

MINUTES OF THE TRI-COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Held: January 20, 1977 - 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cease, Chairperson; Kalani, Mays, McGilvra, Montgomery, Nightingale, Opray, Simpson, Sprecher, Stuhr

EXCUSED: Halvorson, Bailey, Bayless, Blunt, Bonyhadi, Brickley, Burgess, Clarno, Herrell, Jaeger, Jordan, Kirkpatrick, Maier, Nees, Nelson, Rieke, Rosenbaum, Russell, Schedeen, Stahl, Stevenson, Telfer, Tippens, Webber, Yost.

STAFF: Rich, Macpherson, Mitchell, Cross

GUEST: Bill Meyer, Representative - Metro Area Perspective

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 and asked for reports from the ongoing committees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Montgomery reported that the Community and Neighborhood Organization Committee is working on a specific statement to be supported by the full Commission. The committee has looked at structures, functions, and options available to citizens interested in forming a neighborhood group and has also considered additional responsibilities for those groups already in operation. The committee is trying not to harness the differences among groups. It has been decided that the new MSC will be able to determine criteria for legitimacy if this is desired.

Nightingale, Chairman - City-County-Special Districts Committee, reported that the committee has heard testimony from representatives from service districts, and elected officials and administrators from cities and counties. Duplication of services by the city and county has emerged as a major concern. The committee has recommended that cities be excused from paying for county services that are used primarily in unincorporated areas and which the cities provide for their own residents. The committee is also looking at an annexation proposal by Don Carlson of the Boundary Commission and the topic of intergovernmental contracts.

Stuhr reported that the Long Range Options Committee has decided to look at the ideal approach but has recognized the difficulties inherent in planning for the future. The committee analyzed two principle options: (1) a Statute Change which would consolidate the three counties and, (2) a constitutional amendment which could consolidate the counties as well as define the relationships between an upper and lower tier. The latter solution would effectuate the Commission's proposals made last October and is the one recommended by the Committee.

The Committee has benefited from an analysis of the existing two-tier relationships in Dade County, Florida; Toronto, Canada; and England. Gus Mattersdorff, a guest speaker at one of the committee meetings, explained governmental organization in London.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Cross reported that the Commission's legislative proposal is now House bill 2070 and has been referred to the House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Glenn Otto, with Vice-Chairman Paul Hanneman. Otto would like to move quickly with the bill and after a meeting of Rich, Cross, and Otto last week it was decided there will be a presentation by the Commission to the House Committee on Friday, January 28, at 1:30 p.m. This presentation will be similar to the meetings with the Interim Committee last fall, during which the basics of the bill and the rationale were presented.

Public meetings have been scheduled in each of the three counties. The first will be held on February 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Portland City Hall, followed by another on February 16, at 7:30 p.m. at Clackamas High School. The public meeting in Washington County is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., February 17, in Beaverton at Portland General Electric's Western Division Building. There will be a brief presentation of the bill, then citizen testimony will be heard. The House Committee will want to hear from non-commission members first. The Commission will be sending out notices about the hearings. If you know of anyone who would be willing to testify in favor of the bill, please notify staff so that we may contact them.

It is expected that there will be many anti-regionalists at these public hearings, so it is critical that we encourage people supportive of our bill to attend.

Montgomery asked about the strategy planned before the public meetings.

Cross replied that the Commission members who are city council representatives have met and are arranging for local presentations of the bill. We have had favorable press coverage despite a few misleading headlines. We would be happy to discuss the bill with any group that would like to have us, so please notify staff if such a possibility exists. It would still be valuable and worthwhile to talk with legislators to express your interest and remind them about the importance of the bill.

We are trying to meet with metropolitan legislators who were not involved with the Interim Committee last fall. We want to be aware of their concerns before it goes to the floor so that we may address them directly.

Montgomery asked how this would affect the rest of the state?

Cross replied that although there may be no immediate impact for the rest of the state, the proposal may have an effect after it goes into operation. The Eugene and Ashland/Medford areas along with several COGS are interested in the bill for this reason.

Cease stated that various groups or individuals may be critical of particular aspects. The real issue is to show support for the concept. There are ten or twelve bills on regional issues this session. The existence and operation of the Commission has generated interest in this issue.

Cross repeated the necessity of generating support from outside of the Commission.

Nightingale asked what the process will be for handling on-the-spot concessions regarding the bill.

Discussion followed on what the Commission's role will be; whether the approval of the full Commission would be asked or not, and whether or not there would be any reason to modify the Commission's position.

Agreed that the Commission would not willingly give up anything.

Agreed that the Executive Committee will be called upon to meet if Commission decisions are necessary. Anyone else who would like to be involved with this process should let staff know and will then be notified if the occasion arises.

Cease introduced Bill Meyer, representative from the Metro Area Perspective, to speak about the possibility of a continuing Tri-County Commission.

Meyer explained that the major problems with such an organization are, (1) the often abstract nature of the organization and, (2) the lack of continuity.

Discussion followed on the possibility of initiating a citizens group in the Tri-County area.

Agreed that Bob Simpson will chair a three person committee with Wanda Mays and Pete Snedecor, and will look into the possibilities of forming a Tri-County citizens organization.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

ELM/bjg