

GRAYS HARBOR  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 19, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

- The meeting, held in the Port of Grays Harbor Commission Chambers, Aberdeen, was called to order by Chairman Tim Alstrom at 7:00 p.m. Flag salute was held and attendance was called.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

➤ Members:

- City Councilmember Tim Alstrom (City of Aberdeen)
- City Councilmember John Lynn (City of Ocean Shores)
- Mayor Rob Bearden (City of Westport)
- Mayor Jim Sorenson (City of Elma)
- City Councilmember Carl Sperring (City of Cosmopolis)
- Commissioner Russ Skolrood (Grays Harbor PUD)
- City Councilmember John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)
- Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Mayor Vini Samuel (City of Montesano)
- Allison Grubbs (Timberland Regional Library)
- Commissioner Randy Ross (Grays Harbor County)

➤ Staff:

- Vicki Cummings, Executive Director
- Theresa Julius, GIS Coordinator
- Zana Dennis, Office Coordinator

A quorum was established.

➤ Guests:

Ray Brown  
PUD Commissioner Dave Timmons

3. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

➤ **Action: Approval of Current Meeting Agenda**

Chairman, Tim Alstrom, asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

*John Lynn made a motion to approve; second, Jim Sorensen. Motion passed unanimously. Randy Ross abstained.*

➤ **Action: Approval of December 2016 Minutes**

Chairman, Tim Alstrom, asked for approval of the December 2016 Minutes.

*John Lynn made a motion to approve; second, Russ Skolrood. Motion passed unanimously.*

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Chairman, Tim Alstrom, reported that January claims and January payroll were reviewed and approved.

➤ **Action: Approval of January Claims Batch #17-01 and January Payroll**

Chairman, Tim Alstrom, asked for approval of the January Claims, Batch #17-01 in the amount of \$5,711.98 and January 2017 Payroll in the amount of \$14,316.83.

*Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, Jim Sorensen. Motion passed unanimously.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

➤ **Action: Approval of Regional Transportation Plan Freight Strategies**

GHCOG is asking for the board to approve Grays Harbor Long Rang Freight Strategies to be included in the Regional Transportation Plan. The board reviewed, discussed and approved a draft proposal of long range freight strategies to increase capacity and efficiency in the Grays Harbor Region. The next segment to this process will be a round table to get recommendations from our local freight providers.

*Vini Samuel made a motion to approve; second, Ken Mehin. Motion passed unanimously.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

➤ **Action: Nomination of GHCOG Board Chair to Serve on the SWRTPO Board**

The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO) mailed out a request for representatives to the SWRTPO board from each of our cities, the County, the Port and the Tribes. The SWRTPO is also asking for the RTPO Policy Board Chairs from each county to be added to the representative list. Vicki asked the board for a motion stating that henceforth the seated GHCOG Board Chair would serve as the GHCOG representative to the SWRTPO Board.

*John Lynn made a motion to approve; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed unanimously.*

➤ **Action: 2017 Administrative Sub-Council, Officers Nominating Committee**

The GHCOG Administrative Sub-Council is recommending that they fulfill the role of the nominating committee for upcoming elections at the February meeting. Tim announced that Frank Chestnut is no longer a representative on the board and therefore seat for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair is currently unoccupied. Tim then gave a brief synopsis of the time and need requirements that come along with sitting on the Administrative Sub-Council.

*Vini Samuel made a motion to approve; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed unanimously.*

4. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- EPA Community Wide Brownfield Assessment Grant was completed/submitted.
- The ColPac transition team is still working on restructuring the Economic Development District. They met last month and are in the process of restructuring the board.

- GHCOG's request for \$500,000 in funds through the FAST Act for the East Aberdeen Mobility Project has made it to the Tier 1 funding package. This is good news but it is still highly competitive.
- Next SWRTPO meeting is on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- Working on new Vision 20/20 Community Outreach Action Plan.

➤ **Theresa Julius, GIS Coordinator**

- Working on detailed map and data project for the Aberdeen Fire Department.
- Working on clearing out 2016 and preparing for 2017.
- Completed and distributed new funding newsletters and demographic brochures.

➤ **Zana Dennis, Office Coordinator**

- Helped submit the EPA Brownfields grant.
- Working on closing out 2016.
- Preparing 2017 files.

5. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- Zana handed out the final Balance Sheet, Income and Expense statement for 2016. She then gave a synopsis of GHCOG's budget revenues and expenditures for 2016.

6. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

➤ **City of Hoquiam, Councilmember John Pellegrini**

- Gave update on Crude by Rail and the ORMA decision.

➤ **Grays Harbor Transit, Ken Mehin**

- Still in union negotiations.
- Close to having GPS tracking on the buses.

➤ **Grays Harbor PUD, Commissioner Russ Skolrood**

- 8 poles snapped in the wind storm. PUD replaced them in 12 hrs.
- Thank you to Quinault Indian Nation for hosting our December Meeting.
- We should do something thank Frank Chestnut for serving on the GHCOG board.

➤ **City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorenson**

- Working on storm water issues.
- Thanks to the Port for the businesses they are bringing to Satsop.
- Elma is booming.

➤ **City of Montesano, Mayor Vini Samuel**

- Moving forward with the Pioneer Avenue STP Project.
- Working on a Levy for the Fire Department.
- Working with WSDOT on a compact roundabout by the proposed rest stop area.

➤ **City of Ocean Shores, City Councilmember John Lynn**

- Working with Westport on local erosion issues, focusing on the South Jetty.
- Represented GHCOG at the last Port of GH board meeting for 501 3c.
- Ocean Shores real estate is both being built and selling.

- Timberland Regional Library, Allison Grubbs
  - New supervisory position is coming to the Aberdeen TRL.
  - Updated the Privacy Policy.
  - Entire district increased circulation in 2016.
  - Construction and Architecture is the theme for the Summer Reading Program.
  
- City of Westport, Mayor Rob Bearden
  - Crab season started and is going well.
  - Core of Engineers have multiple projects going in Westport.
  - Thank you to the GH PUD for getting the power back up so quickly.
  
- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Randy Ross
  - Nothing to add. Nineteen days new.
  
- City of Cosmopolis, City Councilmember Carl Sperring
  - Cheryl Turner is retiring as Clerk and Julie Pope will take over the position.
  - Darrin Raines will now be the City Administrator.
  - Mill Creek Dam project is going out to bid.
  
- City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Tim Alstrom
  - Aberdeen decided they will not be adding a City Manager in 2017.
  - Started a new budget process for the 2017 budget.
  - Gateway design meeting was held prior to our GHCOG meeting.
  - The Levy Project is coming along, but is need of more funding.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
 115 S. Wooding St.  
 Aberdeen, Washington 98520

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Tim Alstrom  
 Chair

Date

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Vicki Cummings  
 Executive Director

Date