



## CURRY COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Commissioner's Hearing Room, County Annex, 94235 Moore St., Gold Beach, OR 97444

Cy Vandermeer  
Chair

Christine Nichols  
Vice Chair

M. John Spicer  
Secretary

Dan Brattain  
Business Owner

Jeff Davis  
School Superintendent

Deborah Krambeal  
Insurance Agent

Gary Milliman  
City Manager

Rory Smith  
CPA

Christopher Wallace  
Police Chief

David Smith  
City Councilor

Russell Merkley  
At-Large

Les Cohen  
South County Rep.

John Hewitt  
North County Rep.

TV Skinner  
Central County Rep.

Thomas Brand  
At-Large

John Bishop  
Sheriff/LEBRC Liaison

Everett Dial  
District Attorney

Kenneth Dukek  
Juvenile Director

1. **Introductions/Opening:** Meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Cy Vandermeer. Members present: Cy Vandermeer, Chris Nichols, Russell Merkley, Les Cohen, David Smith, Gary Milliman, Jeff Davis, Chris Wallace, Debbie Krambeal, Tom Brand, John Hewitt, TV Skinner, Rory Smith. Others present: Les Stiles and Rod Brown of Advanced Strategies Group, Ken Dukek, Everett Dial, John Bishop, Bill Waddle and George Rhodes.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes for 2/4/09 meeting were reviewed and, upon motion made by Chris Nichols, seconded by Les Cohen and all in favor, minutes were approved as written.

3. **Approval of Bylaws, Name Change, Appointment** – It was announced that the Board of Commissioners had approved the Bylaws as revised and the name change of the Committee. Also, Russell Merkley's appointment as a member of the Committee had also been approved.

#### 4. Old Business:

A. **Website Development** – Ken Dukek explained that the Committee needed to decide what it wanted on the website. A suggestion was made that the Bylaws and minutes be posted to begin with and the Committee would continue to determine what else needed to be put onto the website.

B. **Sheriff's Report** – Sheriff John passed around a document entitled "Scope of Work" for the Committee to review while Advanced Strategies Group made its presentation. Otherwise, Sheriff deferred the time he would have used to make a report to next time so that presentation from Advanced Strategies Group could begin.

#### C. Project Report and Alternatives Letter of 1/15/09 – by Gary Milliman.

Gary stated that this letter was to encourage thinking, to promote some "outside the box" thought processes. Key part of the activity is to identify what the Committee wants the level of law enforcement in Curry County to look like, determine the cost of building up to that level and decide how best to fund that level.

D. **District Attorney – Tour & Presentation.** This tour and presentation was put off until March 4, 2009.

#### 5. New Business

**Advanced Strategies Group Presentation.** The presentation was given by Les Stiles and Rod Brown with open discussion and Q&A with attendees of the meeting throughout the presentation.

Bios of Les Stiles and Rod Brown: Rod Brown has a Bachelors and a Masters in criminal justice. Experience as a police chief, 911 director, undersheriff. 30+ years experience in the field. Les Stiles has a Bachelors in English and a Masters in Public Administration; has 30+ years in law enforcement; was the former Sheriff for Deschutes County; began accreditation process for law enforcement agencies in Oregon and was a member of the standards committee; and, spent six years developing, planning and forming two independent tax districts in Deschutes County.

Tax District(s): Must be formed because timber revenue is going away and will not be replaced. Tax districts can only be formed in even-numbered years of general election. Law enforcement special district is allowed under ORS 451.010. ORS 451.435 states that district formation is to be initiated, conducted and completed as provided for under Chapter 198, Special Districts. This is legal source for Committee's purpose. Stick with forming only one tax district. Advanced Strategies Group will do the data acquisition, data mining

and analysis to come up with tax rate needed to fund law enforcement in Curry County at level proposed in "Scope of Work" prepared by Sheriff Bishop. Will suggest a tax rate that will fund law enforcement as envisioned and provide incremental drop-backs down to lowest rate acceptable.

Consolidation: A wonderful, ground-breaking idea. Makes fiscal sense, reduces expenses and costs, ton of organizational benefits. Requires extensive amount of pre-planning work and community networking and communication. Must define boundaries, deal with governance issue. Resolutions supporting consolidation/regionalization are needed from Port Orford, Brookings and Gold Beach by the end of March 2009 in order to go forward with consolidation and/or regionalization in 2010. That's nearly impossible to accomplish for this project.

Strategic Planning Process: Involves all levels of the organization. Keep 20-year horizon in mind. County population forecasts are key. Find and hire an IT firm and/or individual to analyze data. Include not only law enforcement entities but also District Attorney, Juvenile Department, probation/parole and 911 to free up more discretionary dollars in general fund.

Written Legal Opinion: Get legal opinion in writing so as to develop appropriate measure and avoid challenges in court. Make sure you can give cities a "rebate" since you have to tax everyone in the district at the same rate.

Selling Tax District to Municipalities and Public: The county cannot proceed without the formal approval of all cities in the affected boundaries. Resolution of support is needed from Port Orford, Gold Beach and Brookings. If you are shooting for putting a measure on the May 2010 ballot, your filing deadline is mid-March 2010. Resolutions should be obtained by December 2009. With one tax district assessing one rate to both county and cities, consider a "rebate" to the cities in that they are already funding their law enforcement to a certain extent and, therefore, will not need as much service as the county residents. Shoot for the May 2010 ballot so that if it fails, you can try to get something on the November 2010 ballot as the next window is 2012 and that is too late as the timber revenue runs out December 31, 2011. Levy failed in Brookings because the decision to put it on the ballot took too long. Public must be educated extensively in order to pass measure. That takes time as it requires door-to-door effort. Levy isn't wanted as it's renewable, only 5 years maximum. Permanent tax district is goal. Port Orford's police levy could be for 3 years so that only one year overlaps with the tax district measure if it passes. Discuss writing in ability to lower levy if tax district passes. Stress to the public what comes with passing the measure and what goes away if the measure doesn't pass.

Retention of Advanced Strategies Group: Total cost is \$100,000. One-third required at signing. Next third is due July and the last third is due when end product (report) is delivered. Commissioners have already set some money aside for retention of a consultant.

Following the presentation, Q&A and open discussion, Gary Milliman moved that the "Scope of Work" proposal submitted by Sheriff Bishop be accepted with the one tax district idea in mind but not consolidation and that Advanced Strategies Group be hired. The motion was seconded and all were in favor. The motion passed.

**6. Good of the Order**

**7. Build Agenda for Next Meeting/Set Meeting Date/Time** – Next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2009, at 3:00 p.m.

**8. Adjourn Meeting at 2:50 p.m.**