

## **METRO COUNCIL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Monday, July 6, 1998

Council Annex

Members Present: Susan McLain (Chair), Ruth McFarland

Members Absent: Rod Monroe

Chair McLain called the meeting to order at 1:36 P.M.

### **1. CONSIDERATION OF THE JUNE 22, 1998, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING**

The minutes stand as read.

### **2. WORK SESSION ON METRO AGENDA FOR 1999 OREGON LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Mike Burton, Executive Officer, said he has identified a few major items for the legislative packet, and he will bring additional administrative items to the Council at a later date. He said he hoped to get a sense from the Councilors as to any items they wished to see included in the legislative package. He said the process used in past legislative sessions worked well, and he recommended using the same process for the next session. He recommended bringing on a lobbyist as soon as possible to help develop the legislative package.

Chair McLain suggested scheduling a time to review the lobbyist candidates either the last week in July or the first week in August. Executive Officer Burton agreed.

Executive Officer Burton said he identified five key issues for the next legislative session: 1) a statewide urban growth fund, 2) a transportation improvement package, 3) salmon funding, 4) payment for elections, and 5) statewide land use planning defense.

Executive Officer Burton said the agency has some money available for infrastructure planning, but it will be insufficient. He recommended the establishment of a statewide urban growth fund as a high priority. He estimated that the fund would need \$200 million, based on preliminary information from local jurisdictions and on the fact that about half of the state's population lives in the Portland metropolitan region.

Chair McLain asked for Executive Officer Burton and the committee to consider if Metro should lobby for a large sum of money for general growth purposes, or if it should focus on particular projects in order to build a foundation, like the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) fund. She said it is important to let the legislators know specifically what their money will buy.

Executive Officer Burton said the most serious problem currently facing the state of Oregon is the ability to manage the increased population over the past few years. He said a major effort needs to be made that the State needs to address this in a broad basis. He agreed with Chair McLain that the fund should be very specific. He said groups such as the Home Builders may be willing to support the proposal if it includes a cap on the system's development charges.

Chair McLain recommended looking for other sources of funding in addition to the State Legislature, such as bond measures and federal funding. She recommended working closely with the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) Finance Subcommittee.

Executive Officer Burton said the League of Cities and the Association of Counties are looking at similar concepts, but local governments are competing against schools for state funding.

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Chair McLain said issues of governance and general concept planning should be addressed before turning to a prioritized list such as schools, parks, and roads.

Executive Officer Burton said legislators in other parts of the state are facing the same problems funding infrastructure in high growth areas, and it should be approached as a statewide issue. Councilor McFarland said it is important to remember that half of the population of Oregon lives in the Portland metro region, however.

Executive Officer Burton said the next major infrastructure issue is the transportation improvement package. He said Metro, with its partners in the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), needs to decide which projects are the highest priority. He said the governor and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) may not float a transportation package at the legislature. He said he assumes the governor would support an increase in gas tax if accompanied by a way to address special needs transportation. He said he will bring a list of identified needs to the Council so that Metro can tell the legislature exactly how much gas tax it needs to cover maintenance issues.

Councilor McFarland said the governor once said not to try piecemeal approaches to solve transportation problems, because he believed he could mount some kind of statewide effort that would benefit everybody. She asked if the governor no longer plans to do so. Executive Officer Burton said the signals he has received indicate that the governor will not mount a personal effort for a gas tax increase.

Chair McLain suggested holding a forum with Metro's local partners before the legislative session begins to discuss growth issues. She said a citizen from the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement (MCCI) told her that Metro does not seem to have a large or proactive presence in Salem.

Executive Officer Burton said the agency needs to collectively decide whether to have a much higher profile as a problem solver in the region, with its local partners. He agreed with Chair McLain's suggestion of a forum. He said it may be helpful to form a smaller group of officials, selected out of the forum, who would be willing to travel to Southern Oregon to talk to elected officials about funding for infrastructure. Chair McLain agreed.

Executive Officer Burton said the next major item is salmon funding. He said the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will come up with its taking rule in February, and prior to that time, it will be looking for a plan and a commitment. He said by January, Metro should have developed a coordinated regional plan for habitat restoration, water quality and fish recovery for the metropolitan area. He said Metro can then present the plan to the legislature, ask for its support, and then go to NMFS in February for approval.

Chair McLain said she would like to see Metro work more closely with the Regional Water Consortium in order to help develop a regional master plan for supply and water conservation. Executive Officer Burton agreed.

Chair McLain asked Executive Officer Burton if he would be interested in continuing this discussion at the next committee meeting in order to begin prioritizing the items in the legislative package.

Executive Officer Burton said the key to the growth infrastructure fund will be to go MPAC and decide how to approach the issue as a regional effort. He said the Council needs to decide how it wishes to approach the transportation package: whether it wants to ask for an increase in the gas tax or registration fee, or if it wishes to follow someone else's lead. He said with regard to the salmon issue, Metro is in the position of developing a package for recovery in conjunction with the region. He said he has asked the region's County Commission Chairs to meet with him to appoint a steering committee for the recovery plan.

Chair McLain asked Executive Officer Burton to consider channeling the work through an existing committee rather than establishing a new committee. Executive Officer Burton said he considered going through other committees, but their work loads and foci are different. He said this will be a short-term task force to develop a plan in response to the federal listing.

Aleta Woodruff, MCCI, asked if it would be helpful to have MCCI members sit on the steering committee for citizen representation. Executive Officer Burton said he and Portland City Commissioner Erik Sten are planning a number of public education forums, using the existing water councils. He said he would appreciate help from MCCI in organizing the local hearings.

