
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
March 8, 2016**

Present

Members: Vice President Lisa Scherf, Treasurer Doug Pilant Cynda Bruce, Mary Jo Carpenter, Kim Curley, Aaron Deas (by phone), Karen Friend, Hal Gard, Jeanine Gordon (by phone), Andi Howell, Stephan Lashbrook, Ernie Palmer, Kimberly Stanchfield, Elaine Wells

Guests: Edward McGlone (Lane Transit District), Dale Penn (Salem-Keizer Transit), Cassie Mance (ODOT-PT), Julie Wehling Julie Wehling (City of Canby)

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

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Vice President Lisa Scherf.

Agenda

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

Minutes

Motion by Lashbrook, seconded by Pilant, to approve the February 9th Board meeting minutes. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report

Pilant summarized the report through February 29th, highlighting the fact that invoices for all scholarships, registrations, and TAP grant amounts had been sent to ODOT-PT and payments expected during March.

2016 Oregon Public Transportation Conference

Ross summarized the situation where CTAA's national conference will be in Portland in May for the first time in twenty years, prompting numerous requests to ODOT for scholarships to attend. This resulted in an inquiry from ODOT as to whether OTA might be interested in foregoing this year's Public Transportation Conference and devote the training funds that would normally be used to devoting them instead to maximizing the number of people who can attend the CTAA conference.

Carpenter reported on the discussion that occurred at Monday's PTAC meeting, with the consensus of those present that it would be more beneficial to forego the conference and use available training funds for scholarships to attend the CTAA conference.

Curley said that the Association for Commuter Transportation will also be holding its national conference in Portland and hoped that there might also be scholarships available to attend it.

Palmer said he thinks that the Oregon Public Transportation Conference has more immediate benefits and value to his system, and he would oppose cancelling it this year.

He raised another concern about not having an opportunity to provide information to members about OTA's legislative agenda. Ross responded that this could be addressed by having regional meetings throughout the state in the fall to provide legislative briefings. Gard said that ODOT would provide information and resources for regional meetings on actionable initiatives.

Well said that after a great deal of thought, she supports sending as many people as possible to the CTAA conference.

Stanchfield said there will be more vendors at the CTAA conference than most people have ever seen, and that vendors may be hesitant to come to Oregon twice. She also said that she would be willing to ask vendors who normally attend the OPTC to help fund an Oregon-only reception during one of the evenings of the conference.

Lashbrook said that two of his staff who have been to both the OPTC and national conferences recommend taking advantage of the CTAA conference being in Oregon.

Motion by Wells, seconded by Pilant, to cancel the 2016 Oregon Public Transportation Conference and apply scholarship funds to people attending the CTAA conference as funds are available. Motion passed 11-1, Gard abstaining.

ODOT/PTD Report

Gard reported that Marcia Hoskins is the new Transit Manager and appointments have been completed (Aaron Deas and Phil Warnock) for the Modal Committee for ranking ConnectOregon applications. There will be a kick-off meeting on March 16th for the Public Advisory Committee for the Oregon Transportation Plan.

Legislative Report

Hagedorn reported that the legislative session adjourned on March 3rd, and he distributed a memo giving a session overview. Today is the deadline for candidates to file for office and he is expecting significant attrition among current members of the Legislature.

Hagedorn said that the initiative process is having a big impact on the legislative process, and will prompt discussions of how short sessions are managed in the future.

Penn summarized SB1507, which would have changed the valuation of Business Energy Tax Credits so they could be sold at current value—he will be working during the interim on this issue.

Hagedorn said that he and Ross will be meeting with the three Legislative Subcommittee Chairs on Thursday to jumpstart work and preparation for the 2017 session.

Additional Business

Ross reported that Julie Brown had requested that OTA submit a Voter Pamphlet argument in support of RVTD's May ballot measure to increase its tax levy—the cost is \$400.

Motion by Lashbrook, seconded by Wells, to approve submitting a Voter Pamphlet argument in support of the RVTB ballot measure and paying the \$400 fee. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Carpenter reported on the “Survey of State Public Transportation Funding” document that has been recently released, and recommended it to everyone. McGlone cautioned that readers of the document should be careful with the data as the report lumps all funding (capital improvements and operations) together and can sometimes be misleading.

The Board discussed whether to hold the July 12th Board meeting in Pendleton in conjunction with the PTAC meeting.

Motion by Stanchfield, seconded by Carpenter, to hold the July 12th Board meeting in Pendleton. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Agency Updates

- Pilant (Tillamook Transportation District) – Have hired an HR Specialist; in the process of budget development; ridership has been flat so far this year; working on a management plan for the NW Connector and there is a workshop on Friday; almost done with Nwta review of the grant agreement.
- Bruce (Lincoln County Transportation) – Were down two dispatchers, but now have positions filled; ridership is down slightly, matching changes in fuel costs.
- Wells (Ride Connection) – The Benton County Dial-a-Ride will receive a Star Award at the CTAA national conference (for volunteer transportation); the president and CEO of Toyota North America will be visiting Ride Connection to learn more about its volunteer driver programs. They have finished Ride Connection’s adaptive strategies process and now will be coordinating action steps.
- Curley (ToGo) – ToGo’s statewide and board meetings will be on April 28-29, and the Safe Routes to School Conference will be on June 20-21 (OTC Chair Bainey will be a speaker).
- Stanchfield (Creative Bus Sales) – Very busy right now with numerous RFPs; middle of the model year change and deadlines are approaching for orders.
- Jackson (Lane Transit District) – West EMX is scheduled to be open in September of 2017; still studying multiple corridors with the City of Eugene for prioritization; working with City of Springfield on another BRT line. They are experiencing a doubling of trips on their CCO service and are studying how to handle the additional costs—hoping to come to some type of agreement based on per ride cost.
- Friend (Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council) – Their medical rides are also way up, and they are having their first quarterly meeting tomorrow to discuss the situation. The state has canceled the training contract with brokerages; in process of a coordinated HR plan update; have brought in a contractor to assist with a community connector project; struggling with developing a deviated route system for the Warm Springs area and have hired a consultant to help.
- Palmer (Basin Transit Service) – Just received two new buses that were approved through ConnectOregon 5 and are waiting for five more. Just beginning labor

negotiations; enjoyed the Governor's Visioning workshop.

- Carpenter (Community Connection of Baker County) – The first van pool in Eastern Oregon has started; in the process of redoing their paratransit plan.
- Howell (City of Sandy) – Put out a couple RFQs and are updating their website.
- Lashbrook (SMART/City of Wilsonville) – No report.
- Scherf (City of Corvallis) – Have had a funding arrangement for a number of years with the OSU students for their Night Owl service, but the students are now discussing pulling the funding because an alternate Safe Ride service has grown so much and has hurt Night Owl ridership—they have a year to figure things out.
- Gordon (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) – They are getting ready to do a quarterly bus schedule update—the meetings with drivers on this have been very helpful; expecting two new buses and two new vans; will be doing a GPS pilot project.

There being to further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:57am