

Preface

- My part of the State of the County address is to Take a Look Back at 2010 and highlight some of the great work and key issues that we spent our time, energy, and resources on last year. Looking Back also means taking a minute to acknowledge the two commissioners who left office at the end of 2010 to retire to the peacefulness of private life.
- I want to acknowledge Commissioner Bill Fleenor and his extraordinary efforts to serve his constituents. In his 48 months in office, Commissioner Fleenor hosted 196 town hall meetings and gatherings he called “Community Conversations.” **One hundred and ninety six gatherings in four years.** That averages to one public gathering a week for every single week in office; this is a record that will probably stand for all time.
- Bill Fleenor was so committed to constituent service that, in addition to holding the record for public gatherings, he also paid for a constituent office in Florence and a constituent aide staffer, Dianne Burch, (thank you, Dianne) mostly out of his own pocket. Commissioner Fleenor convinced me in my first months in office that our constituents deserve such great service. I thank him for his efforts in staying connected to the people of his district. He set that that bar high. Thank you, Bill.
- I also want to acknowledge Commissioner Dwyer, one of my mentors, whose entire working life was committed to public service; Lane County was one benefactor of his work. Commissioner Dwyer started out as a Lane County employee by championing the working people and looking out for Mom and Pop.
- He then served with great distinction in both bodies of the Oregon legislature, before returning home, full circle, to the Lane County Board of Commissioners. Bill Dwyer had a knack for homing in on the truth and essence of complicated issues and did it with humor and intelligence. The “Bard of the Board” would delight and sometimes exasperate us by reciting one of his poems or by calling someone out on their absurd behavior. The asteroid Commissioner Dwyer consistently called for did not arrive during his tenure here, allowing us to be the beneficiaries of all his gifts. Thank you, Bill.
- One thing we can all agree on, regardless of political values or viewpoints - is that without the running of the Bills, both Dwyer and Fleenor, these halls will be much, much less exciting in the year to come.

Now on to the State of the County – Looking Back to 2010

- I asked for information from Lane County departments in order to highlight some of the hard work that staff, volunteers, and elected officials accomplished within Lane County in 2010. You won't be surprised to learn that I had more than 24 pages of accomplishment to choose from, which corresponds to about a 40-minute of speech.
- Don't worry – I have a fraction of that time this morning. Unfortunately, I couldn't do justice to it all so I urge folks to go onto our Lane County website and view each department's details of their work of the past and present as well as plans for the future. It is impressive.

Economic Stability

- As we take a look back to 2010, the first and top issue on the minds of the people is the economy. Here are some ways we addressed the issue of economic stability and sustainability within county government and in the county as a whole:

First, the Budget:

- The Budget Committee members again balanced the budget by making sure we lived within our means and raised no new taxes. In 2010, the Budget Committee made some modest match money available to help organizations that serve children and families as well as to add deputies for rural patrol.
- Almost as soon as the 2011 budget was passed, the Budget Committee and staff were back in meetings to prepare for the fiscal scenarios to come, as the last of our federal Secure Rural Schools funds decline. We had more than 40 hours of extra meetings this year as we grappled with options and solutions for the cuts we will be facing in 2011.
- Despite the challenges of monitoring a budget with an ever-decreasing income; Lane County budget staff managed our budget as well as it can be done. This is evidenced by Lane County's high bond rating, budget awards for being “outstanding”, and a high performance rating from the audit conducted by Moss Adams. Congratulations to our budget staff on the recognition of their work.

In addition to living within our means and keeping our own financial house clean, Lane County worked to support the re-localizing of our economy and local businesses:

- We provided match funding to Next-Step Recycling, Ninkasi Brewing, and Arcimoto to help them leverage investments in local job growth, for facility expansion, and to help launch a stage 4 electric vehicle prototype. This will move Arcimoto closer towards production – and the hiring of workers at prevailing wages.

