



COWLITZ-WAHKIAKUM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Regular Board Meeting / Hybrid
 Cowlitz Event Center ~ 1900 7th Ave, Longview WA 98632
 Video Conferencing ~ Via Zoom
 Thursday ~ October 27, 2022 ~ 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

General/Special Representatives/Alternates

Dennis Weber, Cowlitz County	Mark Wilson, Port of Kalama
John Jabusch, Cowlitz County	Jennifer Wray-Keene, Port of Woodland
Paul Helenberg, City of Castle Rock, Chair	Bill Hallanger, Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue
Adam Smee, City of Kalama	Steve Taylor, Cowlitz PUD
Mike Karnofski, City of Kelso	Gene Healy, Wahkiakum PUD 1
MaryAlice Wallis, City of Longview	Patti Bowen, Longview School District
David Olson, Town of Cathlamet, Vice-Chair	Michael Green, Woodland School District
Troy Stariha, Port of Kalama	

Associate/Affiliate Representatives/Alternates

Ilona Kerby, Lower Columbia Community Action Council	Monica Budd, Wahkiakum Chamber
Chris Bailey, Lower Columbia College	Teresa Stedman, City of Washougal

Staff

Bill Fashing	Robert Stevens
Anisa Kisamore	Lauren Read
Rachelle Nugent	Brandon Robinson

1. Call to Order & Introduction

Chair, Paul Helenberg, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and introductions were conducted.

2. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

3. Consent Agenda

A. September 22, 2022 Minutes

B. September Expenditures

Minutes from the September 22, 2022, regular Board of Directors’ meeting and agency expenditures for September 2022 were presented as part of the agenda packet.

Motion: MaryAlice Wallis moved to approve the September 22, 2022, minutes and the September expenditures totaling \$86,283.60. Motion was seconded and approved.

4. Action Items

A. Resolution 22-16: 2023 Employer Health Benefit Premium Contribution

The Executive Committee’s recommended rate for the 2023 Employer Health Benefit Premium Contribution was presented to the Board for approval. The benefit premium is set annually as a maximum amount that can be applied to an employee’s health benefit package per month. The recommendation is to increase the amount from 2022’s \$1,720 to \$1,900 for 2023; an approximate 10% increase over the previous year, yet lower than Kaiser’s negotiated increase of 11.55%.

Motion: Bill Hallanger moved to approve the 2023 Employer Health Benefit Premium Contribution be increased to \$1900. Motion was seconded and approved.

B. Establishing 2022 Nominating Committee

Chair Paul Helenberg presented the recommendations for the 2023 Nominating Committee. Headed by Vice Chair David Olson, the members are: Dennis Weber, Mike Karnofski, and Doug Averett. Members will seek out and bring nominee recommendations back to the Board for officers and Executive Committee openings. Additional nominating committee recommendations were called for from attendees. No names were put forth.

Motion: Bill Hallanger moved to approve the 2023 Nominating Committee as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

5. **Information Items**

A. 2023 Budget Draft

Bill Fashing reviewed the first draft of the 2023 Budget with the Board highlighting the minimal changes between the adopted 2022 budget and proposed 2023 budget. The overall total budget presented was \$1,470,000; an increase of \$176,793 over 2022. Per Washington State Audit exit recommendation made during the last agency accountability audit, the Executive Committee approved the application of the historical membership formula to the 2023 budget. Individual agencies will see changes in their portions, but the overall total does not change from 2022. The Employer Health Benefit Premium of \$1,900 was also incorporated into the draft on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Other inclusions were a 3.5% COLA, replacement of end-of-life server, and three large contracts.

B. Board of Directors' Survey Results

The Board of Directors Survey results were presented by Bill Fashing. The survey was initiated due to low in-person meeting attendance versus the cost of the room for each meeting. Most survey replies opted for the continuation of the hybrid meetings. Steve Taylor and MaryAlice Wallis offered their agencies' meeting rooms as alternatives to the Conference Center.

C. Industrial Way/Oregon Way Letter of Support (IWOW)

The CWCOCG offered a letter of support for a grant funding request made by the Washington State Department of Transportation to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, for the IWOW intersection. The intersection is an economically critical junction within the Washington and Oregon bi-state international trade corridor.

D. State Broadband Office Comment Letter

The CWCOCG offered a response to the Call for Comments by the Director of the Washington State Broadband Office, Mark Vasconi, addressing considerations in the scoring criteria for the Fall 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) for Broadband projects. Comments were offered on open access networks, match contribution considerations, digital equity and low-income support, the broadband speed criteria challenge, the last mile definition given in RCW 43.330.530(5), and support of a checklist of considerations for grant applicants.

6. **Executive Director's Report**

The Executive Director gave several summary reports on the following:

The Board was given an update on the Spirit Lake - Toutle/Cowlitz River Collaboratives' tour of the project areas including the flood and sediment plain above the Sediment Retention Structure. Over 30 government agencies are invested in the Collaborative and the efforts to protect downstream communities, and ecological resources.

The Final Draft of the Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan draft was recently posted for public review. Staff worked to pull in information on regional needs and challenges relating individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes to provide strategies for meeting

these needs. The Regional Transportation Planning Organization will review and approve the final document in November.

7. **Executive Committee Report**

For informational purposes the Executive Committee regular meeting minutes for August 25, 2022, were included in the agenda packet.

8. **Other Business**

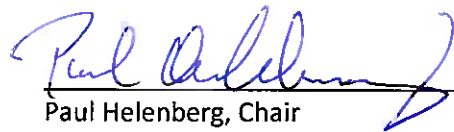
None

9. **Adjourn**

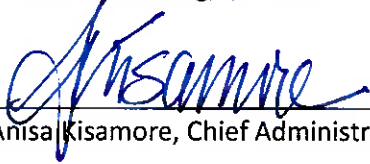
Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.



William A. Fashing, Executive Director



Paul Helenberg, Chair



Anisa Kisamore, Chief Administrative Officer

