

GRAYS HARBOR  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 19, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

➤ The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Tim Alstrom at 7:00 p.m. Flag salute was held and attendance was called.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

➤ Members:

- Mayor Frank Chestnut (City of Cosmopolis)
- City Councilmember Tim Alstrom (City of Aberdeen)
- City Councilmember John Lynn (City of Ocean Shores)
- City Councilmember Holly Plackett (City of Ocean Shores)
- City Councilmember John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)
- Mayor Jim Sorensen (City of Elma)
- Mayor Rob Bearden (City of Westport)
- Mayor Vini Samuel (City of Montesano)
- Leonard Barnes (Port of Grays Harbor)
- Commissioner Russ Skolrood (Grays Harbor PUD)
- Valerie Jester (Timberland Regional Library)
- Michael Cardwell (Quinault Indian Nation)
- Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)

➤ Staff:

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

A quorum was established.

➤ Guests:

Dennis Engel (WSDOT)

3. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

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

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

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

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

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

*John Pellegrini made a motion to approve; second, Frank Chestnut. Motion passed unanimously. Michael Cardwell abstained.*

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

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

➤ **Action: Approval of May Claims Batch #16-05 and May Payroll**

Chairman, Tim Alstrom, asked for approval of the May Claims, Batch #16-05 in the amount of \$8,231.72 and May 2016 Payroll in the amount of \$13,985.44.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

➤ **Discussion: Regional Transportation Plan – Next Steps**

Vicki Cummings gave an overview of the Bike/Ped elements of the plan completed at the April meeting. She went on to talk about the additional steps that staff will work with the board to complete, namely the Public Transportation, Roadway Emphasis and Freight elements.

**NEW BUSINESS**

➤ **Action: Approval of Resolution #603, 2016-2018 Amendment No. 1 to the 2016-2018 Grays Harbor County Region Surface Transportation Program (STP) Approval for Funding**

This resolution approved the reallocation of STP funds. The TAC Committee forwarded a recommendation to the GHCOG Policy Board allowing the City of Aberdeen to return \$572,161 of 2017 STP construction funds for their Downtown Revitalization Traffic Improvement Project and awarding those same funds to the City of Montesano for construction of their East Pioneer Improvements.

*Michael Cardwell made a motion to approve; second, Jim Sorensen. Motion passed unanimously.*

➤ **Action: Approval to Sign Contract with Watershed Science Engineering for GHCOG public outreach**

Vicki Cummings asked the board for approval for the GHCOG Chairman to sign a contract with Watershed Science Engineering to do the public outreach portion of Grays Harbor County's Wishkah Road Flood Study, which should total approximately \$10,500 in income for GHCOG.

*Michael Cardwell made a motion to approve; second, Frank Chestnut. Motion passed unanimously.*

➤ **Discussion: Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Vicki Cummings gave an overview of the UPWP and how it is directly tied to GHCOG's contract with Cowlitz Wahkiakum COG for transportation planning. At UPWP meetings the planning partners get together to discuss what the State

requirements are and how they can all work together to meet those goals within a similar framework while catering to our individual and unique communities.

#### 4. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

##### ➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Attended Scenic Byway signage celebration, tourist attraction signage next goal.
- Working with ColPac transition committee on reformation of the Economic Development District.

##### ➤ **Theresa Julius, GIS Coordinator**

- Ongoing on maps for Westport and consultants for County Flood.
- Started mapping for Port of Grays Harbor RCO grant submission.
- Continued data compilation.
- Helping resolve IT issues.

##### ➤ **Zana Dennis, Office Coordinator**

- Finished Annual Report and submitted to State Auditor.
- Working with members to build 2017 TIP and submit amendments.
- TAC Committee meeting/STP funding redistribution.

#### 5. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- ##### ➤ None

#### 6. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

- Participating on review Committee for Grays Harbor County Marine Resource Committee – will keep GHCOG Board updated on coastal enhancements.
- Got bid results for emergency sewer repairs.

##### ➤ **WSDOT, Dennis Engel**

- WSDOT crash data handout on using the 23 U.S. Code, Section 409 disclaimer.

