



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 – October 26, 2023, - 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance:

General/Alternate Member Representatives

Dennis Weber, Cowlitz County

Lee Tischer, Wahkiakum County

Mike Karnofski, City of Kelso

Andrew Hamilton, City of Kelso

Will Finn, City of Woodland

Steve Kallio, City of Kalama

Adam Smee, City of Kalama

MaryAlice Wallis, City of Longview

David Olson, Town of Cathlamet (Chair)

Special/Alternate Member Representatives

Troy Stariha, Port of Kalama

Doug Averett, Port of Longview

Scott Anderson, Port of Wahkiakum District

Bill Hallanger, Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue

Scott Westlund, Kelso School District

Michael Green, Woodland School District

Gene Healy, Wahkiakum PUD 1

Ryan Greene, Castle Rock School District

Associate/Alternate Member Representatives

John Diamond, 911 Public Authority

Jim Seeks, Cowlitz Transit Authority

Affiliate/Alternate Member Representatives

Teresa Stedman, City of Washougal

Legislative Representatives

None

Other

None

Visitors

Eric Hovee, Speaker

Staff

Bill Fashing, Executive Director

Anisa Kisamore, Administrative Director

Robert Stevens, Transportation Planner

Sean Nugent, Planning Technician

Penny Newton, Project Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chair, David Olson, called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

2. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

3. Roll Call

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.

5. Consent Agenda

A. September 28, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

B. September Expenditures Ratified

Both Consent Agenda items, September 28, 2023, regular Board of Directors' meeting minutes and the September expenditures in the amount of \$106,452.68 were considered as a single action item.

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

5. Action Items

A. Resolution 23-24: Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

Robert Stevens requested consideration of Resolution 23-24 for the implementation of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) guidance for the upcoming Call for Projects.

The Call for Projects is intended to establish two ranked lists: one for STBGP projects and one for CRP. Ranked projects with recommended funding will be presented at the January 2024 board meeting. The two programs are being combined into one to provide the opportunity to award either STBGP or CRP funding to the selected CRP projects.

The STBG grant is estimated at \$3,389,182 while the CRP grant estimate is \$1,460,807. The programs will be running parallel for fiscal years 2022-2023 and will be fully integrated by fiscal years 2025-2027.

Motion: Will Finn moved to adopt Resolution 23-24: Transportation Block Grant and Carbon Reduction Program 2023 Call for Projects as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

6. Speaker

Shrinking School Age Population – Eric Hovee, E.D. Hovee & Company

Bill Fashing introduced Eric Hovee, an Economic Consultant based out of Vancouver, WA. Eric spoke about the decline of school populations and shared his observations on trends and possible causes.

7. Information Items

A. Letters of Support:

1. City of Longview – Beech Street Reconnection Project
2. Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA) – Economic Development Administration Grant Application for Washington State Start-up Study

Letters of Support are authored and submitted in support of area projects before board review if the projects are listed in or fall under the 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

A significant meeting will be convening on November 15, 2023, regarding the Oregon to Vancouver, B.C. High-Speed Rail project. CWCOG will be encouraging to include one or two stops in our RTP region. Reach out if you have any thoughts or concerns.

The Regional Trails Plan is progressing. A request will be made to board members to promote additional participation before the November 15, 2023, deadline.

Adam Smee inquired if there is consideration as a region, to look at the Six Rivers Trail project and designating RTP funding to complete the project. The decision was made that CWCOG would convene a

meeting to further discuss and gather ideas on moving forward with the project. Background information on the project will be provided to the board prior to the meeting.

The CWCOG did not receive the childcare grant that was applied for in October. CWCOG will pursue another grant coming available in the first part of 2024.

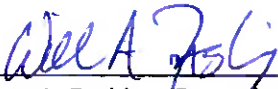
8. Executive Committee Report

No report available for this meeting.

9. Other Business

David Olson announced that on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 11 a.m. there will be a ribbon cutting in Wahkiakum County for the only level 3 high-power electric vehicle (EV) charging station on State Route 4. The Board is invited to attend.

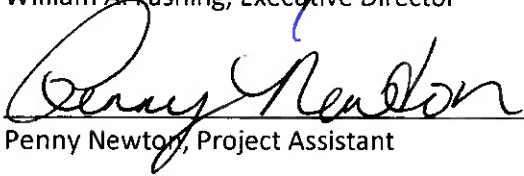
David Olson adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.



William A. Fashing, Executive Director



David Olson, Chair



Penny Newton, Project Assistant

