



Meeting of the Board of Directors

Friday, February 8, 2008

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Downtown Club

Fresno, California

Meeting Minutes

Present: James Aleru, Lee Andersen, Alan Autry, William Ing (Representing Secretary Kim Belshé), Frank Bigelow, Brian McGowan (Representing Secretary Bonner), Secretary Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary Mike Chrisman, Chair Connie Conway, DeeDee D'Adamo, Barbara Goodwin, Dr. Frank Gornick, Coke Hallowell, Corwin Harper, Barry Hibbard, Farrell Jackson, George Deese (Representing Secretary A.G. Kawamura), Kirk Lindsey, Regina Brown Wilson and Camille Maben (Representing Secretary Long), Luisa Medina, Mike Navarro, Leroy Ornellas, Pete Parra, Gary Podesto, Jeff Rowe, Lorraine Salazar, Paul Saldana, Vanessa Wiseman (Representing Gov.

Schwarzenegger's office), Stanley Simpson, Carolina Simunovic (Blueprint Liaison), Gene Voiland, Ray Watson, Pete Weber

Legislators: Assemblyman Juan Arambula

Staff: David Hosley, Ashley Swearengin, Carol Whiteside

I. Convene Meeting

Chair Conway called to order at 10:05 a.m. the meeting of the Board of Directors of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership).

II. Introductory Remarks

Chair Conway presented Carol Whiteside with a token of appreciation to commemorate her many years of service to the San Joaquin Valley as the president of the Great Valley Center and welcomed incoming president, David Hosley to the Partnership. Chair Conway announced that the Governor recently appointed Lee Andersen as a "regional consortium" board member representing the San Joaquin Valley County Superintendents of Schools Consortium. Corwin Harper was also recently appointed by the Governor as a "regional consortium" board member representing the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California. Chair Conway welcomed the new board members to the meeting and thanked them for their involvement in the Partnership.

Members of the public introduced themselves followed by the introduction of the board members.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Swearengin suggested amending the minutes to correctly reflect the name of Marvin Dean. Mr. Saldana moved to approve the November 9, 2007, minutes as amended.

Ms. Medina seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

Marvin Dean thanked Chair Conway for speaking at the Kern County Minority Contractor Association Regional Conference in Bakersfield on January 10 and 11 and provided the board with an update on the conference. Mr. Dean requested that the Partnership continue to broadcast information as plans are made for the next conference in early 2009.

V. Priority Work Group Updates

Air Quality: Mr. Weber reviewed Proposition 1B, an infrastructure bond including \$1 billion for air quality mitigation. Major progress was realized when the San Joaquin Valley was identified as one of the regions identified for funding. Additionally, truck modernization was originally excluded in the guidelines and is now recognized as the single biggest impact for cleaning the air. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has produced guidelines that identify the Central Valley receiving 25% of the funding. Work is under way to reevaluate the allocation; it is believed that the Central Valley should receive its fair share equaling 37-42%. Mr. Weber requested that letters of support be sent to CARB to this effect.

Mr. Weber indicated that although significant progress is being made, the board can not lose sight of the fact that \$3 billion is needed to adequately address air quality issues.

A recent, well attended short sea shipping conference resulted in agreement to conduct a comprehensive feasibility analysis. The Air Quality District committed \$250,000 toward the \$1.5-2 million analysis.

Transportation: Mr. Bigelow stated that the Transportation and Advanced Communication Service Work Groups convened on January 17 to address the joint goal of installing conduit during road construction.

Ms. Goodwin discussed the issue of Highway 99 receiving interstate designation. The cost of a study to address the designation process is estimated to cost \$500,000. Some Council of Governments (COGs) have expressed concern over the substantial expense to improve the highway to meet interstate regulations, without adding lanes. Ms. Goodwin stated that there is an assumed economic development benefit resulting from the designation. Caltrans and the Council of Governments (COGs) have discussed a preliminary economic benefits assessment. The assessment would cost \$50,000. This study will produce a document offering fact based recommendations to move forward on the interstate designation issue. Mr. Lindsay suggested that the Partnership, supported by the COGs, request Caltrans to pay \$25,000, half of the cost of the economic study, and include language requesting additional funds for the route concept program next year.

