

LONG RANGE OPTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Held: November 24, 1976, Noon, CRAG

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brickley, Chairperson; Schedeen, Vice-Chairperson; Clarno, Jaeger, Kirkpatrick, Lang, Stuhr and Yost

EXCUSED: Jordan, Keller, Roberts, Schumacher, Snedecor,

STAFF: Macpherson, Rich, Mitchell, Stamm

Chairperson Brickley opened the meeting, and Corky Kirkpatrick passed out sample Questionnaires from the Critical Questions Conference for the committee members to fill out after the meeting.

Discussion covered a review of functional assignments made in Phase II, aided by charts, showing upper and lower tiers; lower tier consists of urban community districts, cities and rural community districts. The upper tier would be full metro area, service county (three counties consolidated). The charts gave the following information:

CHART OF FUNCTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS: LONG RANGE

HUMAN SERVICES:

Upper Tier: Comprehensive Human Service Planning -- Funding.

1. Aging services
2. Health services
3. Manpower programs.
4. Mental health and family services.
5. Children and youth services.
6. Individual social services/community-based programs.

Lower Tier:

1. Services delivery

PUBLIC WORKS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

Upper Tier:

1. Provide solid waste disposal.
2. Develop water supply
3. Plan and operate major interceptor sewerage systems, treatment facilities
4. Mass transit, regional roads, marine and aviation.

Lower Tier:

1. Provide solid waste collection.
2. Provide water distribution systems.
3. Plan and operate sewerage collection systems.
4. Arterials, collectors
5. Local streets
6. Roads
7. Traffic control
8. Safety

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Upper Tier:

1. Planning fire protection.
2. Regional communication network and develop education programs.
3. Tri-county police protection delivery system.
4. Jails, work-release prog.
5. Detention and counseling facilities.

Lower Tier:

1. Fire suppression incl. conducting education programs.
2. Law enforcement operations.

LAND USE, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:

Upper Tier:

1. Libraries -- all facets except as noted below.
2. Regional park planning and funding.
3. All major cultural facilities.
4. Land Use -- areas/activities of regional concern.

Lower Tier:

1. Libraries -- acquisition and traditional services, outreach services planning.
2. Neighborhood and community park planning and funding.
3. Golf courses.
4. Land use - adopting and implementing plans.

FINANCE, TAXATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

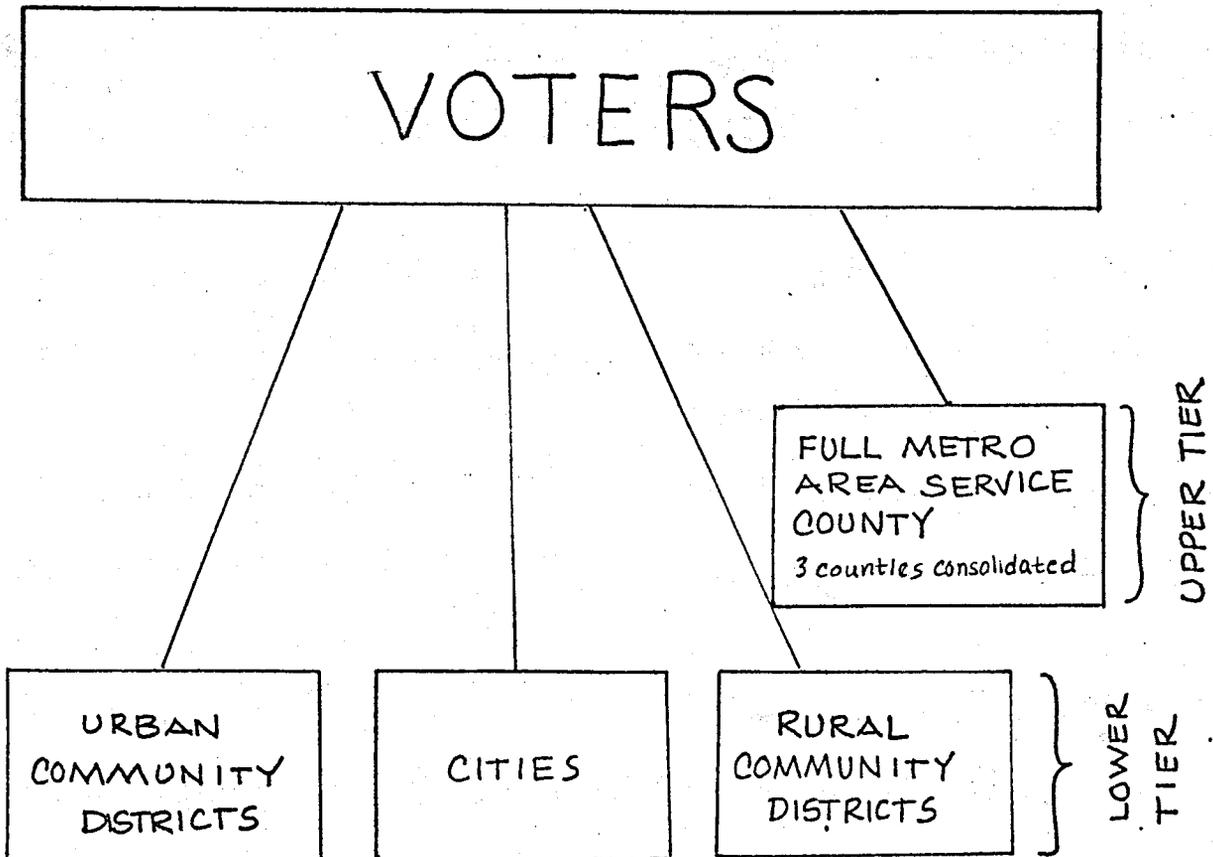
Upper Tier:

1. Property tax collection and assessment.
2. Wide range of funding arrangements including authorization for an income tax.

Lower Tier:

1. Borrow money and manage debt.
2. Register real estate transaction.
3. Ad valorem taxation.

Some of the lower-tier responsibilities could be carried out by the upper tier through intergovernmental agreement.



To establish a two-tier concept, a statute could provide for consolidation of the counties and would allow for the formation of the charter commission. This commission would operate similar to the Multnomah county charter commission and would present a charter to the voters. The statute would spell out what vote would be required to consolidate. A majority vote in each county would probably be needed in order to carry. A second possibility would be a constitutional amendment to provide for a commission to draw up a charter setting up a government having authority of both cities and counties. The charter could spell out the relationships between upper and lower tiers. There would have to be a provision that a majority of the voters could adopt the charter which would override individual unit home rule provisions. The amendment would require a state-wide vote.

Yost recalled that the committees were cautioned to stay away from education, but felt it was difficult because of the financial implications of it. If done objectively at that level, it would be a major task.

There was a general consensus to start at the lower tier.

Linda Macpherson showed the committee a map of developed lands, cities, unincorporated and undeveloped areas, such as cemeteries, etc. Jaeger suggested breaking up Portland to break up their power -- to work out a more equitable choice.

Stuhr said that part of the recommendations were that communities formed at their

own initiative, but what if no corporate community were formed.

Rich said the upper tier would designate the corporate community after some certain date. We need to decide between two and three tiers. The upper tier could be both upper and lower in some areas -- county is both city and county to some people but only a county to people in the city. This creates a problem. Might have lower tier corporate community -- leave to council whether they want a yet lower neighborhood service. Very little information is available on the lower tier structure. The only information available is from outside the U.S. -- London or Toronto.

Regarding the change of boundaries, two of the biggest problems would be indebtedness and accumulation of assets.

One idea was the formation of a tri-county sewer district which would appraise and purchase assets of the three cities, being used as the central sewer system and reduce indebtedness that the city has, etc.

Lang thought the city-county charter proposal solved this problem.

A service district would not necessarily need a city hall or even an office. A lower-tier government could contract for services or perform services themselves.

It was suggested that a series of questions be developed concerning directions for the committee to go.

Clarno suggested the upper tier would be the one making applications to federal government and apportion the funds to the areas actually providing the services.

In Toronto, all indebtedness is handled by the upper tier. Burroughs have to submit requests to the upper tier.

Interest was expressed in seeing CRAG's series of maps and overlays for a discussion tool.

It was decided that Alan Brickley, Linda Macpherson and Kay Rich would meet to further define some questions that the committee will be grappling with.

Meeting was adjourned.