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Linda McDonnell, *Daily Journal of Commerce*, asked Executive Officer Burton how much he anticipates receiving from the State for salmon. Executive Officer Burton said he does not know at this point, it will depend on the specifics of the plan.

Chair McLain said her main priorities are governance issues and concept planning, and infrastructure of all kinds.

Executive Officer Burton said Metro needs to decide as an agency its position on annexation. Chair McLain said the Boundary Commission Subcommittee is planning address that issue, and she anticipates a number of legislative issues will come out of the Boundary Subcommittee.

Executive Officer Burton said Transportation Demand Management (TDM) grants have fallen under attack in past legislative sessions, and Metro should examine where there are in the governor's budget and decide how the agency wants to support them. He said a number of local governments will be more willing to tackle governance issues if they have TDM grants to assist them.

Executive Officer Burton said the next item on his main list is paying for elections. He said the past election cost about \$320,000, and the next election in November will probably cost another \$350,000; money which comes directly out of Metro's general fund as a single cost. He said most governments do not pay for their elections as a single cost, and he recommended that Metro request some relief from the State.

Executive Officer Burton said there is a parks measure on the State ballot to shift 15% of lottery revenues into parks, and he believes there is a portion of the money that could go to local governments. He said if Metro is in the queue for the money, it needs to look at the administrative rules that will be formulated out of that constitutional amendment to make sure that regional parks are part of the process.

Executive Officer Burton said he has asked department heads to look for administrative matters that may need to be included in the legislative package.

Executive Officer Burton said he found the committee meeting very helpful, and he hopes there will be more such meetings in the future.

### 3. UPDATE ON BALLOT INITIATIVES FOR NOVEMBER 1998

Executive Officer Burton distributed a packet of information on ballot initiatives for November 1998, a copy of which is included in the meeting record. He reviewed the initiatives filed by Bill Sizemore and Becky Miller, a member of Mr. Sizemore's staff. The initiative is filed for the November 2000 election, and the Oregon Supreme Court should rule on the ballot title and issue it in the near future. He said while the ballot initiative will not come before voters for two years, it brings Metro to the question of the defense of its land use laws in the next legislative session. Executive Officer Burton said he believes the underlying purpose of the initiative is to undermine Oregon's land use system. He said Metro needs to have its ears tuned to what runs may be made at the land use system during the legislative session. He said that while he still believes there are more supporters than opponents to Oregon's land use laws, the opponents are more focused and virulent, and have already begun sending opinion pieces to *The Oregonian* newspaper.

Chair McLain said another topic to address is the Metro Charter review. She said as Metro works to keep a stable foundation of land use, it seems prudent to begin thinking about how the Charter can be refined and improved to better support land use in Oregon.

Councilor McFarland suggested contacting or meeting with candidates for the Oregon Legislature before the election in November to explain Metro's functions and legislative package. Executive Officer Burton agreed, and said it is important to reach agreement within the agency about the legislative package by the end of August, so that one of the first duties of the lobbyist can be to contact candidates. He said it may also be helpful for Councilors and Metro staff to meet with candidates.

Executive Officer Burton said he sent a letter to the Council regarding Charter review. He said if the committee is interested in addressing Charter review, it should consider whether it would be better to have the discussion with the

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existing Councilors or wait until the new Council begins in January. He said he would prefer to work on these issue cooperatively with local governments and citizens, rather than wait until individuals decide to pursue an initiative process.

Chair McLain said she feels it is important have this conversation with experienced Council members. She said she and Councilor McFarland both sat on the Metro Council before the Charter was adopted in 1992, and have experienced a number of different organizational structures during their terms of office. She said the second important issue is the focus of the Charter revision. She said she does not want to restart the Charter committee; instead it should be a review of specific areas that could benefit the agency and the public.

Councilor McFarland said it was clear immediately after the adoption of the Charter in 1992 that the Executive Officer should have been given a vote, as the position is elected region-wide based on the candidate's policy positions. She said one solution to the problem would be to give the Executive Officer a vote; and another solution would be to combine the positions of Executive Officer and Presiding Officer of the Council, and appoint a manager to run the agency. She said all elected positions should have a vote.

Chair McLain said the committee would continue this conversation at the next two meetings. Executive Officer Burton said he would return to the next meeting with more specific data to review with Councilors.

Chair McLain said she plans to take the minutes from the meeting and distribute them to the Councilors, with a memo inviting them to the next meeting. She said she would ask for written response regarding their interests and concerns.

### **4. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS**

Executive Officer Burton said the Oregon Legislature will convene on August 11, 1998, for a special session to address the siting of a prison in Wilsonville. He said if the special session remains focused on the issue of the prison siting, Metro's role is finished; however, all of the bills which were vetoed in the last session could potentially be overridden during the special session. He said Metro should review the veto list for items on which the agency may wish to taken a position. He said he will bring the list to the next meeting.

Chair McLain said the next meeting would be a working lunch at noon in the Council Annex on Monday, July 20, 1998, due to a conflict with the Water Resources Policy Advisory Committee (WRPAC) meeting.

There being no further business before the committee, Chair McLain adjourned the meeting at 2:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Myers  
Council Assistant

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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 6, 1998**

The following have been included as part of the official public record.

**Oral Testifiers** (testimony cards included)

**Work Session on Metro Agenda for 1999 Oregon Legislative Session**

Aleta Woodruff