel he has had his questions answered.

Maui Meyer states that Mr. Lease needs to file a lawsuit if he feels we are breaking the law or doing something illegal.

Runyon replies that he is not here to debate. He continues his response: Stone suggested they form a task force. Arens letter is incorrect; they did not ask Mr. Lease to form a committee. States that he has instructed Stone that Lease is not to be on the task force. If Lease wants to provide input, that is fine. Runyon says the goal is to make sure questions are being answered both by Lease and by contractors that have been dealing mostly with Commissioner Hege. Runyon does not see anything wrong with that as a process. Mentions that they have suggested, contrary to John's letter, on numerous occasions, that Lease go to each of the county courts to address issues pertaining to them.

Runyon states that he and Judge Shaffer have had conversations, not about Lease, but about services in Gilliam County and Shaffer expressed he was happy with them. Asks Shaffer if he remembers that conversation.

Judge Shaffer replied that he does.

Runyon states that he has had conversations. He knows Commissioner Hege has talked with Mike; there have been conversations with their partners. He does not feel they are doing anything differently at this point then they would with any other matter. Runyon states he wants to get Mr. Lease's questions answered. Mentions they have had complaints over the years about the "space" between planning and building codes. States that they're going to look at all issues while we're talking about it; about how we close those gaps and make it a better working organization and better communication. Runyon thinks all the parties involved know what has been going on over the last year. Says it is no different than the matter of senior services.

Michael Smith replies that is a good thing to talk about. States that, from Sherman Counties point, they are completely surprised by this. They assumed all of the answers had been given to Mr. Lease; that we had answered all of his questions and dedicated an enormous amount of staff time for free. If Lease is requesting quite a bit of documents, there is a fee for that. Smith states he would have hoped this be brought to the board; being notified after the fact, and being completely unaware of it as a board, is where we (the BOD) struggle.

Runyon states that they have to resolve this, whatever it is. States he has had conversations with a Hood River Commissioner and a Gilliam County Commissioner. Scott Hege has talked with Michael Smith a number of times about the issue. Runyon thinks they did the things that they needed to do. States that he does not think anyone is unaware of what has been going on.

Smith replies that he is unaware. States that he does not think he and Runyon had talked about this for well after a year since Mr. Lease stopped coming. He is wondering if the contractors having issues have been directed to MCCOG to file some kind of complaint so they can address this.

Runyon mentions conversations he has had with contractors; contractors who think Mr. Lease has points that they are very interested in and believe in. States another goal is to try to narrow Lease's questions down to something that is answerable, and go from there.

Smith asks if there are people complaining, are they being directed to MCCOG?

Runyon replies yes; that they have always been directed to MCCOG.

Smith asks for Maui Meyer's input.

Meyer states that he has spoken with Mr. Lease in length. If Lease has true issues to address, the BOD is more than willing to research those issues. Meyer says a fairly large amount of time was spent going to the contractor's board and hearing Lease's complaints, and they were proven not true. Just because Lease raises other issues, does not mean we have to accept them as valid. Meyer adds that Lease has not brought them up to the governing body.

Runyon states that they (Wasco County) are a very open commission; they allow everybody to talk. When matters start taking significant staff time, and is not resolved elsewhere, it is time to do something ourselves. Runyon states that Tyler Stone informed John Arens of his intent, and that he (Runyon) would have reported the same information at the next BOD meeting.

Arens states that he shared his concerns with Stone in regard to the governance issue. The complaint avenue for MCBCS needs to start here at the Board level, or with him (Arens), or with the department.

Runyon states that he has to attend another meeting. Feels he has stated his case, unless there is anything else needing discussed. With no other topics to discuss, Runyon departs meeting.

Smith asks Committee if they have any questions or comments.

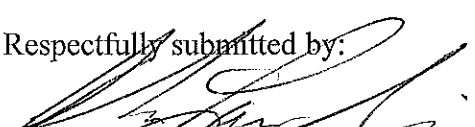
Meyer states that the e-mail to the Executive Committee did specify the topic was for MCBCS discussion; that everybody, including Runyon, was informed of this.

Smith agrees. Discussion comes to a close, pending next BOD meeting.

**V. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Cecilia Lamas-Guiney, Executive Assistant

ATTEST:

  
MCCOG Board Chair