Ms. Hollowell reviewed the proposed resolution in support of conduit construction policies and broadband access in the San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Bigelow moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Hollowell seconded the motion. Mr. Lindsey asked if Caltrans could accommodate the requests in the resolution, and if so, would it slow them down. Malcolm Dougherty, Caltrans, stated that there is no indication this request would slow them down and that Caltrans is fully supportive, however, the process still needs to be defined. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Lindsey provided an update on transportation as it relates to High Speed Rail (HSR). Recently a study was approved to move forward on determining the location of a stop in the Tulare/Visalia/Hanford/Kingsburg area. In addition, Mr. Lindsey reported that by taking no action, the High Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) agreed to move forward with the Pacheco Pass alignment at its last meeting. Mr. Lindsey reminded the board of the Partnership's support for the Altamont Pass Corridor and commented that the Valley provided a unified position to the Authority and asked the Authority to include Partnership representation in the Altamont committee. An environmental review is currently under way and the decision is scheduled to be final in June 2008. Mr. Lindsey suggested that this contentious decision has resulted in a need to reevaluate and attempt to reach common ground before the route selection is finalized.

Mr. Weber stated that the San Joaquin Valley spoke with one voice and submitted a Partnership letter, as well as providing testimony. Specifically, the Partnership presented the HSRA with three concerns. The recommendation from HSRA was non responsive to those concerns. Ms. Goodwin commented that the San Joaquin Valley also partnered with Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Sacramento Area COG who are also supportive of the Altamont Pass Corridor. Carrie Pourvahidi, HSRA, stated that they are currently moving forward without the Partnership and meetings are under way involving a smaller group of those directly impacted by the Altamont Pass Corridor. Mr. Weber inquired why the Partnership was being excluded by the HSRA in this process. Ms. Pourvahidi indicated that the decision at the HSRA board level to include or exclude the Partnership from the process was postponed. Mr. Lindsey recalled that the item was not postponed by the Authority. Rather, the request to include the Partnership in the Altamont Pass Committee was denied. Mr. Weber restated that the Authority has not been responsive to the requests of the Partnership or the San Joaquin Valley.

Ms. Wiseman offered to provide more information on legislation that would allow the State to enter into public/private partnerships. Mr. Lindsey commented that legislation currently exists allowing the HSRA the authority to create those partnerships.

Water Quality, Supply and Reliability: Mr. Watson defined the issues related to developing Integrated Regional Water Map Plans (IRWMP) for the future growth of the San Joaquin Valley and the State. Addressing the Delta is critical to successful planning. The Water Work Group is committed to having unanimous support of the final version of the bond language being drafted. Mr. Watson reviewed the resolution in support of engaging Briscoe, Ivester and Baxel LLP to provide legal services. Mr. Weber moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Podesto seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Kathy Wood, California Water Institute, convened the water advisory group on February 7, focusing on guiding the development for the framework of the San Joaquin Valley's plan. There have been several applications for water shed grants and work to fill every water shed with a coordinator. The framework is expected to be presented to the Partnership Board at the December 2008 meeting.

Mario Santoyo, Friant Water Authority updated the board on the recent water forum, which focused on water education.

Mr. Watson and Mr. Ornellas agreed that more progress has been made recently than has been made in the last 25 years. Secretary Chrisman commented that the efforts of the Partnership are critical to the work of the State. A high level vision for the Delta report was released and is available on the State's Delta Vision Web site. This report will result in direct recommendations being presented to the Governor. Secretary Chrisman indicated that we are at a historic juncture in water. The system that was built for 18 million now supports 38 million, and the Delta is in major stress.

Jim Tischer acknowledged DeeDee D'Adamo and her efforts to support the regional water plan on behalf of Representative Cardoza.

VI. Follow-Up Items from Previous Board Meeting

Land Use, Agriculture and Housing: Rollie Smith, Housing and Urban Development, presented the San Joaquin Valley Affordable Housing Trust (Trust) for approval by the Partnership. Mr. Smith indicated that Prop 1C funds would need to be set aside for a period of time. This would allow for local jurisdictions to develop mechanisms for receiving the funds. Mr. Weber moved to approve of the Trust. Ms. Goodwin seconded the motion. Mr. Smith indicated that experienced specialists such as law enforcement would be considered for board seats at Mr. Simpson's request. Dr. Andersen suggested that facilities for child care be considered as an incentive. Mr. Smith stated that the Trust would have an impact in the general plan updates. Mr. Harper suggested that the aging of the population be considered as a factor.

Ms. Medina urged that the board consider a strategy regarding receiving the San Joaquin Valley's fair share of Prop 1C. Katie Stevens will determine the status and process for accessing Prop 1C funds.

Mr. Navarro recommended that a walking community be part of the design component. The motion was approved unanimously.

