



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 June 27, 2024 - 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance:

General/Alternate Member Representatives

Dennis Weber, Cowlitz County

Lee Tischer, Wahkiakum County

Adam Smee, City of Kalama

Vice Chair Mike Karnofski, City of Kelso

Andrew Hamilton, City of Kelso

MaryAlice Wallis, City of Longview

Carol Rounds, City of Woodland

Chair David Olson, Town of Cathlamet

Special/Alternate Member Representatives

Troy Stariha, Port of Kalama

Evan Jones, Port of Longview

Todd Souvenir, Port of Wahkiakum District 1

Jennifer Wray-Keene, Port of Woodland

Bill Hallanger, Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue

Steve Taylor, Cowlitz County PUD

Gene Healy, Wahkiakum PUD 1

Scott Westlund, Kelso School District

Patti Bowen, Longview School District

Associate/Alternate Member Representatives

Paul Langner, City of Rainier

Mike Karnofski, Cowlitz Economic Development Council

Ilona Kerby, Lower Columbia Community Action Council

Bonnie Delaney, Kelso-Longview Chamber

Matt Seimears, Lower Columbia College

Affiliate/Alternate Member Representatives

None

Legislative Representatives

John Anderson, Governor Inslee's Office

Other

None

Visitors

Corey Balkan, Gallagher Insurance

Staff

Bill Fashing, Executive Director

Anisa Kisamore, Administrative Director

Rachelle Nugent, Target Zero Manager

Robert Stevens, Transportation Planner

Stacey Lane, Administrative Resource Coordinator

Monica Seidl, Project Specialist

Gabe Reese, Transportation Planning Technician

Sean Nugent, Finance Assistant

Megan Wirtz Mobility Management Coordinator

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1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

A quorum was present.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Consent Agenda

A. May 23, 2024 Minutes

B. May 2024 Expenditures

Both Consent Agenda items, May 23, 2024, regular Board of Directors' meeting minutes and the May 2024 expenditures in the amount of \$164,689.90 were considered as a single action item.

Motion: Dennis Weber moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

5. Action Items

A. Resolution 24-12: Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary Change

Bill Fashing mentioned that this topic had been brought to the Board and Executive Committee previously after which staff were directed to conduct public outreach. Outcomes of the outreach activities resulted in resolutions passed by Cowlitz County, the City of Kalama, the City of Woodland, Port of Kalama and Port of Woodland in support of the boundary change. Those resolutions were included in the agenda packet.

Discussion ensued regarding if the boundary change would impact funding eligibility for the jurisdictions affected. Bill Fashing ensured the Board that all entities impacted would still be eligible for transportation funding.

Motion: Mike Karnofski moved to adopt Resolution 24-12 - Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary Change as presented. The motion was seconded. One nay was noted from the Port of Woodland representative, Jennifer Wray-Keene. By process of a majority vote, the motion passed.

6. Information Items

A. Medical Rate Stabilization / Wellness Program Update – Corey Balkan

Corey Balkan gave an overview of the Medical Rate Stabilization Program and its impact on annual medical rate adjustments. He provided the Board with information on claims from the previous year, what the anticipated rates for the coming year will be, and how the program is doing compared to the national average.

B. Oregon Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Funding Recommendation

Bill Fashing reported that CWCOG Staff conducted a call for projects after the Board of Directors' approval at its regular May meeting. One project application was received from the City of Rainier. Though staff worked with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), it was determined that the project was not eligible at this time. Staff will continue to work with the City of Rainier to aid them in finding an eligible project.

C. City of Longview Request for Concurrence: Federal Functional Road Classification Changes

CWCOG staff reviews classification change requests before they are sent to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and provides a letter of concurrence which was included in the agenda packet. Presenter, Robert Stevens, noted that staff worked with the City of Longview during the process to gather details on the need for reclassifications.

D. Letters of Support

1. Wahkiakum County Port District 2 – Apello Annex Grant Application
2. Town of Cathlamet – Julia Butler Hansen House
3. Port of Longview – Department of Commerce Planning / Design Funding Application
4. Lower Columbia College – Enhanced Capacity for Small Business Development Center

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

Bill Fashing informed the Board that there have been two staffing changes; Megan Wirtz has been hired as the new Mobility Management Coordinator and Penny Newton, Project Assistant, has resigned.

The Board was updated on various projects including Target Zero, the childcare initiative, and the Spirit Lake/ Toutle-Cowlitz River System Collaborative.

Bill concluded with the announcement that staff had just been informed by Cowlitz County that the CWCOG’s rental agreement was being terminated to relocate county departments currently utilizing rental space that is too small. CWCOG staff will begin looking for a suitable space to relocate before the December 31st deadline.

8. Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee Regular Meeting Minutes for March 28, 2024, were included in the board packet. They were reviewed during the May 23, 2024, Board of Directors Regular Board meeting.

9. Other Business

Bonnie Delaney from the Kelso-Longview Chamber updated the Board on the upcoming chamber events and noted that there are currently several open positions.

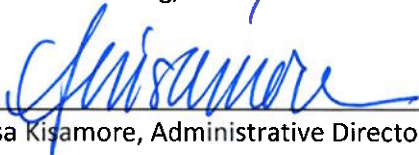
10. There being no further business, David Olson adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m.



William A. Fashing, Executive Director



David Olson, Chair



Anisa Kisamore, Administrative Director