- We advocated for a revitalized agricultural sector, supporting the need to grow, process, distribute, and consume food locally in an integrated system.
- One specific method of support was to provide matching funds to Camas Country Mill to help build a new grain and bean milling facility near Junction City. We did this because we understood that a 1% increase in local food production/consumption equates to an \$11.7M positive impact for Lane County’s economy. Currently, 90% of the money spent on food in Lane County goes out of our local economy.
- The Community Health Centers of Lane County (CHC) is a network of community clinics. In 2010, the CHC became the recipient of a \$4.92 million dollar ARRA Facility Investment Program (FIP) Grant. These funds will cover 60 percent of costs to renovate the new RiverStone Clinic in Springfield, which will add needed jobs in our community and increase the CHC’s ability to provide health care services to Lane County residents.
 - From an economic standpoint, in 2010 the project brought in family-wage jobs, including approximately 30 positions for construction and remodel. Another seven full time positions will be created at the RiverStone Clinic in the first year and an additional 13 full-time positions will be created in the second year of operation.

Services to Women, Children & Families, and Veterans

- Our smallest department as far as the budget goes, is one of the largest in terms of heart. The Lane County Department of Children and Families (DCF) protects, supports, and nurtures the health and safety of children and families by connecting, energizing, and mobilizing the community. They are another great example of a public-private partnership that works well.
- Our largest public-private partnership for providing services to families, children, women and veterans in need of basic services and support occurs through the Human Services Commission under the umbrella of Lane County Health and Human Services.
- The HSC allocates funds to non-profit service providers, maintains some programs in-house, and monitors the use of funds allocated by Lane County and the cities of Eugene and Springfield. This partnership provides our community’s organized safety net to ensure that our people don’t starve, die from lack of shelter, have a place to go for urgent medical and dental needs, and provide safety and support for victims of violence against women.
- As Lane County’s elected representative to the HSC, I was able to join our partners in 2010 to address as best we could the sharply rising numbers of people in dire need in our community, even with a cut of about 20% in the resources available.
- The HSC created a new funding process to ensure maximum efficiency of each and every dollar, and to encourage innovative approaches to our ongoing needs. We funded 37 out of 66 proposed service elements, all or in part, with one million less dollars than was available last year.

Housing and Community Services Agency

- Many people in Lane County are unaware that the Board of Commissioners oversees the Housing And Community Services Agency (HACSA), the organization responsible for implementing federal housing programs that ensure that our most vulnerable people have a long-term roof over their heads.
- We spent much time this year developing a HACSA 5-year strategic plan, with clear goals, objectives, and performance measures in order to ensure that Lane County housing services are delivered in a way that is culturally competent and meets the needs of an increasingly aging population. We baby boomers are going to be putting a strain on the system for decades to come – we want to be ready.

Public Safety

- While it is good news that the crime rates are down in Lane County during the last 18 months, Lane County government always plays an essential role in providing public safety to our community. We played this essential role in 2010. Public safety means ensuring detox beds are available, maintaining our sheriff's office and jail capacity as best we can within our inadequate budget, providing prosecution services to hold people accountable, supporting victim services for children, youth and adults impacted by crime, providing probation services to monitor people upon release, and continuing to fund prevention programs that work to decrease crime from happening in the first place.
- In partnership with HACSA, Lane County and others were successful in the planning, building and opening of the new SPONSORS complex. SPONSORS works to support mostly men, and a few women, each year as they transition back into the community after serving time in prison. We know that one of the most effective ways to stop crime and its impact on our people and systems is to prevent people with past criminal convictions from committing new crimes. This takes resources.

Transportation

- The Board made a decision that saved Lane County \$1Million dollars on safety improvements for the City of Coburg west of I-5, while protecting the beautiful Coburg Hills from sprawl spreading up its flanks.
- Lane County advocated using transportation dollars for improved transit service and for safer alternatives for bikes when traveling on busy arterials.
- We spent much time this year in establishing the Lane County Area Commission on Transportation (ACT), ensuring designated seats for environmental, land use,

pedestrian/bike, trucking, and rail representatives. After 10 months of work with our cities and other vital stakeholders, the ACT charter proposal from the Board of Commissioners was approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission last fall. The ACT now begins its hard work.