Lunch Recess

Mike Genest, Director of Finance, State of California, presented the Governor's budget reform, proposing to eliminate projected deficits in the future.

VI. Follow-Up Items from Previous Board Meeting (Continued)

Health and Human Services: Mr. Navarro thanked Assemblymember Arambula for effectively distributing the Partnership's recommendations on health care reform. Laurie Primavera, Central Valley Health Policy Institute (CVHPI), reported that in spite of the reform not passing their health directors are pursuing additional strategies such as children's health care incentives. Dr. Capitman, CVHPI recently drafted a proposal that is being vetted through the work group. Ms. Primavera stated that a frustration being experienced is that it is difficult for the average citizen to weigh in on the discussion which is a necessity to truly speak with one voice. A report is anticipated at the next quarterly board meeting.

Mr. Navarro suggested that another attempt to join the conveners is appropriate.

Mr. Harper indicated that the Hospital Council agrees with many of the recommendations but is at the same juncture, there is not sufficient funding. He

suggested that joining similar items would be most impactful and perhaps a conveners meeting is the appropriate group to solve the problem in a different style.

Ms. Simunovic asked about the San Joaquin Valley's health care funding levels relative to the rest of the state. Ms. Primavera indicated that there are inequities; however, there is not a mechanism in place that specifically carves out the San Joaquin Valley so there is no quantifiable information on this topic. Mr. Navarro added that having a diverse population spread over such a large geographic area also has an impact. Mr. Ing stated that the Governor and the Administration recognize the severity of health care issues and remain committed to health care reform. The State has been working with the Partnership Work Group's such as the Social Welfare Evaluation Research and Training Center on these matters.

Blueprint Update: This update was postponed until the next quarterly board meeting.

VII. In Depth Work Group Reports

K-12 Education: Dr. Andersen introduced a panel of presenters to provide an in depth report to the board. They included: Jill Tafoya (Fresno County Office of Education), Dr. Sally Frazier (Madera County Superintendent), Larry Powell (Fresno County Superintendent) and Dr. Marcy Masumoto (Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute). Ms. Tafoya presented an overview of the English Learners Academy, its participants, content and bottlenecks. Dr. Frazier discussed the Regional System of District and School Support. Dr. Frazier briefly reviewed the state and county reform system and the academic performance index. Dr. Masumoto reviewed the development of a college-going culture in the San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Powell provided a context for the discussion on education issues in the San Joaquin Valley. He indicated that the region has more students than Los Angeles and is very challenged with the current state of finances. He indicated that 41% of the state's budget is education, but education has suffered 62% of the cuts. Mr. Powell would like to see that gap addressed. Mr. Powell continued to discuss the racial gap and the impact of baby boomers leaving the education field. Furthermore, he indicated that the federal and state requirements, which overlap, conflict with one another and that legislative action is needed to correct the issue. Categorical programs are restricting educators from being effective and focusing on the number one priority, which is teaching children. Mr. Powell insists that flexibility is necessary for success. Mr. Powell reviewed the financial burden with the example that for every \$100 received last year, the schools will receive \$93-\$94 next year. Mr. Powell stated that the San Joaquin Valley receives \$500 less per child than other areas of California, yet we are held to the exact same performance standards.

Mayor Autry expressed frustration about focusing on the financial problems of education. He believes that the system itself is broken and requested feedback on how that was being addressed by the K-12 Work Group. Mayor Autry addressed the panel and thanked them for the presentation and their commitment to quality education. He asked about the bigger issue of accountability and thoughts on the Governor's K-12 commission recommendations on alternative accountability models.

Dr. Andersen stated that the San Joaquin Valley's educational performance is improving at a faster rate than the state's improvements. Dr. Frazier referred the board back to the

slides she presented on the data systems that are in place to make sure educational progress is tracked.

Mr. Lindsey asked about the mechanisms in place to provide accountability of leaders in school systems. Mr. Powell indicated that there are seven sanctions that are imposed on schools that do not meet the requirements. He indicated that at the county level, there is more flexibility because the county superintendents have authority while school district supervisors need political approval to make changes and have to report to several people. Mr. Powell emphasized that the Governor's commission recommends that county superintendents have more influence over local districts to help improve school performance.

Mayor Autry again expressed his frustration that so many good people are giving their hearts and souls to a broken system.

Ms. Medina restated there are two main issues impacting public education: accountability and categorical programs. She asked how the Partnership could elevate these issues and weigh in on the proposed changes that are needed to correct these issues. Ms. Medina suggested evaluating and taking a position on the Governor's recommendations, which will soon be published.

