

Governance Steering Committee Association of Oregon Counties

September 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Members: Present: Washington County Chair Andy Duyck, Columbia County Commissioner Earl Fisher, Gilliam County Judge Pat Shaw (phone), Linn County Administrator Ralph Wyatt (NACA-Administrators- Phone), Polk County Commissioner Craig Pope, Tillamook County Commissioner Mark Labhart, Marion County Treasurer Laurie Steele, Linn County Assessor Mark Noakes, Lincoln County Clerk Dana Jenkins (Phone).

Guests: Deputy Secretary of State Barry Pack, John Phillips (Department of Revenue), Alex Cuyler (Lane County), Jim McCauley (Washington County), Troy Rayburn (Clackamas County), House and Senate General Government Committee Administrator Jan Nordlund

AOC Staff: Mike Eliason, Paul Snider, Mike McArthur, Eric Schmidt

Co-Chair Duyck convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Deputy Secretary of State Update

Barry Pack gave a summary of issues the Secretary of State's office is working on that are relevant to counties. He discussed HB 2244, which passed during the 2011 regular session and updates the definition of "public record." He spent the bulk of his allotted time discussing the Oregon Records Management System project. Three or four counties have already signed up with another ten expressing interest. There was a request from committee members to see a copy of the IGA boilerplate agreement between the state and local governments. Other issues covered by Mr. Pack included Precinct Committee Person elections, the Oregon Central Business Registry, Email Ballot returns for military and overseas voters, and voter-accessibility issues.

Comcast Case- Department of Revenue

John Phillips from DOR gave a report on the status of the Comcast case. The Tax Court opinion came out in August and stated that Comcast could not be centrally assessed by DOR. This has the potential to cost local governments millions in lost property taxes as well as accumulated interest. Mr. Phillips reported that DOR, and the Department of Justice felt the opinion written by the Tax Court judge reached some questionable conclusions and DOR is seriously considering appealing the decision. Mr. Phillips also noted that the state would appreciate a recommendation from AOC on whether counties would prefer to see an appeal, and also whether the counties would participate as amicus curiae if such an appeal occurred. Paul Snider

of AOC responded that AOC would discuss this with the County Counsel legislative committee later in the week. AOC did file an amicus brief in the Tax Court in support of the DOR's position.

Employment Relations Board (ERB) budget

Mike Eliason updated the committee on the status of the ERB workgroup. State general fund was only provided for one year of the two year budget cycle and a workgroup is currently tasked with finding a long-term solution to the budget. The state continues to push for an assessment on local governments to fund work done by ERB that relates to local governments. The workgroup is made up of equal members from labor and management. John Lattimer is the county representative on the workgroup. Mike Eliason was the county representative during the legislative session and reported that counties, along with other local governments, were only willing to accept an assessment if a) organized labor also contributed and b) there were documentable improvements to the ERB process. The workgroup continues, with a resolution necessary by the February 2012 session.

Affiliate Updates

Dana Jenkins gave the report for the clerks. He discussed the clerks' support for the PCP bill and hoped progress would be made during the interim. He noted the clerk's just completed their annual conference last month in Coos County.

Ralph Wyatt reported that administrators met last month at the AOC Summer Conference in Silverton. Most of the meeting consisted of a legislative report from various AOC staff.

Mark Noakes gave the report for both the Assessors and the Tax Collectors. The Assessors continue to discuss the Comcast case fallout

Laurie Steele reported the Treasurers were holding their annual conference next week in Eugene and otherwise had nothing to report.

Co-Chair Fisher adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.