Public Health

- Lane County knows that public health translates into a community’s health. Some highlights from our Public Health Department this year include:
- Opening our new facility on Charnelton which will see an increase in services to more than 20,000 vulnerable Lane County residents, especially children, the elderly and veterans. Services at the 7th and Charnelton location include:
 - Veteran Services
 - The Charnelton Community Health Clinic
 - Substance Abuse Prevention, Gambling Prevention, and Suicide Prevention
 - Methadone Treatment Program
 - Offender Accountability programs
 - Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program
 - Communicable Disease Program
 - Family Mediation
 - Vital Records
 - Environmental Health
 - All of these services take place in one accessible and smoke-free environment. Congratulations to Health and Human Services for finalizing this 5-year project.
- Lane County Public Health spent much time in 2010 focusing on immunizing our communities against H1N1. This was a tremendous effort and its success hinged on the partnerships formed by Public Health with local health care providers, hospitals, pharmacies, volunteer nurses and many others. This small team deserves a lot of credit for their efforts to keep all of us healthy against the new virus. Congratulations to you all for a job well done.

Animal Services

- Lane County Animal Services (LCAS) handed out its 200th voucher during 2010 to pay for the spaying and neutering of dogs identified as “bully breeds”. LCAS estimates that this year’s program prevented the birth of more than 2,000 dogs of the breeds that are most likely to end up homeless and abandoned, and are most challenging to adopt.

Youth Services

- The Department of Youth Services is dedicated to helping local youth who have been in trouble with the law live productively in our communities. Youth Services made the necessary plans this year to implement a Disproportionate Minority Contact Assessment and Analysis Project, which will use a holistic, data-driven approach to assess where the system has disproportionate contact with local minority youth.

We took on many issues relating to Community Livability in 2010. People choose to move here, and we choose to live, work, raise families and retire here because of the livability of Lane County. Our government has a role in protecting that livability. Here are just a few highlights from our hundreds of efforts in 2010:

Livability

- We took on the tough, tough issues of what to do with the Fairgrounds and the Ice Rink last year. Two community meetings were held to discuss the future of the Fairgrounds and Events Center and to provide an opportunity for community members to learn more about the 55-acre complex that is its home. We had a fiscally successful Fair in 2010 and started the movement to make the expensive ice-rink self-supporting.
- We, meaning Commissioner Pete Sorenson, Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy and I, invited the community to learn more about food security issues in Lane County in a series of three town hall meetings that focused on:
 - Health outcomes and impacts of diet related illnesses;
 - Creating a resilient, food secure community in the aftermath of a natural disaster;
 - Rebuilding the local food system to address regional food security;
 - Identifying what local elected officials can do to aid in the process; and
 - Informing the public on local programs and projects addressing food security in Lane County.
- We expanded the Master Recyclers program to continue to support the mantra of Renew, Reuse, and Recycle in Lane County.

Public Law, Public Policy

- We also made the decision to revitalize our Lane County Commission for the Advancement of Human Rights (CAHR).
- As a Board of Commissioners we worked with war veterans in the LGBTQ community to pass a Lane County Resolution in support of the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and sent it to Congress in support of the vote to repeal.
- We approved free passes in Lane County parks for disabled Veterans.

Closing

- You can also see that these successes largely depended on the public-private collaborations and partnerships between Lane County and the people of the county, its non-profit and service organizations, other governmental jurisdictions, our neighborhoods, groups, and individuals volunteering their time.
- Before I turn the microphone over to Commissioner Faye Stewart who will be addressing Looking Ahead, Lane County, I want to acknowledge incoming County Commissioners Sid Leiken from Springfield and Jay Bozievich from West Lane. I extend my congratulations to them on entering their new term in office. (Pause, clap). On a personal note, this means I am no longer the Rookie commissioner around here, I admit to being happy about that.
- On behalf of the Lane County Board of Commissioners, we give our thanks and appreciation to the staff, volunteers, and partners who in 2010 did their part to keep our communities, and therefore our county, strong. Thank you.

Commissioner Stewart...