

## Policy Committee Meeting

December 2, 2016

1:30 – 3:30 PM

Port of Portland HQ [Chinook Room]

7200 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR, 97218



# RDPO

Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization

Unified. Prepared. Resilient.

### Policy Committee (PC) Members Present [Quorum, 9 of 14]:

1. Steve Novick, Acting Chair; Commissioner, City of Portland
2. Lacey Beaty, Councilor, City of Beaverton
3. Kirk French, Councilor, City of Gresham, on behalf of Councilor Karylinn Echols
4. Vince Granato, Chief Operating, Port of Portland
5. Kathryn Harrington, Councilor, Metro
6. Jeanne Stewart, Councilor, Clark County
7. Bill Turlay, Councilor, City of Vancouver
8. Dick Schouten, Commissioner, Washington County
9. Loretta Smith, Commissioner, Multnomah County

### Steering Committee Members Present:

1. Nancy Bush, Chair and Clackamas County Representative
2. Mike Mumaw, Vice Chair and Emergency Management Representative
3. Carmen Merlo, City of Portland Representative
4. Scott Johnson, Clark County Representative
5. Scott Porter, Washington County Representative
6. Chris Voss, Multnomah County Representative
7. Ned Walls, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office; Law Enforcement Representative on behalf of Jason Gates

### RDPO Staff and Guests:

1. Denise Barrett, RDPO Manager
2. Adrienne Schmidt, RDPO Project Assistant
3. Andy Cotugno, Metro Policy Advisor
4. Reed Wagner, Executive Director, Multnomah County Drainage District
5. Meeseon Kwan, Policy Analyst for Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith

### 1. Welcomes and Introductions – Steve Novick, Acting Chair

- a. Vice Chair Novick welcomed the group and asked for self-introductions. Commissioner Novick acted as Chair in the absence of Tony Hyde for this meeting.

### 2. Administrative Matters – Vice Chair Novick

- a. On behalf of the RDPO, Denise Barrett honored Portland Commissioner, Steve Novick with a plaque and a vote of thanks and appreciation for his services to the RDPO Policy Committee. Clackamas Chair, John Ludlow was also to be honored with a plaque and recognition of his services, however in his absence Nancy Bush received his commemoration to give to Councilor Ludlow.

- b. The Policy Committee deliberated on how to go forward in filling their Chair and Vice Chair positions going into 2017. Clark County Councilor, Jeanne Stewart reiterated her willingness to serve as Chair in an interim capacity. Metro Councilor, Kathryn Harrington also offered her services to act as interim Vice Chair. With that, Acting Chair Novick called for a motion to accept Councilor Stewart as Interim Chair and Councilor Harrington as Interim Vice Chair. Vince Granato motioned to approve, Lacey Beaty seconded the motion; there was unanimous approval. The Committee agreed to wait until the new positions are filled to hold the election process to fill the positions for the entirety of 2017.
- c. Acting Chair Novick called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilor Stewart motioned to approve; Vince Granato seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes as written.

**3. Levee Ready Columbia** – Reed Wagner, Multnomah County Drainage District, and Andy Cotugno, Metro

- a. Reed Wagner and Andy Cotugno gave the Policy Committee a presentation on [Levee Ready Columbia](#) (LRC). The core purpose of LRC is to ensure that the levee system along the Columbia River from Sauvie Island to the Sandy River in Troutdale meets the requirements for participation in federal programs and continues to reduce the risk of flooding for important regional assets in the area. In so doing, Levee Ready Columbia will provide a safe and stable future for the residential, commercial, industrial, ecological and recreational land-uses now present in the area. LRC is a collaborative partnership of some 20 organizations, including local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as business, environmental, and community-based organizations. Several of the LRC partners are also RDPO partners.
- b. The two provided background on the pre-meeting request for the RDPO Policy Committee to send a letter to the Oregon Legislature’s Joint Ways and Means Committee encouraging full funding of the Business Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority’s \$10 million budget request to fund levee mitigation efforts across the state. Mr. Cotugno explained that the LRC project was able to tap into loans and grants to cover LRC costs so far, so will not likely ask for any of these funds. But he said the need around the state still exists. “We are energized to see the \$10 million go to help others who cannot afford to work on improving their levees; these funds create a path towards a statewide solution,” he said.
- c. Questions and Comments:
  - i. Councilor Turlay asked how much the total budget estimate would be and what kind of competition there is for the federal dollars. Mr. Wagner replied that since they are about half way through the investigation they do not yet have a clear understanding of the dollar amount. They can only go off of other similar projects which on average cost around \$11 million per mile. The 27 miles of levees requiring improvement would cost about \$250-300 million, though not a consecutive 27 miles would need repairs, just parts of it which will be discovered in the investigation. As for competition, there are a lot of places that are facing similar, if not worse concerns. We stand a good chance of getting additional support given the high population and assets the levees protect. The feds are also looking to spend these dollars on communities that are looking for long term planning. The LRC coalition has demonstrated its intention for long-term planning and solutions.

