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May 14, 2003

TO: Oregon Progress Board

FROM: Jeffrey Tryens
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report (1-27-03 through 5/15/03.)

Highlights

- Joint Ways & Means Committee approves Board staff positions
- New Advisory Committee on Government Performance and Accountability ready for launch.
- Staff assistance to state Department of Education reaps new performance measures
- Oregon Population Survey and 2003 Benchmark Performance Report earn substantial press attention.

Administration

Board and Staff

Willamette University undergraduate interns Andrew Choy and Jeremy Mitchell joined the Progress Board for the spring semester. Andrew worked with Jeff on a project to better understand why the hunger rate in Oregon is so high. Jeremy worked with Rita on the government performance and accountability. Included is an article on the work board member Diane Snyder is doing to address economic development and resource protection issues in Wallowa County.

Budget

In the post Measure 28 budget rebalance, the legislature took back half of the partial funding that had been allocated to the Progress Board by the Legislative Emergency Board in January. With assistance from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) director's office, outside donations, and additional contracted services, the Board will close the biennium with a balanced budget.

On May 9, the Joint Ways & Means Committee voted to create three unfunded positions within the DAS for Progress Board staff. Given the current fiscal situation, the legislature's action is testament to the level of commitment by Governor Kulongoski and DAS Director Gary Weeks to keep Progress Board staff intact. Funding for the positions will come from existing DAS resources and non-general fund sources.

Key members of the legislature remain interested in finding significant non-state funds to

support Progress Board activities over the long haul.

Program

(Goals and objectives listed below are from the Board's 2001 - 03 work plan.)

Goal 1: Maintain and Enhance *Oregon Shines* as the State's Strategic Vision

Objective 1.1: Improve the quality and accessibility of benchmarks.

Project 1.1A - Biennial Benchmark Performance Report

Thanks to generous support from The Oregon Community Foundation, the Board was able to publish and distribute a very respectable *2003 Oregon Benchmark Performance Report*. The report received excellent press coverage with lead editorials in both *The Oregonian* and *Statesman Journal*. The report focused on long-term trends answering the question "Is Oregon Making Progress?" for each benchmark and each benchmark category – economy, education, civic engagement, public safety, social support, community development and environment.

Project 1.1B & 1.1C - 2002 Oregon Population Survey

The *2002 Oregon Population Survey* is complete. The contractor, Northwest Research Group, Inc., did an excellent job. Jeff is working with other members of the survey steering committee to schedule analyses of the data for public release.

Project 1.1D & 1.1E - Race & Ethnicity Report and Health Data

A reconstituted work group on racial and ethnic health data has resumed meeting after a hiatus.

Project 1.1F - 2002 Ready-to-Learn Survey

Results of this survey will be available sometime in May. Project Director Anita McClanahan reports that participation of private schools was down due to a "glitch" in the mailings, but that overall, progress has been made. County-level ready-to-learn data will also be available at that time.

Project 1.1G - SOER Data and Targets

Board staff completed the first round of data gathering for the new State of the Environment Report-generated benchmarks. Approximately 2/3 of the data cells are filled at this point. As a follow up to this work, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is planning to fund the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University to develop direct measures of watershed health that will link up to the new benchmarks.

Objective 1.2: Develop action agendas for selected benchmarks.

Project 1.2A - Action Agendas

No activity in this area.

Objective 1.3: Improve Oregon's ability to measure sustainability.

Project 1.3A - Sustainability Index

Jeff is participating in the Governor's sustainability work group. As this initiative develops, measuring sustainability, both at the societal level and at the agency performance level, should re-emerge as a significant Board priority. The Governor will release a new executive order on the topic at the end of May.

Other

Nothing new to report.

Goal 2: Mobilize Partners to Help Achieve Benchmark Targets

Objective 2.1: Increase state agency use of benchmarks.

Project 2.1.A - Performance Guidelines

Eighty-two of a total of 87 agency performance reviews are complete. Since the beginning of the year, Board staff have been solely responsible for completing these reviews. Final reviews are shared with Ways & Means staff to assure consistency in the way performance information is presented. (A few agencies were apparently unaware that the reviews were part of the budget process!)

The good news about this effort is that these performance measures are unlikely to drop from the legislature's radar screen anytime soon. The bad news is the unusual nature of this budget season, with its seemingly endless stream of current and future cuts, has drawn attention away from the performance measures. Unfortunately, Oregon's current performance framework is not set up to demonstrate how changes in funding levels affect performance.

