



Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

2009 Annual Awards Program

Program Excellence Awards Nomination Form

Deadline for Nominations: March 13, 2009

Complete this form (sections 1 and 2) and submit with your descriptive narrative.

SECTION 1: Information About the Nominated Program

Program Excellence Award Category (*select only one*):

- ☐ Community Health and Safety
- ☒ Community Partnership
- ☐ Community Sustainability
- ☐ Strategic Leadership and Governance

Name of program being nominated: Border Coast Airport Authority

Jurisdiction(s) where program originated: City of Crescent City, California; City of Brookings, Oregon; County of Del Norte, California; Elk Valley Rancheria (Yurok Tribal government)

Jurisdiction population(s): Crescent City: 8,500; Brookings: 6,500; Del Norte County: 27,000

Please indicate the month and year in which the program you are nominating was fully implemented. (Note: All Program Excellence Award nominations must have been fully implemented by or before January 31, 2008, to be eligible. The start date should not include the initial planning phase.)

Month: June Year: 2008

Name(s) and title(s) of individual(s) who should receive recognition for this award at the ICMA Annual Conference in Montréal, Québec, Canada, September 2009. (Each individual listed MUST be an ICMA member to be recognized.):

Name: Gary Milliman

Title: City Manager Jurisdiction: Brookings

Name: Eli Naffah

Title: City Manager* Jurisdiction: Crescent City

*Note Mr. Naffah left this position

in late 2008, but
remains an ICMA
Member..

Name: _____

Title: _____

Jurisdiction: _____

SECTION 2: Information About the Nominator/Primary Contact

Name of contact: Gary Milliman

Title: City Manager

Jurisdiction: City of Brookings

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City: Brookings

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GARY MILLIMAN

City Manager

International City Management Association
2009 ICMA Annual Awards Program
777 North Capitol St., NE, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 2002-4201

January 15, 2009

Please find enclosed our completed Program Excellence Awards Nomination Form and related attachments.

The formation of the Border Coast Airport Authority is a unique community partnership that spans the California-Oregon state line, involves three local governments and a sovereign Native American nation.

This new government agency has now assumed the operation and management of the commercial airport serving two counties in two states. Authority accomplishments have included developing plans for a new airport terminal and recruiting additional air service providers.

This successful collaboration has prompted expanded discussion among community leaders in the development of regional plans for economic development, emergency planning and resource management.

Recognition of regional partnerships such as the Border Coast Airport Authority will be an encouragement to other rural communities who may fear the complexities of such undertakings. The two City Managers, along with the Crescent City City Attorney, County Administrator and Tribal Council Chair worked diligently to overcome legal and operational obstacles in organizing this effort.

Respectfully,

Gary Milliman
City Manager

ICMA PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINATION
BORDER COAST AIRPORT AUTHORITY

The cities of Brookings, Oregon, and Crescent City, California are of like size and are similarly located in remote corners of their respective states.

The two cities share many things in common, including a State border equal-distance from both cities, similar economic issues, a State Prison as a major employer, growing economic ties with tribal governments...and a commercial airport.

United Express currently offers three flights daily to/from the Del Norte County Airport, located about 30 minutes south of Brookings. Commercial air service alternatives for Brookings residents are North Bend and Medford, both a two-hour-plus drive from Brookings. All three United Express flights from Del Norte are southbound into California.

Recognizing the need to improve commercial air service to the region to support economic development efforts and satisfy the needs of local residents, the cities of Brookings and Crescent City, the County of Del Norte, and the Elk Valley Rancheria formed a new local government entity, the "Border Coast Airport Authority" (BCAA) in June 2008.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first local agency that spans the Oregon-California border, and may be the first bi-state local agency that includes the membership of a sovereign Native American nation.

The goal of the BCAA is to improve airport facilities and expand service at the Del Norte County Airport. The County has contracted with BCAA to operate the airport and conduct facility planning. The BCAA has completed a marketing study which demonstrates demand for expanded air service, and has developed plans to replace the

inadequate, 2,000-square-foot terminal with a new, 20,000 square foot terminal capable of tripling the airports passenger handling capacity. Negotiations to expand service are in progress with two commercial air carriers

One of the advantages of the cross-state-lines effort is that the communities now have two senior members of Congress well positioned to assist in airport funding efforts.

