



COWLITZ-WAHKIAKUM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (CWCOG)

Board of Directors ~ Regular Meeting / Hybrid

Port of Longview / 10 International Way, Longview, WA 98632

Video Conferencing - Zoom

Thursday January 23, 2025 - 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance:

General/Alternate Member Representatives

Paul Helenberg, City of Castle Rock

Adam Smee, City of Kalama

Vice Chair Mike Karnofski, City of Kelso

MaryAlice Wallis, City of Longview

Chair David Olson, Town of Cathlamet

Special/Alternate Member Representatives

Troy Stariha, Port of Kalama

Jennifer Wray-Keene, Port of Woodland

Bill Hallanger, Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue

Gene Healy, Wahkiakum PUD

Debbie Stanley, Three Rivers Regional Wastewater Authority

Chris Fritsch, Castle Rock School District

Scott Westlund, Kelso School District

Patti Bowen, Longview School District

Asha Riley, Woodland school District

Associate/Alternate Member Representatives

Paul Langner, City of Rainier

Jim Seeks, Cowlitz Transit Authority

Affiliate/Alternate Member Representatives

Teresa Stedman, City of Washougal

Legislative Representatives

John Anderson, Governor Inslee’s Office

Tanisha Harris, Regional Rep Senator Cantwell’s Office

Other

None

Visitors

None

Staff

Bill Fashing, Executive Director

Anisa Kisamore, Administrative Director

Stacey Lane, Administrative Resource Coordinator

Rachelle Nugent, Target Zero Manager

Gabe Reese, Transportation Planner

Sam Shogren, Community Development Planner

Robert Stevens, Senior Transportation Planner

Megan Wirtz, Mobility Management Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair, Mike Karnofski, called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

2. 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.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Consent Agenda

A. December 19, 2024 Minutes*

B. December / January Expenditures*

All Consent Agenda items including December 19, 2024 Regular Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes and the December 2024 / January 2025 expenditures in the amount of \$151,481.24 were considered as a single action item.

Motion: MaryAlice Wallis moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

5. Action Items

A. 2025 Board Officer and Committee Elections*

Bill Fashing presented the Nominating Committee's recommendations for the 2025 Board of Directors' Officers, the Executive Committee, and the Finance Committee. Officers being recommended for consideration by the Board: Mike Karnofski, Chair; and Troy Stariha, Vice Chair. Executive Committee members being recommended: Mike Karnofski, Chair; Troy Stariha, Vice Chair; David Olson, Past Chair; Paul Helenberg, MaryAlice Wallis, Jennifer Wray Keene, and Lee Tischer for the At-Large positions. The Finance Committee is recommended to continue with the same members as 2024: Bill Hallanger, Scott Westlund, and Patti Bowen.

Motion: Bill Hallanger moved to approve recommendations for the 2025 Officers and Committees as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

B. Resolution 25-04: Safety Performance Measures*

Robert Stevens outlined the federal requirements for the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to establish Safety Performance Targets annually. The resolution approves both the Washington and Oregon State targets, as well as documenting the Board's agreement to support those targets by committing to addressing the areas of concern and integrating safety into the planning process.

Motion: MaryAlice Wallis moved to approve Resolution 25-04 Statewide Safety Performance Targets for 2025 as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

Mike Karnofski asked to depart from the agenda to present Chair David Olson a plaque in appreciation for his service as Chair of the CWCOG Board of Directors these last two years.

6. Information Items

A. Target Zero Update*

Rachelle Nugent, Target Zero Manager Region 3, spoke to Washington State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan that sets identified priorities to move the State's goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries on all roads. Target Zero Managers implement and guide these strategies at a regional level and help to build upon the State program which supports the international strategy – Vision Zero.

B. Office Relocation Update

Bill reported that the renovation of the new office space is taking longer than expected as management navigates the new laws and procedures for small public works projects. As of the first of January, all staff

are working remote full time to keep projects and programs on task. His hope is that we will be remote for only an additional month or two.

C. Letters of Support*

1. City of Longview – River Cities’ Longview to Vancouver Route

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

CWCOG is sponsoring grant workshops in both Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties. The first is to be held January 29th from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at the Catlin Hall in Kelso, and the second on January 30th from 12:30 to 2:30 PM at the Port 2 Lower Columbia Business Incubator office in Skamokawa.

The CWCOG is finishing up the Comprehensive Safety Action Plans for both Cowlitz County and Rainier, Oregon. Public comment period will start week of January 7th and with an open house on February 5th from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the Lakeside Event Center in Longview.

8. Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee Regular Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2024, were included in the board packet.

9. Other Business

None.

10. There being no further business, Mike Karnofski adjourned the meeting at 12:48 p.m.



William A. Fashing, Executive Director



Troy Starina, Vice Chair



Anisa Kisamore, Administrative Director