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April 11, 2002

TO: Progress Board Members

FROM: Jeff Tryens
Executive Director

Rita Conrad
Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: Oregon Progress Board March 19, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Brett Wilcox called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Members present were Lindsay Berryman, Bobbie Dore Foster, Michael Jordan, Heather Kaplinger. Ed Whitelaw and Neil Bryant joined the meeting by phone. Staff members present were Jeff Tryens, Thomas Endicott and Rita Conrad.

1. **January Meeting Minutes.**

The Board unanimously approved the January minutes.

2. **Developmental Benchmark Subcommittee Report**

Following a report from the Board subcommittee that reviewed the materials from the March meeting, the Board took the following actions:

- a. Adopted development benchmark #2007, Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM), as an official Oregon Benchmark. At the Board's request, Bill Auty from the Oregon Department of Education's Office of Assessment and Evaluation appeared before the Board to respond to questions that had been raised at the March Progress Board meeting. Concerns focused on: 1) relevance of the CIM to students, administrators and employers; and 2) possible redundancy considering new federal testing requirements. The general sense of the Board was that despite these concerns, CIM should be adopted since it is an integral part of Oregon ten-year education reform program.
- b. Dropped the following developmental benchmarks from further consideration:
 - i. #2003 - working or studying outside the U.S.
 - ii. #2006 - jobs lost due to substitution of foreign goods
 - iii. #2010 - tax fairness
 - iv. #2019 - sewage disposal
 - v. #2023 - groundwater extraction
 - vi. #2026 - intertidal and near shore marine areas
 - vii. New - wilderness lands by county
- c. Held all the rest as developmental.

3. Update on Professional Services Benchmark

Representative of the Professional Services Coordinating Council gave a presentation and several handouts regarding Benchmark #5, Oregon's concentration in professional services relative to the U.S. They emphasized that Oregon's share is decreasing. In order to turn this around and make Oregon a net exporter of professional services, several things need to happen:

- a. A consistent definition of the industry so it is not seen as just an adjunct activity. Accountants, lawyers, consultants and other professions in this category should band together, recognizing that the lines between these professions are blurring.
- b. More coordination with government, including better record-keeping, statistics and an increased awareness of the Oregon law (ORS 279.021) that public contracts must buy from within the state, all other things being equal.
- c. A more narrowly defined description of professional service. The SIC codes that are currently used to define professional services are too broad.

4. Scheduled speakers on changes to existing benchmarks.

(Handouts are available from all speakers addressing existing benchmarks.)

- a. Benchmark #5, Professional Services - Art Ayre, Employment Department
 - i. The *2001 Benchmark Performance Report* wording for this benchmark on pages 11 and 75 does not match the data. Art recommended that we change the data (current data minus 100%) on pages 11 and 75 and the title on page 75 to match the titles on pages 11 and 99. Jeff explained that those changes had been made already. The confusion comes in the layout of the 2001 report. The earlier definition was used to describe the benchmark trend on page 11 and on page 75. The Board's currently adopted benchmark language appears only on page 99.
 - ii. Art agrees with a request from the Professional Services Coordinating Council to recode the industries for Benchmark #5 more narrowly – combining eight four-digit SIC codes (approximately 33,000 workers) instead of eight two-digit SIC codes (approximately 40,000 workers). Art provided wording to replace the explanatory text in the *Benchmark Performance Report* and noted that there would be a break in the data from 2000 (SIC data) to 2001 because of a transition to North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) coding. Ed Whitelaw questioned whether the recoding of professional services for this benchmark was consistent with its original intent 10 years ago. Brett suggested that Ed and Art have an offline conversation about this.
- b. Benchmark #21, High School Work Experience

Holly Miles, Department of Education, told the Board the department could no longer supply data for Benchmark #21, High School Work Experience, due to the loss of a five-year federal seed grant that funded data collection. She said that the developmental benchmark, Certificate of Advanced Mastery, will provide similar information when the data are available in 2004-05 (due date for implementation). She suggested that Benchmark #21 be dropped. Jeff expressed surprise because the educational reform act stressed that work experience should have equal weight to academic performance, and dropping this benchmark seems contradictory to this. Holly countered that based on

focus groups with parents, students and teachers around the state, the Board of Education adopted work experience as a part of the requirements needed for a high school diploma, so they are moving in that direction. However, she says that there will still be three things for students to earn (CIM, CAM, and diploma). Bobbie Dore Foster asked why CIM and CAM would not just go away if their requirements are folded into the high school diploma. Holly explained that they aren't quite there, that it requires a fundamental change in teaching – integrating classroom with work experience.

