



**THEN & NOW**

**1963**

Agency Budget:  
\$33,470

Salaries:  
\$25,572

Personnel: 5

**2011**

Agency Budget:  
\$1,526,538

Salaries:  
\$729,552

Personnel: 16

## CWCOG to celebrate 50 years

Okay, let's do the math: The Cowlitz Regional Planning Commission was established in 1961, re-formulated as the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Governmental Conference in 1974, and renamed the Council of Governments in 1992. This tells us that 2011 represents *fifty years*

(that's 5-0!) that the Council of Governments has been in business serving local governments and other members in the two county region. We plan to observe the golden event in this newsletter with periodic looks back at accomplishments and some looking

ahead at trends and opportunities. We are also planning a special celebration at this year's annual meeting ~ so mark your calendars for the evening of Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> (there will be no fourth Thursday noon meeting)!

## Consolidated transit grants submitted to state

A group of transportation representatives from the five counties of the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO) met recently to review and rank transit projects. Capital requests total \$1,417,252, while requests for operating funds total \$8,152,883. This ranked list was recently sent to the state Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

Projects were ranked according to how well they met the priorities in the recently updated SWRTPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan. Continuing efficient and effective transit service to the general public and special needs populations is the overall

goal for all area transportation providers. Proposals are from the Human Services Council, White Pass Community Services, Grays Harbor Transit, Coastal Community Action



**City bus**

Program, Twin Transit, Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services, Community Urban Bus System, Pacific Transit, Lower Columbia CAP, and the Cowlitz Tribe.

The grant applications are required to be ranked by the

RTPO; this will account for one third of the total points to be awarded. For the 2011-2013 biennium, this region submitted 21 applications. The WSDOT will review the projects and score and rank them against the program's criteria. The list of projects must be approved by the legislature during this session. Transportation providers will receive the news of their requests before the end of the session. Once the legislature makes its decisions, funding will be available July 1st for the 2011-2013 biennium; federal and state funds will be distributed until the money runs out. For further information, contact Amy Asher at 360-577-3041.

**Inside this issue:**

- CR asks local input** 2
- New TSP plan** 2
- New staff member** 2
- 2010 census data** 3
- COG meeting schedule** 3
- LCREP update** 4
- COG déjà vu** 4
- Dec bd mtg highlights** 5

*The survey will help ensure that the needs, desires and opinions of the community are understood.*

## Castle Rock seeking ideas for park and recreation opportunities

The City of Castle Rock is taking a survey to gather ideas and opinions concerning parks and recreational opportunities in and around the city. The survey will help ensure that the needs, desires and opinions of the community are understood. The responses will be used by the Parks Board in the course of updating the city's park and

recreation plan. This survey is available on the city's website: <http://ci.castle-rock.wa.us/>.

Paper copies are available at City Hall, the library and the Exhibit Hall and may be dropped off or mailed to City Hall. The survey should take less than five minutes to complete and is due **January 18**. Your time and cooperation involved with completing this

survey is greatly appreciated and will be beneficial to the future of Castle Rock.

The city's website has information regarding the parks and recreation opportunities, the Parks Board meeting agendas, and the plan update. Please contact TJ Keiran, City Planner, at 360-577-3041 or [tkeiran@cwco.org](mailto:tkeiran@cwco.org) for more information.

## New transportation plan on tap for urban area



Contributing to a greener environment

This year, the Council of Governments and its technical advisory committee will begin the development of a transportation systems plan (TSP) for the Longview-Kelso urban area. The plan will comprehensively evaluate the operations for all aspects of the transportation system: streets, parking, transit services, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and freight mobility (trucking and rail). The plan is being funded by federal Surface Transportation Program funds allocated to the Met-

ropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Longview-Kelso area.

The region's transportation facilities serve more than 60,000 residents as well as many visitors and regional travelers. Development of the plan will involve multi-disciplinary staff teams, local governments, private entities and developers, and citizens. The plan will provide a vision for the future of the transportation network and offer transportation options that, when integrated, can help

connect people with places, contribute to a livable community, support economic growth and contribute to a greener environment (by walking, bicycling, and using mass transit). Implementation of the plan should ensure that an integrated and consistent transportation system is developed across jurisdiction boundaries over time.

