

**Multnomah and Washington County Regional Investment Board (RIB)
Meeting Summary, September 15, 2003
Portland State University, Urban Center, Room 710, Portland**

Judson Randall convened the meeting at 12 pm.

The following RIB members attended: Bud Caverly, Bertha Ferran, Paul Ip, Roy Jay, Doug Marshall, Jack Orchard, Judson Randall, Maria Rojo de Steffey, Janet Young.

Not attending: Betty Atteberry, Edwin Golobay, Bob Terry.

Project Updates

Michael Ogan, Portland Development Commission staff and fiscal agent for the Board, presented a summary of 01-03 project activities to date. Three items contained in that report were specifically brought to the Board's attention: 1) a request from Gresham to change the scope of work on the Rockwood Urban Renewal Design Plan, 2) the delayed receipt of an intergovernmental agreement from Clackamas County establishing the multi-regional advanced telecommunications and transportation corridor assessment project, 3) a request from the Banks business training projects to provide a substitute for one of the courses they were offering. He explained that the Board would be able to hear directly from representatives of Gresham before acting on the first item. On the second item delays were attributed to legal processes in Clackamas County, not substantive lack of action by contractors on the project. On the third item, the original course was no longer available and would be replaced with one previously offered. In a motion by Roy Jay, seconded by Bertha Ferran, the Board unanimously approved the request from Banks.

Deborah Meihoff and Rebecca Ocken, planners with the City of Gresham, elaborated on changing conditions on the ground since the Board approved their original request. The closure of the Rockwood Fred Meyers presents the city with an opportunity, with additional work with Oregon Solutions and owners of the newly vacated store site, allowing the city to lay the groundwork for more intensive redevelopment within the Rockwood Town Center, the core area of the original proposal. Irregardless of the results of the upcoming vote on urban renewal for the district, the project will be supported through a state Transportation-Growth Management Grant and is a candidate for a Metro grant in a town center assessment. In a motion by Roy Jay, seconded by Bertha Ferran, the Board unanimously approved the request from Gresham.

State Legislative Update

Bev Thacker from the Oregon Department of Economic and Community Development presented the Board with the major changes to the program by the state legislature. Board priorities must include job creation and leveraging funds. Although not required, the department is encouraging Board's to focus on these two factors, particularly short-term job creation as the program's future is at risk in the next legislative session. The funding for this region was reduced to \$695,000, which the department recommends be used to create/retain one job per \$3-5,000. This is the range of other programs within the department. The legislature may require monetary sanctions in future biennium for Boards that fail to meet these quotas. She also noted that new workforce monies were coming to the region from the Governor's office to an ad hoc workforce response team. These may be used in conjunction with the Board's funding providing an opportunity for leverage.

Board members discussed various perspectives on the challenge of meeting the short-term goals of the program, especially in light of limited funding. This discussion identified several problems: 1) the lack of a fiscal/administrative agent for the 03-05 biennium, 2) jeopardy for the funds with the possible referral of a measure repealing the tax increases that balanced the 03-05 budget, 3) how to prioritize in light of the

program's narrower focus. The Board directed a letter be sent from Jud Randall to the County Commission Chairs requesting a meeting with the commissions to help address these issues.

Public Comment

Gale Castillo, Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber, noted several major projects with construction components such as the South Waterfront Urban Renewal Area that might present opportunities in areas of training and contracting to leverage the Board's limited funding.

Joan Pasco, East County One Stop, suggested revolving loan funds as one mechanism to meet the new program requirements.

Harold Williams, CH2A and Associates, thanked the Board for past support of his organization and noted recent achievements of some of his students. He cited minority businesses development as an opportunity for the Board's limited funds to have a significant impact.

Chairman Randall closed the meeting at 1:45 pm.