- ii. Councilor Stewart asked if there was a pool of money allocated for FEMA Region 10 or if it is a project by project basis. Mr. Wagner replied that it is a national project by project basis.
- iii. Vince Granato asked Mr. Wagner if it was fair to say that the current local funding model doesn't adequately identify the beneficiaries of the system, and that at some point the whole funding model is going to get addressed in the exercise. Mr. Wagner informed him that he is correct, the investment in the analysis by the Corps of Engineers is because they think it is an area of federal and nationwide significance.
- d. RDPO Manager Denise Barrett said she will email instructions to the PC after the meeting with next steps to take on the letter.

**4. Legislative Concepts – Vice Chair Novick and Carmen Merlo, City of Portland Representative to the Steering Committee**

- a. **Homeowner disclosure of seismic retrofitting at the time of sale** – Commissioner Novick said the City of Portland has proposed a legislative concept at the State requiring sellers of property to disclose seismic risk in the Seller's Property Disclosure Statement. If the house was built before 1978, has it been bolted to its foundation to have a chance of withstanding an earthquake. The idea is to get people thinking about taking steps to seismically strengthen their homes. The concept has been discussed with the Oregon Association of Realtors, and they are okay with it.
- b. **Tax exemption for commercial, industrial and multi-family buildings that have been seismically retrofitted** – At the last legislative session, there was a bill that passed, which provide a tax abatement for brownfield property. Using that as a model, Mr. Novick, Ms. Merlo and several others at the City of Portland are working on unreinforced masonry building policy. To incent property owners to retrofit their buildings, they want to adopt something very similar to the brownfield property amendment for seismic provision. For ten years with the possibility of a five-year extension, the property taxes would be abated equal to the cost of the improvement work.
- c. There was limited discussion on these items. Denise Barrett said that she will include the two seismic retrofitting legislative concepts in the post-meeting email with next steps for PC members to take.

**5. Other Legislative Agenda Updates and Opportunities – Denise Barrett**

- a. At the last Policy Committee meeting, PBEM's Carmen Merlo and Danielle Butsick gave a presentation on their study of the CEI HUB and its resilience, providing several of their recommendations. They also touched on the Fossil Fuel Terminal Zoning Amendment, with its own recommendations. Ms. Barrett had sent out a Survey Monkey, but there was not a quorum or simple majority, so RDPO was unable to support it.
- b. Mr. Barrett recalled that Jay Wilson had also spoken at the last PC meeting about a package of bills OSSPAC is trying to influence. Among them was one on Mass Displacement, which in the last biennium was Senate Bill 808. It died in appropriations but they have been working to get traction on it for the 2017 legislative session. Ms. Barrett said her plan of action is to go to the Legislative Days and return with an RDPO position for the Policy Committee to review. If all are in agreement, it can be submitted for written testimony in January, at the request of the State Resilience Officer.
- c. OSSPAC also submitted letters for two legislative concepts from Portland; one on the recommendation for a safety assessment program, and the other to update and expand the

Oregon Critical Building Database, which hasn't been updated since 2007. Ms. Barrett said she believes that Mass Displacement may actually go to a bill and pass this year, while the others will likely not. Her personal opinion was to continue to track and educate the RDPO PC on the issues to see where they may go legislatively. She explained that resilience, disaster preparedness and emergency management issues often take years to manifest into bills.