Oregon local government participation in joint powers agreements across state lines is authorized in ORS 190.420. In forming the BCAA, Brookings discovered that this provision, had, apparently, never been used. So, we were faced with breaking new ground and dealing with conflicting state regulations dealing with issues such as open meeting laws, financial reporting, liability and public contracting.

We resolved these issues by incorporating wording into the Agreement document that requires the BCAA administration to be cognizant of the regulations in both states. For example, after citing both the California and Oregon State Law sections dealing with open meetings, we included the following language:

“PUBLIC MEETINGS; BROAD INTERPRETATION. In those instances of conflict between the Ralph M. Brown Act and the Oregon Public Meetings Law, the Authority shall comply with those notice and meeting conduct provisions of law which will provide the highest level of public participation, observation and knowledge of the Authority’s affairs.”

One area where this will come into play concerns Executive Sessions. In California, the press is excluded from Executive Sessions. But, given the above referenced provision, the BCAA will be following the Oregon practice of limited media access to Executive Sessions.

This has been and will continue to be a challenging venture for the BCAA administration as the new agency moves forward into construction of airport improvements, air service

contracts, staff expansion and, ultimately, airport ownership.

A lot of wordsmithing has gone into the preparation of the BCAA organizing document.

We know that any ground breaking venture foretells of unforeseen challenges and that further modifications will likely be needed. What we have accomplished through this effort is the creation of a new and exciting partnership to address a shared vision and community need.

The City of Gold Beach, Oregon, and the County of Curry, Oregon, are now considering membership in the BCAA.

It can be done.

ATTACHMENT

Article from the League of Oregon Cities magazine.

Brookings Breaks New Ground for Cities with Border Agreement

Coastal city is first to tap provision in ORS

By Gary Milliman, Brookings City Manager

The cities of Brookings, Oregon, and Crescent City, California are of like size and are similarly located in remote corners of their respective states.

The cities and their respective counties, Curry and Del Norte, share many things in common, including a state border equal-distance from both cities, similar economic issues, a state prison as a major employer, growing economic ties with tribal governments...and a commercial airport.

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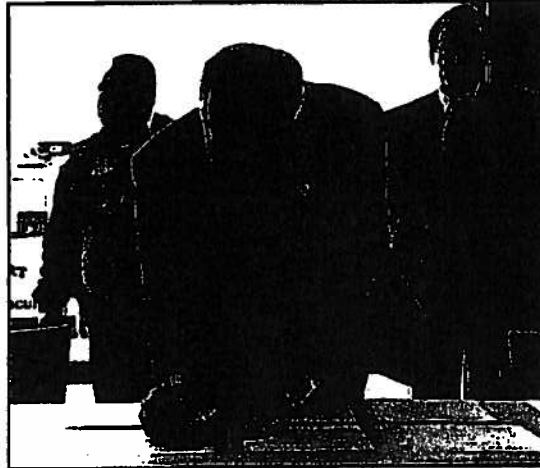
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Brookings Mayor Larry Anderson signs the amended Joint Powers Agreement of the Border Coast Regional Airport Authority. Airport Board Chairman David Finigan and Crescent City Mayor Pro Tem Richard Enea, who also signed the document, look on. *The Daily Triplicate/Kelley Atherton*

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It can be done. ■

Brookings joins authority that oversees local airport

July 04, 2008 12:00 am

By Kelley Atherton

The Border Coast Regional Airport Authority welcomed a new member Thursday.

On June 23, the Brookings City Council members unanimously decided to sign the Joint Powers Agreement with Del Norte County, Crescent City and Elk Valley Rancheria. Brookings City Councilman Dave Gordon took a seat on the board at the Thursday meeting.

The JPA gives the four entities authority over the Del Norte County Airport.

Airport Manager Jim Bernard introduced Gordon and noted he has been a member of the Airport Advisory Committee in Del Norte for several years.

"He's up to speed and will be quite an asset," Bernard said.

Gordon said that he has had an interest in the local airport for a while and has supported the idea of Brookings joining with its neighbors. The Del Norte County airport is the closest commercial airport to Brookings.

