

# Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments

## Board Meeting

Elochoman Marina ~ Cathlamet, WA  
Thursday, June 23, 2011 ~ 12:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

#### **PRESENT:**

##### Representatives:

Blair Brady, Wahkiakum County  
Pete Poulsen, City of Kalama  
Dave Andrew, Cowlitz PUD  
Dan Buell, Port of Longview  
Troy Stariha, Port of Kalama  
Nelson Holmberg, Port of Woodland  
Carleton Appelo, Wahkiakum Port No. 2  
Richard Erickson, Wahkiakum Chamber  
Jackie Lea, Wahkiakum Port No. 1

##### Alternates:

Lisa Marsyla, Wahkiakum County  
Mary Jane Melink, City of Longview  
Al Swindell, city of Woodland  
George Wehrfritz, Town of Cathlamet  
Abe York, Wahkiakum Port No. 1  
Mary Brown, Economic Development Council

##### Others:

Phil Rupp  
Mrs. Swindell

##### Staff:

Steve Harvey  
Bonnie Kelley  
Katie Wells  
Rosemary Siipola  
Barbara Kincaid

The monthly meeting of the COG board at the Elochoman Marina in Cathlamet, Washington, was called to order by Chair, Pete Poulsen at 12:30 p.m. Introductions were made around the tables.

#### **Action Items**

##### **1. Minutes of the May 26, 2011 COG Board meeting**

A motion was made by Al Swindell and seconded by Carleton Appelo to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2011 Board meeting. **Motion passed.**

##### **2. Monthly Expenditures for May, 2011**

Jim Biwer reviewed and indicated everything was in order. A motion was made by Al Swindell and seconded by Nelson Holmberg to approve the expenditure list for May 2011. **Motion passed.**

**3. Travel Authorization – Jennifer Keene to Minneapolis, Minnesota for the National Scenic Byways Conference, August 21-24, 2011**

Director Steve Harvey explained that Jennifer has been working on the Fire and Ice Scenic Byways project, which will link Hwy 12 in the north with Hwy 14 in the south. There is currently an application in process for completing this scenic byway. Her attendance at this conference would be beneficial as she continues her work on this project. There are adequate funds in the transportation budget to cover all expenses.

A motion was made by Dave Andrew and seconded by Carleton Appelo to approve the travel request of Jennifer Keene to attend the 2011 National Scenic Byways Conference in Minneapolis, MN August 21-24, 2011. **Motion passed.**

**4. Resolution No. 11-06 and WSDOT Resolution No. 11-06: Amending the 2011-2014 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) for the MPO and the SWRTPO**

Rosemary Siipola reported that we have a request from the Washington State Department of Transportation, Southwest Region, to amend the Regional Transportation Improvement Program. The amendment will add an additional \$1,168,000 in new funds to the MPO/SWRTPO RTIP for concrete paving of Third Avenue, City of Longview, from city limits to First Avenue; and \$997,000 to replace existing signal poles at the intersection of SR 432 and Washington Way to allow for safer pedestrian crossing. Both of these projects are DOT projects and need to be added to our TIP.

A motion was made by Mary Jane Melink and seconded by Nelson Holmberg for approval of Resolution No. 11-06 and WSDOT Resolution 11-06 amending the 2011-2014 Regional Transportation Improvement Program for the MPO and the SWRTPO. **Motion passed.**

**Information Items**

**5. Complete Streets Workshop, June 27, 2011 (see attachment) – Rosemary Siipola**

A flyer was attached to the board packet and Ms. Siipola encouraged board participation at the workshop. She indicated it would be well worth the time. It's an overall look at the whole transportation system and not just bikes and pedestrians. It includes an effort to tie transportation and land use together.

**6. Roundtable – Wahkiakum County Focus**

Lisa Marsyla, Richard Erickson, George Wehrfritz, Carleton Appelo and Blair Brady talked about the different projects and events happening in Wahkiakum County.

