

COWLITZ-WAHKIAKUM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Regular Board Meeting

Cowlitz County Administration Building – General Meeting Room
Thursday, June 22, 2017 – 12:00pm

MINUTES

General/Special Representatives/Alternates

Troy Stariha, Port of Kalama, Chair
Jeff Wilson, Port of Longview
David Vorse, City of Castle Rock
Dennis Weber, Cowlitz County

Eric Nerison, Kalama School District
Scott Westlund, Kelso School District
Ray Johnson, Cowlitz PUD
Bill Hallanger, Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue

Associate/Affiliate Representatives/Alternates

Chris Bailey, Lower Columbia College
Ilona Kerby, Lower Columbia CAP

Paige Lake, Wahkiakum Chamber of Commerce
Scot Walstra, Cowlitz EDC

Guests

Alyssa Joyner, Workforce Southwest Washington
Matt Kunic, WSDOT

Jeff Cameron, City of Longview Public Works

Staff

Bill Fashing
Anisa Kisamore
Robert Stevens

Deborah Johnson
Rachelle Nugent

1. Call to Order & Introduction

Chair Troy Stariha called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Consent Agenda

- A. May 25, 2017 Minutes
- B. May 2017 Expenditures

Due to the lack of quorum, no action was taken. Chair Troy Stariha explained that the Executive Committee would approve the expenditures at their meeting following the Board Meeting.

4. Action Items

- A. Resolution 17-05: Public Participation Plan

There was discussion on the Public Participation Plan (PPP) that was provided. However, no action was taken due to lack of quorum.

Director Fashing explained that the PPP still includes Lewis County under the Economic Development portion of the plan. The Board can decide whether or not to continue to include them in the document at the next meeting. If the Board decides to remove Lewis County, the PPP may have to go out for another 45-day period of public comment.

- B. Resolution 17-06: Cowlitz Transit Authority (CTA) Membership

The Board was informed that the CWCOG has received an official membership request from the CTA and that action will be taken at the next meeting.

C. Economic Development District: Next Steps

Director Fashing announced that the CWCOG has received the letter from Economic Development Administration (EDA) and it has been provided in the meeting packet. The letter stated that EDA has determined that the Cowlitz-Lewis Economic Development District (CLEDD) has officially been dissolved. However, this means the CWCOG is able to move forward with the formation of a new, two county economic development district with the blessings of EDA. Staff will ask the Board to revisit this at the next meeting.

5. **Executive Director's Report**

The Board was informed of upcoming events, these included the Dan Burden event on June 26, the Community Development Forum on June 27, and the Neighborhood Revitalization Training on June 28 and 29.

It was also mentioned that the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO) voted to award Woodland, Kelso, and Castle Rock funds for alternative transportation projects.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) / RTPO Directors Organization, through the Walla Walla Valley MPO, submitted a request to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) outlining the issues surrounding the stagnant funding for the Regional Transportation Planning program and the work of the individual RTPOs. The letter requested that WSDOT consider additional funding for the program and more specifically the individual RTPOs in their next budget request. With a new RTPO being formed, the same total funding package will be redistributed amongst the RTPOs causing decreases in funds for existing organizations.

6. **Executive Committee Report**

No report at this time.

7. **Other Business**

Board members shared activities and events going on in their area.

- Members of the Board will participate on a panel Thursday morning at the Neighborhood Revitalization Training.
- The homeless task force is looking for volunteers.
- The 36th Bald Eagle Festival is on July 15 in Wahkiakum County.
- The Kelso-Longview Chamber is hosting a lunch at the Cowlitz Event Center on Thursday, June 29 from 11:45 to 1:15.
- The Port of Longview will be giving tours of the port over the summer. Registration is available on the Port of Longview's website.

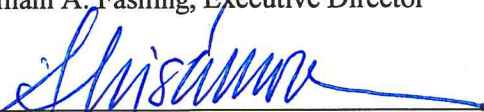
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:35pm.



William A. Fashing, Executive Director



Troy Starita, Chair



Anisa Kisamore, Business Administrator