Please contact Matt Hermen at 360-577-3041 or [mhermen@cwco.org](mailto:mhermen@cwco.org) if you have questions or concerns.

## COG welcomes new staff member

Katie Wells  
Admin.  
Assistant



The CWCOG welcomes Katie Wells as its new Administrative Assistant. Katie comes to the CWCOG from the Kelso School District where she served as an Adminis-

trative Assistant for 25 years. She is a "home-grown" graduate of RA Long High School and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Hardin Simmons University, a private college, in Abilene,

Texas. In her spare time, she enjoys her two cats, playing piano, working jigsaw puzzles ~ especially 3D ~ and cross-stitching. Katie is also an active member of her church.

# First 2010 Census Data Released

The first data from the 2010 Census were delivered to the President on December 21. By law, the Census population counts for the nation and each state have to be in the President's hands by December 31 of the year the decennial Census was conducted. This data will be used to apportion the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, and helps determine how many representatives each state will have. Based on these figures, Congressional, state legislative and all voting districts will have

to be realigned and for that process, redistricting data will be used. That data will be delivered to the states no later than April 1. The method used to calculate the apportionment as decided by Congress, in accordance with the provisions of Title 2, U.S. Code, is called Method of Equal Proportions. Each state is assigned one seat. Then the apportionment formula allocates the remaining 385 seats one at a time among the 50 states until all 435 are assigned. You can also learn more about apportionment

through a video, *The Amazing Apportionment Machine*, by going to the YouTube link on the Bureau's web site, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).



**Apportionment is the process of determining the number of seats for each state in the US House of Representatives based on the decennial census.**

**Redistricting is the process of revising the geographic boundaries within a state from which people elect their representatives to the US House of Representatives, state legislature, county or city councils, school board, etc.**

## COG meeting schedule for 2011

**Board meets Thursdays at 12:00 noon on:**

January 27	CC General Meeting Room	July 28	CC General Meeting Room
February 24	CC General Meeting Room	August 25	CC General Meeting Room
<b>March 30</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>	September 22	River Street Bldg, Cathlamet
April 28	CC General Meeting Room	October 27	CC General Meeting Room
May 26	River Street Bldg, Cathlamet	November 17	CC General Meeting Room
June 23	CC General Meeting Room	December 15	CC General Meeting Room

*\* The annual meeting will be held March 30th at the Monticello Hotel; time to be determined. Invitations will be sent out in early March .*

## Regional Information Forums

### **Cowlitz County**

Fridays at 7:30 am  
Cowlitz PUD Bldg.

January 14	July 15
March 18	September 1
May 13	November 4

### **Wahkiakum County**

Tuesdays at 8:00 am  
River Street Bldg. Cathlamet

February 1	August 9
April 12	October 11
June 14	December 13

## Update from the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

### **Increased pressure for habitat restoration --**

The soon to be completed recovery module for the lower river and the heightened focus on juvenile salmon habitat in the 2008 Biological Opinion has led many partners to adapt efforts in habitat restoration. The Partnership is working with restoration practitioners like the Columbia Land Trust, the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board and the Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the US Army Corps of Engineers to meet the juvenile salmon survival targets called for in the BiOp. Meeting those targets calls for strategic project identification, more technical assistance in the project design phase, and more organizations working in on-the-ground restoration.



**Lower Columbia River**

With new data, expanded expertise and restoration prioritization, the Estuary Partnership anticipates implementing three major restoration projects per year beginning in 2012. The technical assistance provided by staff and

an on-call consulting pool will help other organizations design and implement even more on-the-ground projects. Stay tuned!

