

**LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Lane Council of Governments**  
**LCOG, 859 Willamette Street, Suite 500, Eugene**  
**The meeting was held on site and via teleconference.**

**June 27, 2024**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

**Present**

Bd. Member Sonya Carlson, Chair, Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB)  
Bd. Member Greg James, Vice-Chair, Willamalane Park & Recreation District  
Bd. Member Sherry Duerst-Higgins, Lane Education Service District (ESD)  
Mayor Ed McQuire, City of Dunes City  
Mayor Nancy Bell, City of Coburg  
Mayor Candace Solesbee, City of Cottage Grove  
Mayor Ken Wells, City of Junction City  
Councilor Robbie McCoy, City of Veneta  
Bd. Member Ken Kohl, School District 19

Bd. Member Jeff Gowing, School District 45J3  
Bd. Member Donna Oshel, Siuslaw Public Library District  
Bd. Member Patti Chappel, Emerald People's Utility District (EPUD)  
Bd. Member Keith Stanton, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and Western Lane Fire & EMS Authority  
Bd. Member Curt Kendall, River Road Parks & Recreation District  
Bd. Member Steve Recca, Fern Ridge Library District

**Absent**

Representative Lane County  
Representative City of Creswell  
Representative City of Eugene  
Representative City of Florence  
Representative City of Lowell  
Representative City of Oakridge  
Representative City of Springfield  
Representative City of Westfir  
Representative Heceta Water PUD

Representative Rainbow Water and Fire District  
Representative Lane Community College (LCC)  
Representative School District 40  
Representative School District 4J  
Representative School District 52  
Representative School District 68  
Representative Lane Library District  
Representative Junction City RFPD  
Representative Port of Siuslaw

**OTHERS**

Pete Knox, Lane Transit District (LTD), Non-voting member  
Brenda Moore, LCOG Executive Director  
Josh Burnstein, LCOG Human Resources Manager  
David Joyal, LCOG Senior Financial Analyst  
David Grabicki, Acting Finance Director LCOG  
Josh Kashinsky, LCOG Associate Transportation Manager  
Kate Wilson, LCOG Senior Transportation Planner  
Dan Hurley, Lane County Public Works Director  
Ron Davis, Vice President, EPUD Board of Directors  
Curt Offenbacher, EPUD Board of Directors  
Beth Bridges, Minutes Recorder

## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Sonya Carlson called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **2. Requests for Additions to the Agenda**

The Chair moved Agenda Item 4 to later in the agenda, after the Business Items.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one wished to address the Board.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **5. FISCAL YEAR 2025 (FY25) Budget**

LCOG Executive Director Brenda Moore gave a Powerpoint presentation entitled, *FY25 Proposed Budget*. She explained the Budget Committee and the Executive Committee both recommended adoption of the proposed budget. Ms. Moore reviewed the known factors affecting the budget, e.g., wage and insurance increases, contingency accounts changes, and operational reserves amounts. She also stated there were many unknowns, including unstable economic conditions, workforce challenges, and state and federal funding levels. Ms. Moore noted these were reasons LCOG always processed a revised budget. Ms. Moore summarized the FY25 Proposed Budget (\$85,396,430) was an increase of \$6,668,166 over the FY24 Adopted Budget and \$4,804,545 over the FY24 Revised Budget. She discussed Resources, noting increases in Federal funding for transportation and State increases for Oregon Project Independence Medicaid and smaller decreases in Local revenues (less contracts in Government Services) and Beginning Reserves (fewer staff vacancies). Turning to Requirements, Ms. Moore said the largest factor was personnel services. She reviewed the proposed staff Full Time Equivalent (FTE) breakdown, noting the most FTE added were in the Senior and Disability Services (SDS) division. She also detailed changes in Materials and Supplies and Capital Outlays and discussed Restricted Reserves and the decrease in indirect charges (aka Central Services). Ms. Moore added the FY25 Proposed Budget used the revised Operational Reserve Policy, part of the upcoming Consent Agenda. She asked if Board members had any questions about the proposed budget.

When Ms. Carlson asked for more information regarding auto insurance coverage, Ms. Moore responded all employees were covered as well as LCOG vehicles (e.g., Link Lane buses, Meals on Wheels vehicles). She added they had lower rates due to staff's good driving records and a strict safety committee.