- d. Ms. Barrett also updated the PC on ODOT's second bid to obtain a Fastlane grant for the Abernathy Bridge retrofit project. She said ODOT used the original RDPO PC support letter when it submitted its second application for funding.
- e. Tripp Robison said he had informed the Steering Committee at its last meeting that California Governor Brown recently approved \$10 million for that State's portion of the West Coast Earthquake Early Warning System.
- f. Ms. Barrett shared Metro's basic legislative principle for 2017: "Metro supports legislative efforts to improve community disaster preparedness and resilience, with the goal of enabling the Portland region to provide for the immediate needs of its residents after a catastrophic event and facilitating the region's short- and long-term recovery." Councilor Harrington asks that a slight correction be made, adding "and businesses" after "residents".

**6. RDPO 2017-2021 Strategic Plan** – Nancy Bush, RDPO Steering Committee Chair, and Mike Mumaw, Steering Committee Vice Chair

- a. Ms. Bush and Mr. Mumaw presented on the [RDPO 2017-2021 Strategic Plan](#), along with supporting documents, the [RDPO 2017-2018 Work Plan](#) and the [Matrix of Trends/Challenges/Opportunities and Gaps/Maintenance Needs Across the Core Capabilities](#). The presentation slides can be found within the [master slide deck for this meeting](#).
- b. Questions and Comments:
  - i. Councilor Harrington added that Metro is responsible for the solid waste plan for the three Oregon counties, so by the end of 2018 they need to have adopted a modified and updated solid waste management plan.
  - ii. Councilor Stewart was impressed by the plan and how much important information is addressed in the plan.
  - iii. Kathryn Harrington mentioned that some of the other committees she serves on have a rolling work plan so they know ahead of time what to expect, whereas the Policy Committee just has an agenda for each individual meeting. Denise informed all that she puts out an annual calendar every year with what they expect the flow of work to be. It will be put out in January, though it changes in reaction to certain situations. Councilor Stewart suggested a hierarchy chart in addition to the calendar for further understanding. Denise explained that the RDPO has two organizational charts – a simple one that refers to the levels and core role of each and a fuller one that shows reporting lines of all the committees and work groups.
  - iv. Vince Granato expressed his appreciation for the work put into it, but when he thought that a strategic plan should have five top items, rather than the long detailed list the Strategic Plan has. He also felt many of the items in the plan were not items that the Policy Committee had any influence over. Denise reminded the Committee that this is a plan for the entire RDPO organization, not just the Policy Committee, and that they have their own separate Legislative Agenda work plan. Mike Mumaw said the RDPO 2017-2018 work plan is intended show the PC where the investments are going and how they plan to spend the money.

- c. Acting Chair Novick asked for a motion to approve the strategic plan as is for the whole RDPO organization. Vince Granato moved to accept; Councilor Harrington seconded. The PC voted unanimously to approve the RDPO 2017-2021 Strategic Plan.

**7. RDPO FY2017-2018 Local Cost Share and Budget Projections – Denise Barrett**

- a. Ms. Barrett said that following three years of maintaining the RDPO operations and administrative budget at \$175,000, she said the Steering Committee, upon her advice, proposed an increase in the new FY'2017-18 budget, which are funds that cover her costs as RDPO Manager and related cost such as hiring administrative support. She said it is important to take into account natural adjustments like the cost of living. The increase would be about \$10,000 and be split among the nine core jurisdictions that fund it. Councilor Harrington motioned to approve the increase, Vince Granato seconded the motion. The PC unanimously agreed.
- b. Ms. Barrett said she will finalize the RDPO FY'17-18 Administration and Operating Budget and Local Cost Share Methodology (LCSM) with PBEM Finance in early January 2017; the PC will review and vote on the LCSM at the February 2017 meeting.

**8. Adjourn**

- a. The Policy Committee will attempt another meeting in February. Ms. Barrett said she will circulate a Doodle poll to members in an effort to plan both the winter and spring meetings.
- b. With time running out, Acting Chair Novick thanked all for coming and adjourned the meeting at 3:40pm.