Staff recommendation: drop Benchmark #21 (no choice). Board accepted.

Benchmark #51, Elder Abuse

Anna Mallard, Seniors and People with Disabilities, Department of Human Services, requested that reported elder abuse rate per 1,000 be changed to “substantiated” elder abuse. The reported elder abuse rate would ideally go up in the short term as the public becomes increasingly aware of the problem. Reducing substantiated abuse is the real goal. Staff recommendation: agree. Board agreed.

c. Benchmark #57, Hunger.

Patti Whitney-Wise, Hunger Relief Task Force, thanked the Progress Board for agreeing to use the Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS) for Oregon instead of the Oregon Population Survey, which they feel has underestimated the hunger problem in Oregon as reported in the last *Benchmark Performance Report*. Ms. Whitney-Wise suggested that the Board align itself with the national average of 3%. According to their information, Oregon is at 6%, so they suggest a target 3% by 2005 and 0% by 2010. Despite the fact that in 1991 the legislature agreed to end hunger in Oregon by 2000, Oregon currently has one of the highest hunger rates in the nation due to rising costs for housing, health insurance and utilities and the fact that Oregon is a low-wage state. They are about ready to release their 2002 hunger report. She offered the services of the Hunger Relief Task Force to the Board. Jeff asked about tying the hunger benchmark to the U.S. average to account for economic cycles. Ms. Whitney-Wise said she would take it to the Task Force for consideration. Bobbie remarked that hunger was unacceptable, and that using the national average may not be good enough. Chuck Sheketoff of the Oregon Center for Public Policy argued that hunger does not follow economic cycles. Jeff cautioned about unrealistic targets. Ms. Whitney-Wise said she would take it back to her Task Force for consideration. Board action – Change data source to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

d. Benchmark #67, Emergency Preparedness

Ken Murphy, Emergency Management Agency and Burt Kile, Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross, argued for three separate benchmarks on emergency preparedness: one for government preparedness, one for individual household preparedness and one for mitigating geohazards. They and their partners feel combining all three aspects into one benchmark is impossible because each is a unique part of the solution to large-scale disasters. Jeff stated that staff does not support this recommendation. Staff would like to see a stratified measure that adds up to a meaningful measure at the county level. Brett stated that the Board agrees with staff: combine and/or stratify. No formal Board action.

- e. **Benchmark #68, Traffic Congestion**
Mike Marsh and Craig Greenleaf, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) recommended that the wording of this benchmark be travel delay “per capita” versus travel delay “per driver”. This conforms to recent changes in the source of data for this benchmark, from the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI). It is a more precise measurement and enables Oregon’s congestion to be compared to other areas in the U.S. Also, their proposed wording uses the term “urbanized areas” (defined as urban areas with a population of 50,000 or more) versus “urban areas”, which include smaller cities. This eliminates areas with less severe congestion and limited data. Their handout provides new wording for the benchmark and its endnote. The Board approved the change.
- f. **Benchmark #71, Vehicle Miles Traveled**
Mike and Craig also suggested that this benchmark be revised to exclude miles traveled by commercial traffic and by non-commercial traffic originating and/or terminating outside of the metro area. This would allow transportation planners to focus on what they believe was the original intent of this benchmark – local commuter and elective trip traffic. Jeff reminded them that the Board would need historical data points and recommended targets. Board adopted the recommended change.
- g. **Benchmark #47, Affordable Child Care**
Bobbie Weber, Oregon Child Care Research Project, recommended that this benchmark be changed to focus only on households below median income. This allows the Board focus on the area of most pressing need in this area and makes the benchmark more policy relevant, according to Ms. Weber. Staff agreed with the recommendation. Board adopted the recommendation.