*Lisa Marsyla* mentioned the Skamokawa Center reopening – Richard Erickson further described the center and it was suggested that our next meeting in Wahkiakum County (scheduled for September) be held there. Richard and Lisa encouraged everyone to visit the new website, [www.wahkiakumchamber.com](http://www.wahkiakumchamber.com). There have also been updates to Vista Park. Hoping to draw some business with the ability they have now for housing 35-40 folks with meeting rooms close by.

*Carleton Appelo* – Wahkiakum Port District #2 – The district decided to keep Deep River marker buoys and pay an annual fee rather than remove them. Looking forward to developing Oneida boat ramp over a period of time. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vista Park is coming up with a big celebration at the park on July 30<sup>th</sup>. New center opened in Rosburg to teach individuals how to use the computer. It's open two days a week.

*George Wehrfritz* – Waiting for official go-ahead for the wastewater treatment plant. Third Street will be renovated. Restoring the old fire hall. Streetlight project is also getting started. Several building projects are in the works.

*Blair Brady* – talked about the school land available for the new treatment plant which would make the old site great for future development. Garage sales – Puget Island will have over 50 garage sales this weekend; farmers market every Friday afternoon. He also mentioned the lawsuit from the Department of Ecology on the bio-solid waste issue.

*Carleton, Lisa and Blair* – talked about the Rosburg School and the group of people who took over the building and are making it useful for the community.

*Jackie Lea* – Port District #1 has rental cabins; finishing a new dock; camping and RV park; \$55,000 in revenue a year from the cabin rentals. Hoping to build a small boat marina. Bald Eagle Days is the weekend of July 16<sup>th</sup>. August is big on weekend events.

*Nelson Holmberg* – Port of Woodland has a new tenant – Noah’s Ark Charter Bus Company which brought 42 new jobs.

*Dave Andrew* – Cowlitz PUD appreciates Wahkiakum County being on standby to assist when SR 4 was closed. Discussions are continuing with forest service, Cowlitz County, the PUD and land owners on Spirit Lake highway corridor – trying to work up a financial agreement to pay for a feasibility study to rebuild a power line up there.

*Mary Jane Melink* – Unveiled Longview’s new downtown action plan – hope to take some nuggets to improve the downtown area; also busy with lawsuits.

*Troy Stariha* – Port of Kalama – The glass company is re-opening and he hopes it will create some new jobs. They are revamping playground equipment and walkways; new playground equipment coming today. Parking lot improvements will accommodate the two new pavilions’ patrons.

*Dan Buell* – Port of Longview is really busy with log ships coming in; Skyline Steel will have their dedication on July 28.

*Mary Brown* – The new steel company is looking to hire about 100 people. She’s working on entrepreneur programs; jobs and innovation grant with Portland; a two-day high school program at Mount St. Helens with a focus on science, technology, engineering and math to be held sometime in October; and other projects.

*Al Swindell* – City of Woodland completed the purchase of land for little league, soccer, and walking trails.

## **7. Director and Staff Reports**

Sustainable communities HUD grant – we will be resubmitting that grant soon and we will be coming to members for letters of support. We will not be partnering with Col-Pac for this grant; it will involve the Cowlitz-Lewis economic development district.

Rosemary – The COG newsletter reported info about the \$2 million state appropriation we received for the SR 432 highway and rail NEPA/SEPA project. We will be hiring a project manager in the next few weeks.

Steve shared about the Brainworks cafés recently held about the substance abuse programs and what the next steps will be for those types of programs. Also waiting to hear from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture on the SET program – should hear on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Business** – Mrs. Swindell mentioned a forum on August 25 at the Cowlitz County Expo Center on the coal terminal which may or may not be coming; anyone interested can attend.

Next COG board meeting is scheduled for July 28 – it may be moved because of other events going on that day.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

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Stephen H. Harvey, Director

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Pete Poulsen, Chair

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Katie Wells, Administrative Assistant