
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
February 17, 2015**

Present

Members: President Allan Pollock, Vice President Julie Brown, Treasurer Doug Pilant (by phone), Cynda Bruce, Mary Jo Carpenter (by phone), Aaron Deas, Karen Friend (by phone), Hal Gard, Jeanine Gordon (by phone), Ron Kilcoyne, Ernie Palmer (by phone), Doug Pilant (by phone), Lisa Scherf (by phone), Julie Stephens (by phone), Elaine Wells, Janet Wright

Guests: Stephan Lashbrook (SMART), Dinah VanDerHyde (ODOT)

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

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by President Allan Pollock.

Agenda

Motion by Kilcoyne, seconded by Pilant, to approve the agenda as distributed. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes

Motion by Gard, seconded by Brown, to approve the January 13, 2015, Board meeting minutes with two corrections (addition of Eileen Collins-Mastle to guests and change of "Ride Care" to "Ride Connection" discussion of brokerages). *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pilant summarized the financial statements; there were no questions or comments from the Board.

APTA Stand Up for Transportation

Kilcoyne reported on APTA's push for special events on April 9th, and that there is concern about Sen. Wyden's focus on Buy America Bonds, which won't give any help to transit providers. Pollock discussed a possible proclamation from the Governor, but there is uncertainty due to Kitzhaber's resignation.

Transit Day at the Capitol

Ross summarized a January 26th planning meeting where he, Hagedorn, Deas, Dallum, and Edward McGlone discussed improvements to the traditional Transit Day schedule. Main addition for this year will be an afternoon briefing session by ODOT on issues of current interest.

Brokerages

Brown said that there is very little new to report except a couple CCOs will be going forward with brokerage contracts on July 1st.

Executive Director's Report

Website: Ross reported that the revamped website is fully functional now, with new content being added on a daily basis. Ross urged Board members to review the website and provide feedback to him.

Legislative Report

Hagedorn said that this was perhaps the most unique beginning of a legislative session in Oregon history with the Governor's resignation and all the news stories leading up to it—the situation at the capitol was very chaotic. Brian Shipley has been named Chief of Staff for new Governor Kate Brown—both Hagedorn and Dallum have worked extensively with him. Deas said that legislation continues to move despite the drama surrounding the Governor's office.

Hagedorn highlighted handouts showing OTA's legislative priorities and the OTF's four-pager that are being used with legislators. The clean fuels bill, which is scheduled for a vote by the Senate later in the day, has been a distraction for discussion of a transportation funding package. Sen. Beyer has agreed to schedule an informational hearing on Transit Day at 1:00.

Deas said he has been working on getting stories regarding use of additional senior and disabled funding—need to identify populations served and the impacts of additional funds.

Gard asked if part of the message is being able to leverage additional federal dollars with increased state funding. Brown said increased state funding allows more use of local resources. Deas said the message needs to be refined into more on-the-ground stories connected to faces. Gard said that LTD had done a very good job in 2013 in developing a briefing paper and suggested revisiting the format that was used.

Hagedorn said “how we've enhanced services” is the story that needs to be told.

Deas and Hagedorn reported that the OTF has been invited to brief the House Transportation & Economic Development Committee on Friday, Feb. 20th; OTA representatives will address the committee on Wednesday, February 25th.

Regarding the bill on student bus passes, Deas reported on discussions he has had with Rep. Tobias Read regarding amendments to the bill, which would include funding coming from the State School Fund. Brown asked if rural agencies have been approached by the Oregon Environmental Council seeking support for the bill—Friend said she had received a call. Problem with funding from the State School Fund is that it would only reimburse 75% of transportation expenses and doesn't cover expenses associated with students living within 1.5 miles of a school.

VanDerHyde asked about support for private and charter school students. McGlone and Kilcoyne said they think it would be inappropriate for state financial support to be directed to private schools.

Pilant asked about the status of the motor carrier bill. Hagedorn said he is working with Sen. Beyer to have a bill introduced; he will then work with Sen. Johnson to reconcile the OTA bill with hers.

Friend asked whether OTA is still supportive of the ORS 190 bill for Central Oregon—consensus of the Board is that OTA still supports.

ODOT/PTD Report

Gard said that VanDerHyde has developed a report on STF grants and will it to Ross for distribution to the Board. He said that funding for rail is very uncertain at this point.

VanDerHyde asked whether it would be good for ODOT to send out an online survey to get anecdotal stories about providers' use of additional STF funds. Consensus of the Board was that it would be better to come from OTA.

Agency Updates

- Wright (Columbia County Rider) – Working on an initiative to increase the county Natural Resources Depletion fee by \$.35 that is charged on aggregate; will be on the May ballot and would provide additional funding for roads and Columbia County Rider. Also working on an intercity application for Portland to Astoria to the coast.
- Brown (Rogue Valley Transit District) – Getting ready for service reductions on March 23rd; working on rebranding; probably won't be going out for another ballot measure until 2016.
- Deas (TriMet) – Trains and streetcars went across the new bridge and there were no problems; the bridge is significantly under budget and they are waiting for FTA to authorize other use of the funds that were previously dedicated.
- Wells (Ride Connection) – Problems continue with Ride to Care and it has been a significant distraction; dialysis project going very well and 40 quilts were donated for dialysis riders.
- Kilcoyne (Lane Transit District) – Moving forward with the West Eugene EMX project—now cutting down trees and relocating utilities; studying the possibility of a service increase in the fall.
- Bruce (Lincoln County Transportation) – Doing grants and working with LTD on the possibility of linking the two counties.
- Pilant (Tillamook County Transportation District) – Trying to figure out how to deal with decreased and delayed funds from the State Timber Tax.
- Carpenter (Community Connection of Baker County) – Working on a veterans transportation project; doing extensive fixes on their database system.
- Gordon (CTUIR) – Business as usual—just reached one-year mark with their new vehicles and facility; hoping to apply for a grant for GPS systems to track vehicles; passed the 100,000 mark for ridership.
- Scherf (City of Corvallis) – Getting ready to publish an RFP for maintenance and operations services; ridership is rather flat.
- Stephens (City of Sandy) – Celebrated their 15th anniversary in January; grants for service to Mt. Hood extended for two additional years.
- Pollock (Salem-Keizer Transit) – Working on “Moving Forward” service plan.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52am.