5. Public Comment

- a. **Benchmark #78, Owner-occupied Households**
Tom Cusack, HUD based his presentation on an analysis of 2000 Census data and a review of more than 335,000 loans from 1997 to 2000. (This report can be downloaded from <http://www.hud.gov/utilities/intercept.cfm?homeownershipbenchmark.pdf>.) He argued that the Progress Board has been over-reporting homeownership for years, and has not adequately represented the growing gap between non-minority and minority ownership. He recommended three fixes:
 - i. Establish a new overall homeownership benchmark that takes into account data in the above report and Oregon’s relative progress (and revise the “A” grade from the 2001 *Benchmark Performance Report*).
 - ii. Establish 2010 homeownership target for African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans at 54%, the level already achieved by Asian and Pacific Islanders.
 - iii. Adopt a cross-cutting annual early warning system to catch first time lending trends.
 Jeff commented that this issue requires more than a seven-minute presentation. Bobbie Dore Foster asked why minority estimates were so far off the mark. Jeff replied that much of the problem is caused by very small sample sizes in the Oregon Population Survey for minority households.

Mr. Cusak suggested that the Board focus on fix #3, early warning system to catch first time lending trends. Jeff replied that it is a less fulsome measure, but it may be a better surrogate. He suggested that the Board reschedule this topic for a longer conversation. The Board agreed.

- b. Richard Bjelland, Housing and Community Services, urged the Board to be clearer about reporting margins of error when survey data is presented in the benchmarks. He said people do not always understand that benchmarks are not exact and have a significant margin of error. Change must be discernable. Richard suggested that the Board report ranges, not just a single data point. Jeff clarified that the Board does not report changes in benchmarks that are statistically insignificant. He also said ranges are usually reported because they are too complicated for people to grasp easily.

6. Review of Remaining Possible Changes to Benchmarks for 2003-2005.

- a. Benchmark #30, Volunteerism
SOLV submitted a letter to the Board recommending that the 50 hours a year standard be discarded to reflect episodic volunteering and provided alternative wordings to consider. Board changed language to: "Percent of Oregon population that volunteers time to civic, community or nonprofit activities."
- b. Benchmark #31, Voter Turnout
Letter from Denis White asking for a benchmark for actual percentage of registered voters who vote during presidential elections. This could be a stratified benchmark that could include both national rank and actual percentage that turn out to vote.
- c. Benchmark #4, Net Job Growth
Jeff suggested that the Board may want to stratify this to reflect urban versus rural. Data are available and there is no reason not to do it. Will bring this up for further discussion at the next Board meeting.
- d. Health-related Benchmarks #39-46, #50 and #52 are on hold for future discussion based on work being completed by Dr. Howard Leichter. Changes will not be made for the 2003-05 budget cycle.

Environmental Benchmarks

Chris Dearth, Governor's Natural Resource Office, has been working with Jeff and Robin on refining the recommendations from the *Oregon State of the Environment Report 2000*. Hal Salwasser, Dean of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University has also been working to develop ecologically optimal values, which will be discussed at the May meeting. Mr. Dearth discussed several environmental benchmarks for which changes are recommended:

- e. Benchmark #77, Wetlands
The Division of State Lands suggests revising the language to acreage change (gain/loss) per year, based on data from fill permits. Discussion focused on the lack of good base data. This is still a weak measure, but it is the best we have. Data can be broken down geographically. Brett Wilcox said he could not support this proposal because many people don't get fill permits. The Division of State Lands will be invited to the next meeting to discuss.

- f. Benchmark #78, Stream Water Quality
Department of Environmental Quality suggested adding part c, “decreasing trends in water quality.” There were no objections.
- g. Benchmark #79, In-stream Water Rights
Oregon Water Resources Department recommended adding “minimum”: Percentage of key streams meeting minimum instream water rights. There were no objections.
- h. Benchmark #80, Agricultural Land
Department of Land Conservation and Development proposed rewording this benchmark to distinguish between loss of prime agricultural land versus all other agricultural land. There were no objections.
- i. Benchmark #82, Timber Harvest
The science panel is suggesting that this benchmark needs to provide Oregonians with as much understandable data as possible – three pieces of data: total timber growth, estimated sustainable harvest levels, and actual harvest levels. These three pieces are folded into the suggested rewording. No action, more discussion at the May meeting.
- j. Benchmark #85, Native Fish
The science panel struggled with this. We don’t have good data on native fish. No action.
- k. Benchmark #86, Marine Species At Risk
Scientists feel current wording underestimates species at risk because assessed species are often commercial. Staff recommends accepting proposed new language, “percentage of nonsalmonid marine fish or shellfish species at risk”. Staff will present possible new targets at the May meeting.
- l. Benchmark #87, At-Risk Species in Conservation Areas
New wording stratifies this benchmark by habitat – streams or rivers and other. Staff recommends accepting proposed new language. Staff will present possible new targets at the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.