

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments
Regular Board Meeting
Cowlitz County Administration Building ~ General Meeting Room
Thursday, February 23, 2017 ~ 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

General/Special Representatives/Alternates

David, Vorse, City of Castle Rock
Adam Smee, City of Kalama
Rick Roberson, City of Kelso
Scott Vydra, City of Longview
Susan Humbyrd, City of Woodland
Troy Stariha, Port of Kalama, Chair
Mark Wilson, Port of Kalama
Jeff Wilson, Port of Longview
Paul Cline, Port of Woodland

Erin Thompson, Castle Rock School District
Scott Westlund, Kelso School District
Dan Zorn, Longview School District
Michael Green, Woodland School District
Dick Swart, Town of Cathlamet
Bill Hallanger, Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue
DeAnn Sharp, Cowlitz County Fire District No. 5
Mike Backman, Wahkiakum County

Associate/Affiliate Representatives/Alternates

Bill Marcum, Kelso-Longview Chamber of Commerce Scot Walstra, Cowlitz EDC
Ilona Kerby, Lower Columbia Community Action Council

Guests

Corey Balkan, Interwest Benefit Consultants Jeanne Bennett, Workforce SW WA
Scott Carson, Citizen

Staff

Bill Fashing; Anisa Kisamore; Deborah Johnson; Ranya Aboras, Rachelle Nugent, Lauren Marshall.

1. Call to Order & Introduction.

Chairperson Troy Stariha called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. Public Comment.

No public comment.

3. Consent Agenda.

Motion: A motion was made by Susan Humbyrd to approve the consent agenda as presented. This included: (A) December 15, 2016 meeting minutes; (B) January expenditures, paid in February, in the amount of \$113,194.04. Motion was seconded. No discussion. Voting all in favor. Motion carried.

The December 2016 and January 2017 expenditures, approved at the Executive Committee meeting on February 23, 2017, in the amounts of \$28,454.69 and \$46,064.23 were also provided to the Board. This information was presented to the board.

4. Information Items

A. **Presentation – Jeanne Bennet, Workforce Southwest Washington – Workforce Efforts in the Region.** Jeanne began her presentation by giving the Board an overview of Workforce SW WA and the services they provide such as training and partnering services to prepare people to enter or re-enter the workforce. The four current focus areas of training are advanced manufacturing, software/IT, construction, and health care. She went on to speak on various parts of Workforce; such as the board requirements, state and local plans, and statistics. The presentation was concluded by discussing how Workforce SW WA has teamed up with other counties to form the Columbia Willamette Workforce Collaborative. This group covers six counties in two states (Washington and Oregon). By collaborating with multiple counties and creating a larger service area, the group as a whole increases their chances to receive large competitive grant funds to support services which in turn is used to provide services to the different participants.

- B. **Presentation – Corey Balkan, Interwest Benefit Consultants – Medical Rate Stabilization Committee 2017 Update.** Cory Balkan gave an update on the Medical Rate Stabilization for 2017. This update included the credibility, pooling charges, underwriting, retention charges, and 2017 rating trends. Some of the more encouraging trends to come out of the pool is a 7.3% average increase over the last 10 years compared to the 13% national average; a loss ratio of 76% vs 120% when the program started; and an average 2017 adjustment of only 2.3%. He also presented information about the new technology available, such as an app and virtual visits available through Kaiser.
- C. **Surface Transportation Plan (STP) – City of Woodland Project Award:** CWCOG Executive Director, Bill Fashing, announced to the Board that the City of Woodland would be returning the program funds that they were previously awarded. The city has decided to do so because they have chosen to rewrite and expand the scope of work for the project wherein they will reapply for the STP funds.
- D. **Financial Report – 2016 4rd Qtr.** A copy of the financial report for the 4rd quarter of 2016 was attached to the meeting packet. Bill Fashing noted there was nothing out of the ordinary financially.
- E. **Recognition of Outgoing Chairperson.** Due to time constraints, recognition of the 2016 Board Chair will be moved to the following board meeting.

5. **Executive Director’s Report**

Due to time constraints, Bill Fashing decided to forego the Director’s Report for this meeting.

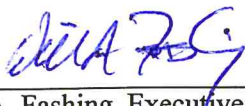
6. **Executive Committee Report.**

Troy Stariha noted the approved Executive Committee minutes from October and November 2016 were provided. No report was given.

7. **Other Business.**

No other business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.



William A. Fashing, Executive Director


 Tony Stariha, Chairperson
 T 2017



Anisa Kysamore, Business Administrator