### **Generous guests make Annual Dinner and Art Gala a success --**

The Partnership's 11th annual dinner and fund raiser was the most successful yet. The Portland Art Museum came to life with 300 guests and beautiful art for the annual dinner and art gala on December 4. All 23 local artists agreed to generously contribute 50% of their evening's profits to the Estuary Partnership. The guests tripled last year's cash appeal donations. As a result, LCREP will be putting several thousand students in canoes on the

river. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2010 Stewardship Award to Senator Jeff Merkley and Congressman Earl Blumenauer for their vision and leadership in Congress to introduce the Columbia River Restoration Act of 2010.

**Stewardship program grants received --** The Sierra Club-Building Bridges to the Outdoors, Juan Young Trust, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Nature in Learning program have provided recent grants for outdoor applied learning programs. These funds will support hands-on science classroom lessons and outdoor programs. Central to environmental education is the belief that students need to get outside. This is the third time the Estuary Partnership has received funds from the Sierra Club and the NFWF Nature of Learning program in support of stewardship programs.

**Draft land cover dataset being finalized --** A draft land cover dataset is in the final stages of peer review. This is the first land cover dataset developed for the entire lower river since 2001. The map uses high resolution aerial imagery and supporting field observations of various cover types. Key features include estuarine and tidal fresh water wetland types and impervious surfaces, forest cover, agriculture, and bare substrate classes. The map fills a critical data gap in the river's Estuarine Ecosystem Classification, and will enable land users and managers to make more informed decisions regarding land use, restoration and development. In addition, it provides a snapshot of current conditions which can be used to measure changes that occur over time. Final map products are expected in early 2011.

For more information, call 503-226-1565.

## "Is it déjà vu all over again?"

**Yogi Bera**

In looking at the oldest COG annual report we could find, from 1963, we were surprised to find some strikingly familiar projects accomplished almost fifty years ago. Here's a sampling:

- \* Castle Rock ~ Re-activation of town planning commission and start of a comprehensive planning program.
- \* Cowlitz Industrial Bureau ~ Updating statistical material and preparation of advertising copy for national industrial development magazine.
- \* Kalama ~ Highway interchange proposal presentation to state Highway Commission; start of a comprehensive planning program.
- \* Kelso ~ Study of relocation of 1st Avenue and railroad freight depot to permit Safeway to obtain sufficient land for expansion; study of city plans for downtown redevelopment.

(continued on page 5)



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The CWCOG is a voluntary association of general and special purpose governments and agencies in the Lower Columbia region. Our current organizational structure is supported by a membership of 28 entities made up of counties, cities, school districts, public utility districts, ports, fire districts, economic development councils, a community college and other non-profit agencies in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.

For more information, contact the COG office @ 360-577-3041.

*Serving our communities  
for 50 years*

## "Déjà vu" continued...

- \* Longview ~ Examination of industrial zoning along Tennant Way and proposed aquatic recreation area; meetings held with downtown merchants regarding downtown study done in 1962.
- \* Woodland ~ Assistance with adoption and implementation of comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance; mapping of property for Woodland Port District.
- \* Completion of Kelso-Longview Urban Area Study.
- \* Study of recreation sites along Columbia River. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports that control of vessel speed is no solution to problem of dangers along river shoreline.
- \* Urban area studies begun for Castle Rock and Kalama.

### **SPECIAL NOTICE:**

**There will be no phone service available on Friday, January 28, 2011.**

## December Board Meeting Highlights

- \* Amended the 2011-2014 Regional Transportation Improvement Program to add county projects
- \* Amended the 2010 COG Budget/Work Program to add \$20,000 to enable staff to complete the Cowlitz County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- \* Approved the 2011 COG Budget/Work Program in the amount of \$1,262,266
- \* Authorized COG staff to travel to Charlotte, NC for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, February 2-5, 2011
- \* Expressed appreciation for Axel Swanson's, as outgoing chair, and Nancy Harris' years of service to the COG
- \* Heard reports from representatives and alternates about their jurisdictions
- \* Next meeting is Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> @ 12 Noon

### **TITLE VI and ADA Notice to the Public**

COG ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the American Disabilities Act of 1990 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disabilities in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, call program coordinator at (360) 577-3041.