



COWLITZ-WAHKIAKUM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (CWCOG)
Board of Directors ~ Regular Meeting / Hybrid
Cowlitz Public Utility District Auditorium / 961 12th Ave, Longview, Washington
Video Conferencing ~ Zoom
Thursday ~ August 24, 2023 ~ 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance:

General/Alternate Member Representatives

Richard Dahl, Cowlitz County

Lee Tischer, Wahkiakum County

Hillary Strobel, City of Longview

David Olson, Town of Cathlamet (Chair)

Special/Alternate Member Representatives

Troy Stariha, Port of Kalama

Doug Averett, Port of Longview

Todd Souvenir, Port of Wahkiakum District 1

Sam Shogren, Port of Wahkiakum District 2

Jennifer Wray-Keene, Port of Woodland

Bill Hallanger, Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue

Sammy Brown, Cowlitz County Fire District 5

Steve Taylor, Cowlitz County PUD

Gene Healy, Wahkiakum PUD 1

Michael Green, Woodland School District

Associate/Alternate Member Representatives

Karen Sisson, Kelso-Longview Chamber of Commerce

Wendy Hall, Lower Columbia College

Channing Cendana, Wahkiakum Chamber

Affiliate/Alternate Member Representatives

None

Legislative Representatives

John Anderson, Governor Inslee's Office

Other

Ryan Clemens, WSDOT Regional Representative

Visitors

Ilana Preuss, Recast City

Staff

Bill Fashing, Executive Director

Anisa Kisamore, Administrative Director

Rachelle Nugent, Business Administrator

Robert Stevens, Transportation Planner

Lauren Read, Mobility Management Coordinator

Monica Seidl, Project Specialist

Penny Newton, Project Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chair, David Olson, called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

2. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) ensures all compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disabilities in the provisions of benefits and services results in from its federally assisted programs and activities. For questions regarding CWCOG's Title VI Program, you may contact the Department's Title VI Coordinator at 360-577-3041. If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please call us at 360-577-3041 by 10:00 a.m. three days prior to the meeting.

3. Roll Call

Due to lack of quorum at the beginning of the meeting and the need for the speaker to leave early, the agenda was revised to place the speaker first awaiting a quorum later in the meeting.

4. Speaker

A. Small-Scale Manufacturing, Business Growth, and Downtown 101 - Ilana Preuss, Recast City

Ilana Preuss, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Recast City, spoke to how to change the default economic development model used since the 1980's. Her main points were 1) place is key to economic strength, 2) unique is key to economic longevity, and 3) social connections are key to economic resilience.

Quorum was met following the speaker.

5. Consent Agenda

A. July 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

B. July 2023 Expenditures Ratified

Both Consent Agenda items, July 27th regular Board of Directors' meeting minutes and the July expenditures in the amount of \$88,758.39 were considered as a single action item.

Motion: Bill Hallanger moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

6. Action Items

A. Resolution 23-18: 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Consideration (CEDS)

Bill Fashing presented background on Resolution 23-18 adopting the new 2023-2028 CEDS document. The first draft was published on June 9, 2023, for the Department of Economic Development Administration (EDA) and public review followed by a final review including modifications on July 14, 2023. The changes made are minor modifications to improve readability and inclusion of a date reference.

Motion: Bill Hallanger moved to approve Resolution 23-18, approving the 2023-2028 CEDS as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

7. Information Items

A. Letter of Support – Wahkiakum PUD/Town of Cathlamet Water System Consolidation

Letters of Support are authored and submitted in support of area projects prior to board review if the projects are listed in or fall under strategic policy within one of the various transportation or economic development plans or programs previously reviewed and approved by the Board. All projects listed qualify as such.

8. Executive Director's Report

The regional Broadband and Digital Equity Summary has been included in the State's five-year action plan and sent to the Department of Commerce, National Telecommunication, and Information Administration (NTIA). The CWCOG has submitted an application in partnership with Goodwill, area libraries, Lower Columbia Community Action Program, Kelso Resource Center, and Lower Columbia College to the State's Broadband office for additional digital equity funding.

Spirit Lake Toutle/Cowlitz River Collaborative (SLTCRC) is holding a field event on October 12, 2023, from 10:00AM to 4:00PM to learn about the fish passage programs, Mt. St. Helens Institute Cold Water Facility enhancements, and sediment control projects. It will be a key opportunity to meet leadership from the Core

of Engineers, US Geological Survey (USGS), US Forest Service (USFS), and other agencies. Bill will send the information to the Board.

The CWCOG has applied for a childcare grant to support the activities as outlined in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs). The grant will help to establish a working group to find a solution to the regional childcare problem.

The Southwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization Board (SWRTPO) will be issuing a call for transportation alternative projects for the 2024-2028 funding window. Contact Robert Stevens for additional information.

9. Executive Committee Report

No report available for this meeting.

10. Other Business

David Olson spoke to a meeting he is calling with Wahkiakum County's fire chief, Public Utilities Department, and Emergency Communications Coordinator to discuss catastrophic fires and evacuations plans. He commented that if any others were interested it may be a time to start having those same discussions region-wide.

11. Adjourned

David Olson adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.



William A. Fashing, Executive Director



David Olson, Chair



Anisa Ksamore, Administrative Director