

RGC MEMBERS

City of Beaverton
Clackamas County
Clackamas County Fire Dist. #1
Clackamas Water District
City of Cornelius
Damascus Water District
City of Durham
City of Fairview
City of Forest Grove
City of Gresham
City of Happy Valley
City of Hillsboro
Interlachen Water
City of Lake Oswego
City of Maywood Park
City of Milwaukie
Mt. Scott Water District
City of North Plains
City of Portland
Oak Lodge Rural Fire District
Oak Lodge Sanitary District
City of Oregon City
Rockwood Water District
City of Sherwood
City of Tigard
Tigard Water District
City of Troutdale
City of Tualatin
Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue
Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation
Tualatin Valley Water District
Unified Sewerage Agency
Washington County
City of West Linn
City of Wilsonville
City of Wood Village

RGC STEERING COMMITTEE

Executive Committee members:

Steve Stolze, Mayor of Tualatin, Chair
Judie Hammerstad, Clackamas County Commissioner
Gussie McRobert, Mayor of Gresham

Steering Committee members:

Gerald Edwards, City of Tigard
Bob Liddell, City of West Linn
Bonnie Hays, Washington County
Rob Mitchell, Tualatin Valley Water District
Tiny Lidstrom, Clackamas County Fire District #1
Bruce Thompson, City of Troutdale
Rick A. Hohnbaum, City of Sherwood
Nancy Thorton, Oak Lodge Fire District
Duane E. Robinson, East Side Water Districts
Sophia Platt, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue
Bill Stallings, Rockwood Water District
Robert Hathaway, Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation
Ed Lindquist, Clackamas County
Don Robertson, City of Wood Village
Richard Kidd, City of Forest Grove
Dan Fowler, City of Oregon City

METRO CHARTER COMMITTEE

Hardy Myers (Chair), appointed by Metro Council
Judy Carnahan, appointed by Metro Council
Rep. Ron Cease, appointed by Metro Executive Rena Cusma
Larry Derr, appointed by Washington County
Jon Egge, appointed by Clackamas County
Charlie Hales, appointed by Metro Council
James W. Matt Hennessee, appointed by Multnomah County
Frank Josselson, appointed by the Cities of Clackamas County
Ned Look, appointed by the Cities of Multnomah County
Rep. John Meek, appointed by the Speaker of the House
Wes Myllenbeck, appointed by Metro Council
Raymond A. Phelps Jr., appointed by Metro Executive Rena Cusma
Senator Bob Shoemaker, appointed by the President of the Senate
Mary Tobias, appointed by the Cities of Washington County
Mimi Urbigkeit, appointed by Metro Council

Regional Governance Committee (RGC)

Update, January, 1992

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ACTIVE IN METRO CHARTER DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Provides Forum for Local Government Cooperation and Involvement

In November, 1990, Oregon voters approved an amendment to the State's constitution which provided for the creation of home rule charters for Metropolitan Service Districts. The 1991 session of the state legislature passed a law which provided for a 16-member Charter Committee to draft a home rule charter for a Metropolitan Service District in the tri-county area (Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties).

The Charter Committee was appointed in January, 1991 and has been working since that time to develop a Charter to present to the voters of this region in November, 1992. The Committee is chaired by Hardy Myers. Mary Tobias is the Vice-Chair. Members were appointed by the METRO Council, METRO Executive Officer, cities and counties, and the state legislature (see page four for a list of members). The Charter will address the functions, structure and financing for a Metropolitan Service District. If the voters do not approve the recommended Charter the current METRO will continue to function under authorities described in Oregon Revised Statutes.

In late summer, 1991, several of the local governments of the region decided to join together to create the Regional Governance Committee (RGC).

At the current time nearly 30 cities, counties and special districts are members of the RGC. Several other local governments, as well as other organizations, have actively participated, but have not yet submitted their financial dues. The RGC members appointed a 16-member Steering Committee and a three-member Executive Committee to oversee the project, and hired a consulting firm to provide staff assistance. A complete list of current members and the Executive and Steering Committee members is included on page four.

The RGC has been very active in the Charter Committee process to date. The Steering Committee and full membership held 7 meetings in 1991. Twelve subcommittees have been formed, including: Land Use, Transportation, Water, Storm and Sanitary Sewer, Police and Sheriff, Fire, Solid Waste, Parks and Recreation, Legal, Government Structure and Finance. These subcommittees, comprised of five to twelve RGC members each, held 22 meetings in 1991.

RGC MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Regional Governance Committee is to establish a partnership between local governments, special districts, METRO, the Charter Committee, citizens and businesses for the purpose of developing a consensus regarding the most effective, reliable and efficient system for delivering governmental services to citizens in the metropolitan region. RGC's mission will end with resolution of the charter issue; providing a forum for long-term intergovernmental cooperation is the purpose of entities such as Forum of Cooperative Urban Services (FOCUS).

RGC GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Regional Governance Committee will adhere to the following general principles in implementing its mission. The RGC will:

- Be pro-active, striving to define a process for determining the future delivery of governmental services in the metropolitan area;
- Be inclusive in its approach, striving to develop a consensus among a broad base of governmental units, private citizens and businesses throughout the metropolitan area;
- Serve an educational function by providing accurate information and raising public awareness on issues of common regional interest; and
- Base its recommendations solely on the public's interest in effective, efficient, reliable government; the best available research and information will be used to build these recommendations.