Projects 2.1B & 2.1C - Agency Performance Frameworks

In conjunction with the DAS and the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Board staff launched the new Advisory Committee on Government Performance and Accountability. The committee, made up of private sector and non-profit executives, will advise the state on a broad range of issues including performance measurement, management practices and regulatory streamlining. DAS Director Gary Weeks will chair the project. Brett Wilcox will serve as the Board representative. Among other tasks, the group will examine inter-agency performance in issue areas of particular importance to the Governor. The project will demand significant staff time over the next biennium. A list of committee members is enclosed.

Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) performance project:

This project is complete.

Economic and Community Development Department performance project:

This project is complete.

Criminal Justice Commission:

The Commission contracted with the Board for assistance in developing its externally reported performance measures.

Department of Education:

The Department of Education recently contracted with the Board for intensive assistance in developing its vision, mission, goals and performance measures. Rita worked closely with Department staff to bring together its disparate frameworks, legislative mandates and leadership priorities into a first approximation of a performance framework. Further work with the department is possible.

Project 2.1C - Performance Training for Agencies

Trainings were conducted for staff and managers at the Department of Education and the Criminal Justice Commission. Board staff concluded formal agency training on developing performance measures last spring,

but continues to provide informal training on an agency-by-agency basis as the need arises. Next up is agency training for completing the new annual performance reports.

Project 2.1D - 2003 Benchmark Blue Book

In an attempt to replicate the information in earlier Benchmark Blue Books, Progress Board staff provided the Ways & Means committee with a listing of which agencies were linked to which benchmarks. Early Ways & Means hearings demonstrated that some committee members wanted to see clearer links between agency activities and “objective results.” While some progress was made this legislative session, that clear linkage between benchmarks and agency activities is still quite vague for many members.

Project 2.1E and 2.1F - Legislative Requests

House Committee on General Government, Rep Jerry Krummel – slide show; House Judiciary Committee, Rep Max Williams – slide show; Rep. Donna Nelson – county progress board data.

Objective 2.2: Broaden benchmark usage by partners.

Project 2.2A - 2002 County Data Book

Complete. Rita will begin working on an update for release in the fall of 2003.

Project 2.2B - SB555 Reports (Partners for Children & Families):

Jeff has begun work on a report to the legislature to satisfy the mandate that the Board determines how well counties are achieving their targets. Because the statute requires that this assessment be coordinated with other evaluations conducted by partner agencies, staff will convene a first-ever meeting of all evaluators of programs affiliated with the Partners for Children and Families’ effort. A separate meeting of agencies fielding surveys relating to the well-being of children and families will also be convened to determine if any can be combined or eliminated.

Project 2.2C - Oregon State of the Environment Report 2000 Outreach

Approximately 1,300 copies of the *Oregon State of the Environment Report 2000* summaries were distributed to former SOER process participants.

Project 2.2D - Library Consortium Project

The Data for Local Communities Project, instigated by the Board two years ago, is nearly ready for public use via the University of Oregon reference library’s website. Project Director Tom Stave will make a presentation on the new system at the Board’s July meeting.

Project 2.2E - Local Partner Requests

SOLV, the volunteer advocacy group, is re-orienting its work to focus on Oregon Benchmarks. Executive Director Jack McGowen and other managers will meet with Jeff later in May to discuss practical ways SOLV can measure its progress toward affecting benchmark trends.

Project 2.2F - Oregon Solutions Network Requests

Nothing new to report.

Project 2.2G - SB555 Technical Assistance

Nothing new to report.

Other

Nothing new to report.

Goal 3: Build More Public Awareness of Oregon Shines and Benchmarks

Objective 3.1 Increase public knowledge of Oregon Shines and benchmarks.

Project 3.1A - Periodic Reports

Press coverage:

Highlights -

Press coverage of the 2002 Oregon Population Survey focused on the “soft” aspects of the report. *The Oregonian* led with statistics on how the feeling of community attachment increased between 2000 and 2002. It received significant press coverage, generally.

Editorial coverage of the 2003 Benchmark Report to the Legislature was excellent. *The Oregonian* and Oregon Public Broadcasting radio also did news stories on the report. *The Skanner* ran an op-ed on the report written by Jeff. *The Oregonian* accepted an op-ed by Brett Wilcox and Mike Jordan reflecting on the report but it was pre-empted by the war. A copy of the piece is enclosed. The only negative was that no regional dailies covered the release.

Complete Listing -

Mexican dignitary pays visit – The governor of Guanajuato talks shop with Oregon’s leaders, *Statesman Journal*; To fix budget, inform public, *The Oregonian*; Just how hungry is Oregon? *The Oregonian*; Different state, federal studies paint different pictures of Oregon hunger, *The Oregonian*; Despite progress, minority students left behind, *The Skanner*; Oregon gets mixed grades on report card, *Statesman Journal*; Oregon makes gains, but problems persist, report says, *The Oregonian*; The blue state of Oregon, *The Oregonian*; Faith in government erodes, Oregon population survey, Oregonians’ confidence in public services falls for the first time in a decade, a state survey discovers, *The Oregonian*; Survey shows Oregonians’ faith in government has waned, *The Register-Guard*; Oregon Public Broadcasting story on 2003 benchmark performance report.