"To have economic development, we need to have an airport," Gordon said.

The official signing of the new JPA will be Aug. 7 at 1 p.m. at the airport.

Chairman David Finigan, who has advocated for Brookings, Gold Beach, Ore., and Curry County governments to join the airport board, said this union is one for the history books.

"I can't overstate the significance," he said about the two cities, county and sovereign nation working together to benefit the airport.

The most significant aspect is the fact that Brookings is in another state, Finigan added.

"This is the first in the nation that I'm aware of," he said.

Having a partner from Oregon's 4th Congressional District, Rep. Peter DeFazio, will give the airport board extra political clout. Now there will be two congressmen able to earmark funds for airport improvements.

"It helps□this has more of an impact to get funding nationally," Gordon said about the California North Coast and Oregon South Coast coming together.

Finigan also announced that Curry County has allocated \$1,500 to the board to market the airport.

The city of Gold Beach and Curry County have also both been invited to be part of the JPA. Both entities are working out the details, and Finigan added that it looks promising.

"We've cracked the ice with Brookings," he said.

The city of Gold Beach is still waiting for some updated details from the airport board.

"We're not adverse to it," said Gold Beach Mayor Karl Popov, adding that the city would like to see the new JPA with Brookings.

Curry County has other concerns about the liability of managing an airport.

"Airport insurance can't be part of our general liability, we have to have a separate policy for airports," said Curry County Commissioner Lucie La Bonte said. "That seems to be the sticking point. This does not mean we don't support the airport."

The Yurok Tribe has expressed interest in joining, but a legal issue with the state is standing in the way at the moment. Smith River Rancheria has also been asked to join.

Close Window

Brookings joins airport partnership

August 08, 2008 12:00 am



Brookings Mayor Larry Anderson signs the amended Joint Powers Agreement of the Border Coast Regional Airport Authority Thursday. Airport Board Chairman David Finigan and Crescent City Mayor Pro Tem Richard Enea, who also signed the document look on. (The Daily Triplicate/Kelley Atherton).

By Kelley Atherton

The Border Coast Regional Airport Authority signed a new Joint Powers Agreement on Thursday, adding the city of Brookings.

Brookings joins Crescent City, Del Norte County and Elk Valley Rancheria in a partnership to manage the airport.

"This is the most historical moment (locally), well, since I can remember," said David Finigan, chairman of the airport board and a Del Norte County supervisor.

Del Norte and Curry counties are linked by economic issues, not only the airport, but transportation and broadband Internet service, Finigan said.

The board has also been reaching out to Curry County, the city of Gold Beach, Ore., the Yurok Tribe and Smith River Rancheria.

"People said you can't do that," Finigan said about the JPA spanning two states. "We're expanding our membership□this can only help."

The Brookings City Council approved the idea last December.

Brookings Mayor Larry Anderson signed the JPA. He said the airport is important to people in Brookings□as he should know, being someone who frequently uses it.

"I've been a user since 1980," he said. "I know how integral it's been with my business."

The new member on the board from the Brookings City Council is Dave Gordon. He said his constituents "understand the importance of the airport."

Brookings residents have the same complaints with the airport and Skywest Airlines flight schedule as

locals here do, he said. They too sometimes choose to fly out of Medford, Ore., or Arcata instead of Crescent City, he said.

A recent survey showed many people would rather have air service from Crescent City to Medford instead of Arcata, since Medford would allow more connections to other areas.

"People I've talked to would rather go to Medford," he said about flights out of Crescent City. "As long as the price is right."

He added that people will fly to Medford for connections rather than drive as long as it doesn't cost more money.

Board members said they hope the addition of Brookings will lead to more support for the airport, which will help make the community's dreams of a new terminal, longer runways and more flights to more hubs a reality.

"Now we have two congressmen that represent us," Finigan said with a smile.

Also at the meeting Thursday, Airport Manager Jim Bernard announced that the public hearing for the Environmental Impact Report for the airport's new terminal will be Oct. 2. The EIR should be available for public comment in early September.

Once, the EIR is approved, the board can move forward with financing the project.

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