



COWLITZ-WAHKIAKUM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (CWCOG)

Board of Directors ~ Regular Meeting / Hybrid

Cowlitz Public Utility District Auditorium ~ 961 12th Ave, Longview, WA 98632

Video Conferencing - Zoom

Thursday May 23, 2024 - 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance:

General/Alternate Member Representatives

Dennis Weber, Cowlitz County

Lee Tischer, Wahkiakum County

Mike Karnofski, City of Kelso

Kalei LaFave, City of Longview

David Olson, Town of Cathlamet

Special/Alternate Member Representatives

Troy Stariha, Port of Kalama

Evan Jones, Port of Longview

Scott Anderson, Port of Wahkiakum District 1

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

Jason Petrillo, Cowlitz County Fire District 5

Steve Taylor, Cowlitz County PUD

Gene Healy, Wahkiakum PUD 1

Michael Green, Woodland School District

Associate/Alternate Member Representatives

Scott Jorgensen, City of Rainier

Jim Seeks, Cowlitz Transit Authority

Doreen Daggett, Cowlitz Transit Authority

Bonnie Delaney, Kelso-Longview Chamber

Pam Fierst, Kelso-Longview Chamber

Wendy Hall, Lower Columbia College

Affiliate/Alternate Member Representatives

Teresa Stedman, City of Washougal

Legislative Representatives

Caitlin Harrington, Senator Murray's Office

Tanisha Harris, Senator Cantwell's Office

Other

None

Visitors

None

Staff

Bill Fashing, Executive Director

Anisa Kisamore, Chief Administrative Officer

Rachelle Nugent, Target Zero Manager

Robert Stevens, Transportation Planner

Stacey Lane, Administrative Resource Coordinator

Monica Seidl, Project Specialist

Penny Newton, Project Assistant

Gabe Reese, Transportation Planning Technician

Sean Nugent, Finance Assistant

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.

1. Call to Order

Chair, David Olson, called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was present.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Consent Agenda

A. April 25, 2024, Minutes

B. April 2024 Expenditures

Both Consent Agenda items, April 25, 2024, regular Board of Directors' meeting minutes and the April 2024 expenditures in the amount of \$99,036.26 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 24-11: Unified Planning Work Program

Robert Stephens presented an overview of Resolution 24-11 State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Longview Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO).

The UPWP is prepared annually to comply with federal and state requirements and outlines the activities the CWCOG's metropolitan and regional transportation planning programs will focus on for the 2025 state fiscal period. The CWCOG received \$1,306,625 in federal, state, and local funds for the SFY 2025 UPWP.

Motion: Troy Stariha moved to adopt Resolution 24-11 State Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

B. Travel Authorizations*

1. Target Zero - Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) Conference, Indianapolis, IN.
2. National Association of Development Organization (NADO) - National Regional Transportation Conference, and Building Equitable Regional Economies Wealth Creation Summit, Greenville, SC.
3. Transportation Resource Board (TRB) - Transportation Symposium, Denver, CO.

Motion: Kalei LaFave moved to approve the out of state travel for staff to attend the GHSA Conference in Indianapolis, IN, the NADO conference in Greenville, SC, and the TRB Transportation Symposium in Denver, CO. as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

6. Information Items

A. Financial Report – Quarter 1, 2024

Bill Fashing provided a brief overview of the quarter finances noting they are on track for the remainder of the year.

B. Letters of Support

1. Port of Kalama – Rail Expansion Project
2. City of Kelso – West Kelso Housing Project
3. Port of Woodland – Port Infrastructure Development Program
4. Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group – Lower Cowlitz River Watershed Project
5. Cowlitz Public Utility District – Northwest Service Area Grid Resiliency Federal Funding Request.

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.

7. Executive Director's Report

In May there were two staffing changes in the last month: Lauren Read, Mobility Management Coordinator, resigned her position after accepting a new job offer and Stacey Lane was hired as the CWCOG's Administrative Resource Coordinator. The CWCOG is moving forward with filling the Mobility Management position and will commence the interview process next week.

The CWCOG was awarded more than \$39,000 from the Washington State Department of Commerce for capacity building. This will provide funding to enhance the CWCOG conference room and assist with other projects currently underway.

Rachelle Nugent is organizing her first *Traffic Safety Coalition* meeting set for June 12, 2024. This new group will be composed of representatives from a variety of agencies within Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, and Lewis counties. For additional information regarding this meeting, contact Rachelle or Bill.

Corey Balkan will be on the June agenda to provide an update on the Medical Rate Stabilization Committee's work being conducted.

The City of Kalama, City of Woodland, Port of Kalama, Port of Woodland, and Cowlitz County have passed resolutions in support of a county-wide Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). With the resolutions completed and universal support for the concept of going forward with the county-wide MPO, staff are ready to present the final proposal to the CWCOG Board at the June meeting.

8. Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee Regular Meeting Minutes for March 2024 were included in the board packet for review.

9. Other Business

Tanisha Harris provided a brief update from Senator Cantwell's office. Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) requests for the first round continue to be reviewed. The aim is to have results posted on the website within the next week. Tanisha noted that Senator Cantwell's office is able to provide letters of support for project requests if needed. Contact Tanisha for assistance.

Rachelle Nugent shared that Target Zero will have statewide Speed Emphasis Patrols from May 20 to June 2, 2024, and conduct a special Seatbelt Emphasis Patrol this Friday and Saturday in Cowlitz, Lewis, Thurston, Grays Harbor, and Mason counties. Cowlitz county possesses one of the lowest seatbelt usages in the state. The Toutle Lake Teens in the Driver's Seat program placed second in the state for completion of the program.

Troy Stariha inquired if the May SWRTPO meeting will be rescheduled. Bill Fashing stated that the CWCOG is in the process of locating a date and rescheduling it as soon as possible.

David Olson thanked Robert for running the Wahkiakum County Transportation Policy Forum, noting it was particularly useful to have the forums in-county as it increases attendance.

Jennifer Wray-Keene announced that an open house will be held for the Rose Way Industrial Park, June 11, 2024, 4-6 p.m., 1570 Rose Way, Woodland. Bill Fashing will forward the invitation he received for this occasion to the Board.

David Olson requested that Senator Jeff Wilson attend a future Board meeting and share the work he is initiating on bridge safety.

10. Adjourn

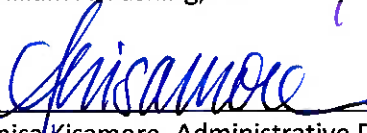
There being no further business, David Olson adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.



William A. Fashing, Executive Director



David Olson, Chair



Anisa Kisamore, Administrative Director