Project 3.1B - County Data and Benchmark Trend Presentations

None.

Project 3.1C - Website

Web hits have been running about five to ten percent under 2002 figures -

	2003	2002
January	6,504	6,811
February	5,697	6,214
March	5,633	7,157
April	4,731	This month’s hits were lost.
May		7,988

June	6,539
August	6,494
September	5,766
October	6,084
November	5,268
December	4,083

Objective 3.2: Provide advice and guidance to others.

Project 3.2A – Health Outcomes Study

Complete.

Project 3.2B – Assist Visiting Delegations

Governor Juan Carlos Romero Hicks and others, Guanajuato, Mexico; Rural Secretariat Delegation, Canada, Wendy Shatner, Senior Intergovernmental Advisor, Rural Secretariat, Ottawa, Canada; Belarus Delegation, International Visitors Program, World Affairs Council of Oregon.

Project 3.2C – Cooperate with Oregon Shines’ Researchers

Nothing new.

Other

Meetings, generally

Sustainability Work Group; Progress Board Executive Committee; Agencies’ Performance Measures process; School of Architecture and Allied Arts Board of Visitors Sustainability Work Group; Willamette University Intern Coordinator discuss their projects; Oregon Healthy Teens Survey – interagency planning meeting; Agency Performance Measures development process; Advisory Committee on Government Performance & Accountability (ACGPA) planning; Performance Measures update & where are we going; Progress Board planning – Steve Schneider; Oregon Business Council Director’s Meeting – Portland; SB 555 Partners for Children & Families Steering Committee; Sustainability Work Group; Bob Doppelt, Center for Community and Watershed Health – Eugene; Mike Hibbard, Planning, Public Policy and Management Program, U of O – Eugene; ACGPA planning; Oregon Performance Internship Program planning; Oregon Population Survey analysis, Richard Bjelland Sustainability Work Group; ACGPA planning; Oregon Business Council, Oregon Business Plan – Portland; Privatizing Progress Board – Portland; Oregon Performance Internship Update – Portland; Oregon Business Council – Updates – Portland; Sustainability Workgroup; Oregon Healthy Teens survey planning; Agency performance measure development review; ACGPA; SB 555 Partners for Children & Families steering committee; Sustainability Board; Society for Prevention Research conference; Sustainability Work Group; Oregon Business Council, Oregon Business Plan; Progress Board executive committee; Oregon Business Council, Oregon Business Plan Steering Committee; RMS Research, early childhood systems evaluation; Portland measuring for results initiative, Gary Blackmer; Ways & Means budget strategy; Progress Board/Benchmarks, Senator Richard Devlin; *Statesman Journal* editorial board with Gary Weeks; Oregon Public Broadcasting interview; *The Oregonian* editorial board; Interagency sustainability group; Healthy Teen Survey funding; *The Oregonian* executive editor discussion; Governor’s Drug & Violent Crime Advisory Board; Partners for Children & Families steering committee; Performance Measures, Bureau of Labor and Industries; Hunger target setting, Governor’s office; 2002 Population Survey Executive Committee; Progress Board budget meeting.

Meetings- performance measures

Department of Education, Division of State Lands, Sen. Steve Harper, Department of Human Services, Gary Weeks, Rep. Alan Bates, Oregon University System, Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon

Performance Center, Gary Weeks, Legislative Fiscal Office, Rep Tom Butler, Rep. Rob Patridge.

Presentations

Sustaining Innovation in a Time of Fiscal Crisis: A Report from Oregon, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government; Careers in Planning, Planning, Public Policy & Management (PPPM) Department; Sustainability & economic development, PPPM class presentation.

Goal 4: Provide high quality services to all stakeholders.

Objective 4.1 Communicate regularly with stakeholders regarding quality.

Project 4.1A: Participate in customer satisfaction survey

Jeff will present the findings of the customer satisfaction survey conducted by the Economic and Community Development Department on behalf of the Progress Board. Findings and an analysis of those finding by intern Andrew Choy are enclosed.

Project 4.1B: Survey Legislators and Staff

No change.

Project 4.1C: Survey Meeting Participants

As a substitute for this project, Board staff will survey agency performance managers as part of its assessment of the requirement to report to the legislature on how effectively HB3358 (requiring performance measures linked to benchmarks) is being implemented.

Enclosures