RGC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR METRO CHARTER

Focus on Process: Partnership

The RGC has submitted a substantial amount of testimony to the Charter Committee. To date RGC has stressed the importance of including a clear decision-making process in the Charter which provides for a full partnership between local governments and the regional government. RGC has supported the use of the following general criteria when making case-by-case decisions about what activities are appropriate for a regional government to conduct:

Decision Criteria

1. Whether performance at the regional level is required to conduct the function at all;
2. Whether performance at the regional level can be documented to be the most effective way to execute a function;
3. Whether performance at the regional level can be documented to result in reductions in the costs of performing a function;
4. Whether performance at the regional level is needed to equitably distribute the costs and/or benefits of a function;
5. Whether performance at the regional level can be responsive to the diversity of the region's population; and
6. Whether performance at the regional level can be provided while maintaining or enhancing the accessibility and accountability of government.

The Charter Committee has organized its work into three areas: functions, structure and finance. Brief highlights of the specific positions which RGC has developed to date in each of these three areas are listed below. In some cases (noted) the position is a recommendation of a subcommittee which has not yet been approved by the full RGC.

FUNCTIONS

- **Land Use:** The regional government should establish goals and objectives, performance standards, and develop functional plans for those land issues determined through a partnership process between regional and local governments to be "matters of metropolitan concern". These issues would include at least the urban growth boundary and urban reserves. **Local governments should retain the flexibility to protect local community identity** by determining how best to meet the regional goals, objectives and performance standards.

- **Transportation:** The Joint Policy Advisory Committee for Transportation (J-PACT), working with the METRO Council, **should continue to establish regional transportation policy.** The role of the Regional Transportation Plan will be even more critical as the new rule for State Land Use Goal 12 (Transportation) is implemented.
- **Water: Municipal water supply and service delivery is fundamentally an issue for local, state and federal governments.** There are benefits from a continuation of the current cooperative water supply planning efforts among local governments in the region and enhanced basin planning at the state level. At the current time there are no benefits to be derived from having the regional government develop and enforce a regional water supply plan, or become involved directly in water service delivery. There may be a useful role of coordination and facilitation in this area for the regional government to play.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

The RGC offers the following recommendations regarding government structure:

- Generally, the Charter should concentrate on establishing a decision-making process for determining what the regional government should do. It is impossible to know at this time what will make sense to deal with regionally over the expected 50 to 100 year life of the charter.
- The decision-making process should require collaboration between the regional government and local governments when making important decisions, while retaining the ultimate ability of the regional government or the voters of the region to make final decisions.
- Decisions about regional planning and service delivery functions should be made on the basis of adopted findings which document the need for and benefits of regional action and clearly specify the roles of the regional government and local governments. A **Regional Policy Advisory Committee (R-PAC) comprised of city, county, special district and citizen representatives should advise the METRO Council** on all important planning issues.

Any decision for the regional government to enter a new planning area would require votes of either:

- **two-thirds of R-PAC** and a majority of the METRO Council; or
- **two-thirds of the METRO Council.**

Any decision for the regional government to enter a new service delivery area would require votes of either:

- **two-thirds of both R-PAC and the METRO Council;** or
- the electors of the district.

General principles for designing the structure of the regional government should include:

- The regional government should operate efficiently;
- The regional government's Councilors should be visible and accountable to the electorate;
- The regional government should not add another layer of government by duplicating services provided by local governments; and
- The regional government should be managed professionally.

The recommended government structure includes a legislative branch (the Metro Council), organized according to one of the following four options:

- Seven full-time paid members by district, select own chair; or
- Seven part-time paid members by district, select own chair; or
- Six to eight volunteer members (per diem reimbursement only) by district, 1 full-time Chair elected at large; or
- Seven to nine volunteer members (per diem reimbursement only) by district, select own chair.

The legislative body should hire a professional manager to oversee the executive functions of the government.

FINANCE

The RGC has tentatively agreed to the following recommendations about appropriate financing for a regional government. The way in which the regional government raises and spends money should adhere to the following general principles:

- Appropriate funding should be **directly related** to the functions the regional government provides.
- The potential funding sources should be **flexible** enough to change over time as functions change.

- **A vote of the people should be required before authorizing taxes** and other discretionary funding sources (excluding user fees).
- Funding for regional functions **should not compete with funding** for basic public services provided at the local level.
- The funding mechanism for functions of the regional government should be as **clear and understandable to the public** as possible and decisions should be made in an open process.
- Decisions about budgets and revenue sources should be made in an **open process** which is easily accessible to the public.
- Some formal **oversight structure which include local governments and citizens** with expertise in financial matters should be required in the budget development process.
- Independent **financial and performance audits** should be conducted.
- In any case in which user fees are collected on behalf of the regional government by local governments the Regional Policy Advisory Committee (RPAC) should provide the oversight function of reviewing and advising on the rates.

Planning and coordination should be funded through:

- Continued use of the **excise tax** on regional government functions (at least on an interim basis);
- **User fees** from a service delivered by the regional government;
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McKeever/Morris, Inc. is providing staff services to RGC through a professional services contract. Mike McKeever is the project manager. Greg Chew is his assistant. For more information about RGC, including copies of the testimony developed by RGC to date, contact McKeever/Morris, Inc. at 228-7352. The address is 722 SW Second Avenue, Suite 400, Portland, Oregon 97204. Telefax is 228-7365.