Chair Carlson opened the public hearing on the FY25 Budget at 6:29 p.m. Seeing that no one wished to provide comment, she closed the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Greg James moved Resolution 2024-01: 1. That the LCOG Board of Directors hereby adopts the attached Budget for fiscal year 2024-2025, and 2. That the following amounts are hereby appropriated for the purposes specified for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024: Personal Services \$40,328,366; Materials and Services \$10,025,463; Capital Outlay \$ 237,891; Services by Other Organizations \$ 3,126,719; Debt Service \$ 438,755; Transfers \$ 6,242,462; Reserves \$24,996,774; for a Total \$85,396,430.

Sherry Duerst-Higgins provided the second. The motion passed unanimously, 15:0:0.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **6. Consent Agenda**

#### **a. Minutes of April 25, 2024**

#### **b. Executive Director's Review, Accept**

#### **c. Operational Reserve Policy, Approve**

Jeff Gowing moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Steve Recca provided the second. The motion passed unanimously, 15:0:0.

Mr. James acknowledged the stellar review of the Executive Director.

### **7. LinkLane, Adopt Title VI Plan**

Ms. Kate Wilson gave a Powerpoint presentation entitled *Link Lane*. She gave an overview of its rural transit services across rural Lane County (Eugene—Florence Connector, Florence-Yachats Connector, and Metro Shuttle on-demand pilot program), including routes, stops, fares, schedules, and ridership data. Ms. Wilson explained the importance of securing long-term funding. To be eligible for federal funding, staff needed to demonstrate LinkLane met the Title VI Program requirements. She read the Title VI requirements from the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Ms. Wilson reviewed the components of LinkLane's Title VI Plan. Ms. Moore added stable funding would enable better long-range strategic planning.

Ms. Carlson confirmed the difference in the cost model between the Connector routes and the Metro Shuttle was because the latter was an on-demand program that didn't have a fixed route. She also observed a difference between the Metro Shuttle program and providers such as Lyft or Uber was that Metro Shuttle vehicles had wheelchair lifts to improve accessibility.

Mr. James moved to adopt the LinkLane Title VI Plan. Patti Chappel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 15:0:0.

Ms. Wilson asked those interested in completing the Title VI Minority Representation data collection form to e-mail their responses to her.

### **8. Appoint Senior Services Advisory Committee (SSAC) Member**

Ms. Moore described the SSAC and its membership requirements. She discussed Elene Gleason's background and noted they still need to recruit additional SSAC members.

Ken Kohl moved to appoint Elene Gleason to the Senior Services Advisory Committee. Mr. Recca seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 15:0:0.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **4. Integrated Materials and Energy Recovery Facility (IMERF)**

Mr. Hurley gave a Powerpoint presentation entitled *CleanLane Resource Recovery Facility*. He distributed a handout with the same title. Mr. Hurley noted the project used to be called the Integrated Materials and Energy Recover Facility (IMERF) and recommended Board members watch an explanatory video ([BHS Company Overview: The Power of a Single Provider \(youtube.com\)](#)). He gave an overview of the key features of the state-of-the-art waste processing facility, discussed the provisions in the public private partnership with Bulk Handling Systems (BHS), and explained the reasons the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the project. Mr. Hurley highlighted the additional twenty plus years of capacity gained at the Short Mountain landfill, improved recyclables recovery, reduced

greenhouse gas emissions, production of Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), and economic development implications. He showed where the facility would be located on a County-owned site in Goshen, Oregon, and shared an illustration of the facility's processing equipment. Mr. Hurley explained only commercial garbage haulers had access to the facility. They had expressed displeasure at the anticipated increase in customers' rates, which he deemed exaggerated as the landfill rate was only twenty percent of the overall garbage rate. Mr. Hurley also addressed the reasons they had asked the BCC to approve the project in December 2023, including access to \$34 million in state tax-exempt bonds, a 40% tax incentive credit on energy facilities, and the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) grant programs.