Mr. Weber asked the K-12 Work Group to bring bold ideas to the board and asked that at a future meeting, the agenda be structured to allow for discussion of those bold ideas.

Mr. Lindsey stated that he has heard the same conversation for 30 years. Schools seem unable to change and always need more money to perform. Mr. Lindsey recommended that to be successful, private businesses need to be involved in the process.

Dr. Andersen agreed with Mr. Lindsey's point and provided examples of the school-business partnerships that already exist in the region. Mr. Powell agreed that more private sector involvement is needed and asked for input from the board on how to accomplish that.

Higher Education and Workforce Development: Secretary Bradshaw reminded the board that the end goal for the Higher Education and Workforce Development Work Group is to have children obtain education or training after high school and find secure jobs. A part of that equation is predicting where the jobs are going to be. She pointed out that the Partnership has been effective in increasing allocations from the discretionary money processed by the Labor and Workforce Agency.

Mr. Rowe reviewed the goals and objectives of the work group and indicated that many of the objectives have been met. A grant for \$1 million was received from the EDD. He indicated that 49% of the jobs in California don't require a college education, but do require more education or training than is being provided in high school. Mr. Rowe explained the Career Pathway programs and a workforce development survey compiling demand jobs now as well as in the future. The survey is being conducted throughout the region.

Dr. Carole Goldsmith, West Hills Community College District, reviewed the Fresno County study on skill sets needed for jobs. Community colleges are responding to the

data provided by the Fresno County Workforce Investment Board and has worked on aligning existing classes to meet those needs. Training is being tailored specifically towards industry. Mr. Rowe requested that all employers on the board complete the survey.

Mr. Rowe discussed the work ready certificate program which each county can access through "Work Keys." This program has resulted in companies with a 50% turnover rate reducing their rate to 20% in Stanislaus County. The Work Group will be seeking funds through grants to expand this service.

Secretary Bradshaw commented that the San Joaquin Valley WIBs are further along than other WIBs in the state in their use of real-time data from employers on high demand occupations. She asked that the Higher Education and Workforce Development Work Group align with the K-12 Work Group to develop a pilot project. Mr. Rowe cited a program in Stanislaus County in the advanced manufacturing industry similar to the pilot project Secretary Bradshaw suggested.

Dr. Gornick stated that the next logical conversation would be between the workforce investment boards and the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium.

Mr. Harper suggested that the employer survey should be put on Partnership letterhead and circulated again in order to get more input. He complimented the Stanislaus Alliance, which is a combined economic development/workforce development agency in Stanislaus County. He affirmed that the Partnership needs to pull together K-12 Education, Higher Education/Workforce Development and the private sector to find solutions.

Mr. Lindsey commented that there have been significant changes at the state level related to workforce investment boards.

Secretary Bradshaw encouraged the Partnership to not wait for the state to make changes but to move forward with programs and recommendations that work for the region as soon as possible.

Ms. Swearingin recommended that the board conduct a special board meeting to allow time for thorough discussion on K-12 Education and Higher Education/Workforce Development issues. The Secretariat office will coordinate the meeting before the next regularly scheduled May board meeting.

UC Merced Medical School: This in depth report was postponed until the May 16 board meeting. Dee Dee D'Adamo asked that the Partnership Executive Committee work on pursuing bond funds for the UC Merced Medical School. Mr. Weber agreed that would be an appropriate role for the Partnership to play and indicated that Mayor Autry and Chancellor Kang have also been working together on a strategy for securing funds for the medical school.

VIII. Report from the Secretariat

Katie Stevens, Secretariat representative, provided an update on the status of AB-27, a two year bill designed to extend the Partnership through the completion of the action plan. Although AB-27 received bipartisan support in the policy committee, it was placed

in suspense and is now considered a “dead” bill. It is anticipated that a new bill will be drafted by November 22, 2008 in regards to the sustainability of the Partnership.

Ms. Swearingin confirmed that her office will work with the Partnership board to schedule a special session on K-12 Education and Higher Education/Workforce Development. She recommended that the board also spend time discussing the sustainability of the Partnership and its funding at this special session.

IX. Other

Mr. Lindsey challenged the Partnership board to find opportunities for San Joaquin Valley representatives to be appointed to State board seats. Ms. D’Adamo suggested that a mechanism be developed to track appointments through the Governor’s office.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting of the Partnership is scheduled for May 16, 2008.

X. Adjournment

Chair Conway provided closing remarks and at 3:40 p.m. adjourned the meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.