



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 – December 21, 2023 - 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance:

General/Alternate Member Representatives

Richard Dahl, Cowlitz County

Lee Tischer, Wahkiakum County

Paul Helenberg, City of Castle Rock

Adam Smee, City of Kalama

Mike Karnofski, City of Kelso

Andrew Hamilton, City of Kelso

MaryAlice Wallis, City of Longview

David Olson, Town of Cathlamet

Special/Alternate Member Representatives

Jeff Wilson, Port of Longview

Scott Anderson, 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

Scott Westlund, Kelso School District

Patti Bowen, Longview School District

Debbie Stanley, Three Rivers Reg. Wastewater Authority

Associate/Alternate Member Representatives

Jim Seeks, Cowlitz Transit Authority

Iлона Kerby, Lower Columbia CAP

Chris Bailey, Lower Columbia College

Affiliate/Alternate Member Representatives

Mike Karnofski, Cowlitz Economic Development Council

Legislative Representatives

John Anderson, Governor Inslee’s Office

Jeff Wilson, 19th District

Caitlin Harrington, Senator Murray’s Office

Other

Ryan Clemens, WSDOT Regional Representative

Visitors

None

Staff

Bill Fashing, Executive Director

Anisa Kisamore, Administrative Director

Rachelle Nugent, Target Zero Manager

Monica Seidl, Project Specialist

Sean Nugent, Finance Assistant

Penny Newton, Project Assistant

Gabe Reese, Transportation Planning Technician

Lauren Read, Mobility Coordinator

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

None

3. Roll Call

A quorum was present.

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.

Consent Agenda

- A. November 30, 2023, Minutes
- B. November 2023 Expenditures

Both Consent Agenda items, November 30, 2023, regular Board of Directors' meeting minutes and the November 2023 expenditures in the amount of \$83,526.01 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 23-28: 2023 Budget Amendment

Bill Fashing provided a brief overview of amendments to the budget and requested approval of Resolution 23-29 amending the 2023 Budget by an aggregate total increase of \$227,074.

Motion: MaryAlice Wallis moved to adopt Resolution 23-28: 2023 Budget Amendment as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

- B. Resolution 23-29: 2024 Budget

Bill Fashing requested, after review and recommendation by the Executive Committee, that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 23-29 adopting the 2024 CWCOG Budget in the amount of \$1,470,800.

Motion: Bill Hallanger moved to adopt Resolution 23-29: 2024 Budget as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

- C. Travel Authorizations: National Association of Regional Councils, Washington DC and National Association of Development Organizations, Arlington VA

Bill Fashing requested approval to attend two out of state conferences: the National Association of Regional Councils in Washington, D.C. and the National Association of Development Organizations in Arlington, VA. The estimated cost is \$2,500 per event.

Motion: Mike Karnofski moved to approve the travel authorizations as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

6. Information Items

None

7. Executive Director's Report

Bill Fashing shared that Doug Averette, Will Finn, and Chris Bailey will be leaving the Board and acknowledged them for their years of service and support of the CWCOG.

Amtrak has added two daily runs, one in the morning and one in the evening.

The CWCOG has launched a new trip assistant website developed through the Mobility Management program to serve the five-county region. The new site includes a Trip Assistant, Provider Directory and Resource Guide and is on the CWCOG website. The link is <https://mobility.cwcog.org>.

A Project Board that outlines partner projects, resources, and other information regarding the Spirit Lake/Toutle-Cowlitz River Collaborative (SLTCRC) project, is on the CWCOG website. The Project Board continues to be under construction with additional information added as it becomes available.

The Federal Government has published the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) information at the county level. Between 2017 and 2022, the GDP increased in Cowlitz County by 40% and in Wahkiakum County by 46%.

8. Executive Committee Report

A. Executive Committee Regular Meeting Minutes October 26, 2023

The Executive Committee meeting minutes omitted from the agenda packet will be sent out to the Board after today's meeting. No additional action required.

9. Other Business

Jeff Wilson announced that Evan Jones will be replacing Doug Averette on the Port of Longview Commission on the first of the year. He provided an overview of his duties as senator and gave an update on the regional projects he is actively supporting in Olympia.

Mike Karnofski reported that there are three more nights of the Kelso Rotary Lights in the Park. The \$5 donation raises money for low-income heating assistance and community service projects.

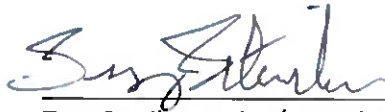
Chris Bailey announced that Dr. Matt Seimears will be starting his tenure on January 3, 2024.

Sam Shogren invited board members to the Wahkiakum Port District 2's annual free Christmas light show at Vista Park and that a soft opening was held for the incubator space at the Appelo Annex.

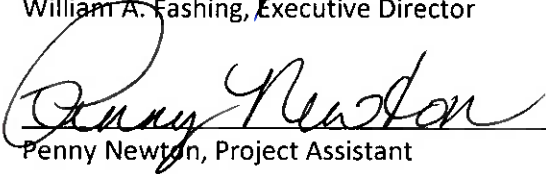
10. David Olson adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.



William A. Fashing, Executive Director



Troy Stariha, Acting/Past Chair



Penny Newton, Project Assistant