
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
December 8, 2015**

Present

Members: President Allan Pollock, Vice President Julie Brown, Treasurer Doug Pilant (by phone), Cynda Bruce (by phone), Mary Jo Carpenter (by phone), Aaron Deas, Karen Friend (by phone), Jeanine Gordon (by phone), A.J. Jackson, Ernie Palmer (by phone)

Guests: Dinah VanDerHyde (ODOT), Julie Wehling (City of Canby—by phone), Andi Howell (City of Sandy—by phone), Edward McGlone (Lane Transit District), Dale Penn (Salem-Keizer Transit)

Staff: Kelly Ross (Western Advocates), Drew Hagedorn (Tonkon Torp)

Meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by President Allan Pollock.

Agenda

Motion by Pilant, seconded by Brown, to approve the agenda. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes

Motion by Pilant, seconded by Palmer, to approve the November 10th Board meeting minutes. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report

Pilant summarized the report through November 30th and highlighted the observation that we are pretty sure that all conference expenses have been paid and are projecting that total expenses will be \$2-3,000 under what was budgeted; Western Advocates are in the process of working up final invoices to send ODOT for registrations and TAP grant funds (if registrations don't cover all eligible expenses).

Invited Guest: Tom Mills, TriMet's Service Enhancement Program Communications

Deas introduced Tom Mills, who briefed the Board on the approach and methods used by TriMet to develop its Service Enhancement Plans. Process initiated in 2011 and started with an information gathering phase (public outreach and research of existing plans. Refinements were made to the vision based on what was heard from the public.

One key to success was going to events where people were already gathered to talk to them about transit needs rather than holding a special event and trying to get people to come. Lessons learned included:

- Relationship building is very important along with a lot of listening;
- Transit in the suburbs must keep up with increases in poverty;
- Network improvements in high ridership areas can support low ridership areas

Pollock said that Salem-Keizer has also switched to a public outreach model based on going to existing events rather than scheduling a special Salem-Keizer event.

Pollock asked about the use of contracted shuttles and whether it has caused any labor problems. Mills said there has been a grievance filed by the union.

Legislative Report

Hagedorn reported on the process leading up the 2016 legislative session—will see all introduced bills on January 13th, the session start during the second week of February and run for 35 days. The state will be confronting some major budget challenges in the 2017-19 biennium; this will prompt a serious discussion of possible new sources of revenue and will include a transportation funding plan. All other transportation groups will be looking to OTA for leadership on non-roadway funding.

Hagedorn presented a draft plan for OTA Transportation Package Subcommittees—the Data Subcommittee will be chaired by Julie Brown; the Funding Subcommittee will be chaired by Aaron Deas; and the Communications/Grassroots Subcommittee will be chaired by Edward McGlone.

Brown said we need OTA members to get involved; Pollock will write a memo to go out to the full membership urging their involvement.

Hagedorn said that a bill will be introduced by Rep. Post at the request of the Salem Chamber of Commerce to create a dedicated state funding source for transit. Brown said the bill concept would fund all 5307 and 5311 properties with a match to their federal funds. Deas said a best case scenario for 2016 is that Post's bill gets a hearing, we do very well in presenting the case for need and possible funding, and this provides a good platform for the 2017 session.

Pollock announced formal creation of the three subcommittees and appointment of the chairs—next May is the target for completion.

ODOT/PTD Report

VanDerHyde recommended that everyone go to the APTA website to check on details of the new FAST Act—it will be increasing Buy American percentages and restoring discretionary funding for big bus purchases.

Robin Bjurstrom will be retiring as of January 1st.

Still much confusion and questions about changes to the Motor Carrier Act.

Executive Director's Report

Facilitator for Strategic Planning Session – Ross advised the Board that Pollock, Brown, and he had a conference call with a possible strategic planning facilitator, but that her proposed work and fee seemed more than was appropriate for OTA's needs; he will continue to research other possible options.

2017 Conference Locations – Ross said that Cassie Mance from ODOT and he were beginning to investigate possible venues for the 2017 Oregon Public Transportation Conference and asked the Board to let them know if they have suggestions. One option that will be researched and visited will be the Pendleton Conference Center.

Agency Updates

- Pilant (Tillamook Transportation District) – Trying to stay dry and implementing flood routes for the second time; the weather had impacted ridership, which is now flat rather than increasing.
- Bruce (Lincoln County Transportation) – Just had kickoff meeting for their transportation development plan; looking for a new video system; ridership flat.
- Carpenter (Community Connection of Baker County) – Had first regional meeting for their human resources coordination plan; has a new assistant manager.
- Friend (Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council) – Will be switching over to SEON video system; still working through the Bend route expansion and had first major snowfall of the year.
- Gordon (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) – Have been going through a big transition of hiring in-house drivers; Title 6 plan was approved by their Board of Directors
- Palmer (Basin Transit Service) – Welcomed A.J. Jackson to the Board.
- Jackson (Lane Transit District) – Thanked everyone for the warm welcome; West Eugene EMX construction is continuing through the heavy rains; looking at service enhancements; coordinating procurement of five electric buses.
- Howell (City of Sandy) – Spending time looking at ridership patters and hoping to the ridership decline is coming to an end; hoping to add one deviated route in South Sandy.
- Brown (Rogue Valley Transit District) – Trying to prepare for possible property tax levy vote in May; need to find additional funding by 2018-19 or will need to cut services by 50%; ridership is down.

Meeting adjourned at 11:49