When Mr. Recca asked what the long-term financial impact of the facility was on EPUD, Ms. Chapell responded \$20 million. When Mr. Hurley requested more information on how the estimate was calculated, Ms. Chapell distributed a graph entitled xxxx. Mr. Hurley acknowledged he had seen the graph previously and explained why he had questions for the consultant who put the information together.

Mr. Hurley observed EPUD's equipment that captured the land fill's methane gas needed to be upgraded as there were systems currently available that netted 20% more output. He acknowledged EPUD had recently installed wells at a new cell in the landfill and had seen a spike in gas production but noted over time EPUD's gas collection was not on an upward trend.

When Mr. Kohl asked if the contract included incentives for recyclable waste streams, Mr. Hurley discussed some of the performance criteria in the contract. He also referred to recent state legislation that imposed a surcharge on nonrecyclable packaging as an additional incentive for recycling.

Responding to Mr. Kohl's query if residents would still separate out recyclable from garbage, Mr. Hurley said yes. He noted there was the potential to degrade the recyclables if comingled with garbage.

After Ms. Carlson asked what type of job training was needed to prepare local residents to work at the facility, Mr. Hurley responded they had yet to work with community colleges regarding careers in robotics. He thanked Ms. Carlson for raising the issue.

Ms. Chapell disagreed with Mr. Hurley's assertion that the County and EPUD had worked together. She quoted from a Memo of Understanding (MOU) regarding methane capture. Mr. Hurley responded County staff had been in conversations with EPUD's General Manager, not the EPUD Board, and clarified the MOU was about methane used to produce power not renewable natural gas.

Jeff Gowing asked about education efforts regarding food waste reuse and recycling programs. Mr. Hurley explained they had implemented several programs however many people were still resistant to put food waste in with their yard debris. Hence the opportunity to segregate organic waste from garbage collected, compost it, and use it for renewable natural gas.

Mr. James admired the forward thinking demonstrated by the project. He emphasized the need to reduce all forms of waste going into the landfill and make a positive impact on climate change.

Ms. Chapell gave a Powerpoint presentation entitled: *Short Mountain and the IMERF, EPUD's Perspective*. She discussed how EPUD came to operate a methane power plant at Short Mountain for over thirty years and how the power plant worked. Ms. Chapell explained the power cost more than what they could purchase from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) but less than what power cost on the

open market. The BPA was limiting its power output, making the power from the methane plant more critical to operations. Ms. Chapell detailed EPUD’s primary issues with the IMERF project: the project increased the cost of living for residents, especially EPUD customers; the benefits were misplaced, whereas EPUD lost and a private corporation and a fossil fuel company wins; the project was unnecessary as Lane County’s own Climate Action Plan listed better ways to lower emissions; the process was flawed in many ways; the technology was unproven; and, the County had not been successful in the past with a similar sorting facility or a leachate collection facility. Ms. Chapell concluded her presentation by suggesting the County “take a step back” and work with EPUD and local garbage haulers to use proven waste management practices to better meet shared climate goals.

Curt Offenbacher summarized EPUD’s main concern was securing the power source. BPA was limiting their output. If the County diverted the organic waste, there was less methane gas therefore less power generated. Under the current scenario, EPUD had no motivation to increase their investment at Short Mountain.

Ms. Carlson, referred to her roles as EWEB Commissioner and Bring Recycling Executive Director and shared said she had testified in favor of the project. She highlighted Bulk Handling was financing a lot of the up-front costs. She emphasized it important to pay better attention to the climate crises and described problems inherent with open pit technology.

## **REPORTS**

### **9. Executive Committee Report**

Ms. Moore referenced the Executive Committee report in the agenda packet. There were no questions raised by the Board members.

### **10. Advisory Council Reports**

Ms. Moore referenced the *Advisory Council Reports* in the agenda packet. She highlighted the \$5.33 million federal Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant received to prepare a regional resiliency plan for infrastructure, the upcoming meeting of the State Joint Transportation Committee in Eugene on July 17, 2024, the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) work being undertaken by the Cascade West Economic Development District, and the Community Needs Assessment underway for the Senior and Disability Services Area Plan.

### **11. Roundtable**

Due to time constraints, there was no roundtable conducted.

## **WRAP UP**

Chair Carlson adjourned the June LCOG Board of Directors meeting at 7:57 p.m.