BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
April 29, 2014

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
County of Lake County
State of Oregon

WORK SESSION

The Lake County Board of Commissioners met in Work Session on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. The following members were present: Board Chair Dan Shoun, Vice-Chair Bradley J. Winters and Commissioner Ken Kestner. Also present: Administrative Assistant Denise Thorsted, Lake County Airport Manager Tom Andrews, Facilities and Properties Manager David Berman and Lake County Examiner Member of Press Ryan Bonham. Number of Public present: 5.

Additions: None
Deletions: None

The Work Session was called to order by Chairman Shoun and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

9:00 am – Lake County Resources Initiative Update, Director Jim Walls

Mr. Walls provided information on items accomplished the previous year and items to be tackled during the upcoming year. Previous year’s items included: Innovation and Learning Center, renewable development (solar), work on air quality issue and wood stove program, efforts with proposed biomass plant and forest health efforts.

For the upcoming year, Mr. Wall anticipated work to be done on possible funding for management of the “red and dead” area and education efforts regarding effects to landscapes from climate change versus the effects of unmanaged lands.

Previous year funding had been the “worst funding year to date”, per Mr. Walls. Upcoming year was anticipated to be better. Staffing levels were provided. Commissioner Winters confirmed that the during recent budget meetings held, the Budget Committee approved a contribution of $8,000 for the upcoming budget year. Conversation followed on anticipated efforts by LCRI for the Innovation Center in terms of increased class and funding opportunities and potential economic development opportunities (USDA plant, artisan businesses and alfalfa extract).

Other Business:
FAA Grant Application Request, Action/Consideration:

Airport Manager Tom Andrews confirmed that the Federal Aviation Administration was considering an increase in the amount of available funding for the Airport Improvement Program. The application presented increased the amount requested by Lake County to $350,000 (match of $35,000) for engineering and development for the runway rehab project. Additional funding was anticipated from Connect Oregon V funding.
Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Federal Aviation Administration grant application as presented. Commissioner Kestner second. Motion carried.

*Weed Supervisor Discussion, Possible Action/Consideration:*

The following were present for today’s discussion: Craig Foster, Pete Schrader and John O’Keeffe. Mr. Foster confirmed that the Lake County Weed Management Area was currently in the process of hiring a Coordinator. Information was presented regarding the request to the Board for consideration of this position also filling the Weed Supervisor role with county funding/support of $20,000.

Confirmation was given that each county, by ORS, was required to have a Weed Supervisor. This did not mean this position was required to be a county employee. Per the request presented, this position would be a LCCWMA employee. LCCWMA currently had funding for a two year (seven months per year) position to act as coordinator. Conversation followed on this being a proactive role versus enforcement role. Estimated total cost for the position discussed was $44,000 ($17.00/hour plus OPE).

Anticipated duties included: soliciting and administration of grants to control noxious weeds, coordinate treatments with landowners and cooperating agencies, facilitate educational opportunities specific to weeds and treatments. In addition, this position would be expected to update the county weed list, review/update county ordinances and provide some regulatory authority to urge landowners to work cooperatively with LCCWMA. Conversation followed on enforcement for those landowners not addressing weed issues and possible employment options.

Confirmation was given that interviews were being held later today. Approval by the Board prior to interviewing would allow for better clarification of the position to applicants. Mr. Foster added that in the past this same type of position had not had a specific office but worked from home and utilized personal vehicle with compensation paid. The Board expressed support, asked for Treasurer to join to discuss possible budgeting.

Break: 10:06 am  
Resume: 10:09 am

Treasurer Ann Crumrine joined for assistance in determining potential budget options if approved. Following discussion, Mrs. Crumrine confirmed that she would review the ORS related to industrial development funding and that it would be safe to take action today with determination of funding prior to finalization of the upcoming year’s budget.

Commissioner Winters moved to approve support for the Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator/Weed Supervisor position up to $20,000 as presented contingent upon review of potential budget determination. Commissioner Kestner second.  
Discussion: Confirmation was given that previous discussions had occurred on this role.  
Motion carried.

Break: 10:14 am  
Resume: 10:23 am
Meeting Minutes, Action/Consideration:
   Commissioner Winters moved to approve the April 1, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Kestner second. Motion carried.

   Commissioner Winters moved to approve the April 2, 2014 Regular Session Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Kestner second. Motion carried.

Department Updates:
   No Department updates were provided during today’s Work Session.

Liaison Updates:
Commissioner Kestner—
   - Continuing work on sage grouse and wild horse concerns.
   - Working with Early Learning Council on grant process and possibility of family resource position in Lake County (to be managed through Douglas County and Lake County ESL)
   - Document received titled Waters in the United States was discussed. Issue was that now ditches were included.
   - Continuing efforts for telecommunication in the Paisley area.

Commissioner Winters—
   - Discussed recent acknowledgment by the Association of Oregon Counties of Commissioner Shoun for his work in D.C.
   - Expressed appreciation for Commissioner Kestner’s efforts related to sage grouse and wild horse issues.

Commissioner Shoun—
   - Planned to attend meetings in Klamath Falls next Thursday (RWIB) and Friday (SCOEDD/SOCACT).
   - Expressed appreciation to Commissioner Winters for efforts related to natural gas development and Red Rock Biofuels

There being nothing further to come before the Lake County Board of Commissioners, this meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Thorsted
Administrative Assistant

Board Approval,

Dan Shoun
Chairman

Bradley J. Winters
Vice Chairman

Ken Kestner
Commissioner