##### ➤ **Quinault Indian Nation, Michael Cardwell**

- Attended Seabrook ribbon cutting, pictures will be in *Nugquam*.
- Participating in Cascadia Rising exercise in June, encouraged all to participate.
- Visit the Washington Tribes website, [www.washingtontribes.org](http://www.washingtontribes.org).
- Casino expansion will include a canoe themed buffet and a coastal longhouse. parking garage with charge stations and tsunami evacuation area.
- Hoping to get approval to purchase new Rez Racer buses.

##### ➤ **Port of Grays Harbor, Leonard Barnes**

- Attended boat launch ribbon cutting. Great asset to the community.
- Reminded everyone how wonderful it is that Hoquiam Plywood reopened.
- Spoke about two timber sales at City of Hoquiam; will help community as whole.
- Westport Shipyard is closing the Aberdeen facility, but is expanding the Westport facility and moved most employees to the Westport facility.

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

- Spoke to how a good water year is a good thing for power/PUD's.

- City of Westport, Mayor Rob Bearden
  - June 11<sup>th</sup> is dedication of New School and tsunami safe haven.
  - Gearing up for Cascadia Rising exercise.
  - Working on cleanup from fire at the water department.
  - Blessing of the Fleet is May 29<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.
  - Slow start to fishing season.
  - Washington Shellfish Week, June 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, events at lighthouse.
  - Rusty Scuppers Pirate Daze, June 24-26<sup>th</sup>.
  
- Grays Harbor Transit, Ken Mehin
  - Handout on new four hour free transfer policy starting May 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Tokeland and Raymond routes are running and seem to have good ridership.
  - The four new buses are being enjoyed by drivers and riders.
  - Applied for four new grants for buses, facilities, bus barn and a roof.
  
- City of Cosmopolis, Mayor Frank Chestnut
  - New police officer passed field training and is on the road.
  - Economic development workshops with city committees are in works.
  - 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will be on Sunday, 9/11/16.
  
- City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen
  - Resolution to dedicate street to fallen soldier Carl Huttula on Memorial Day at 2pm at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Main.
  - City of Elma is giving free CERT training in June. Call city to register.
  - Elma is submitting annexation of land out to/past Schoulweiler.
  - Updated board about ROW changes, costing Elma about \$15K.
  - Impressed with Satsop Business Park and will promote the office space rental.
  - Contest with Elma schools to design a logo for the City of Elma.
  - Partnering with high school to video City Council meetings to post.
  
- City of Montesano, Mayor Vini Samuel
  - Working to resolve budget issues.
  - Plan to have public WIFI live by July.
  - 75th Anniversary Celebration of Sustainable Forestry in Montesano, June 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Ribbon cutting for Twin Bridges Park on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Work on Beacon Park to start in fall and hoping for soccer fields by next summer.
  
- City of Ocean Shores, City Councilmember John Lynn
  - Airport resurfacing is going well.
  - South Razor Clam Bridge repairs should start in 2016.
  - Encouraging everyone to go experience Oyhut (new housing addition).
  - Still working on removing fishing boat grounded in Ocean Shores.
  - Noticing erosion on bay side in Ocean Shores, adds to growing erosion problems.
  - Doing strategic planning on how to best utilize the water utility enterprise fund.
  
- City of Ocean Shores, City Councilmember Holly Plackett
  - Memorial Day Weekend is GH County Expo. Home Show, Wood/Ice Carving, Art, Car Show and Memorial Service.
  - Flag Day Parade is June 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am.

- Saws ‘n Shores is June 24-26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Fireworks on the Beach on July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Timberland Regional Library, Valerie Jester
- May 21<sup>st</sup> is National Readathon Day.
  - Montesano is having a lecture on travelling to Cuba on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Elma is having a free family history help day on May 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - Oakville is closed May 19<sup>th</sup> for staff training.
  - Page Turners will be in McCleary on May 24th.
  - Summer Reading Program starts in June.
- City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Tim Alstrom
- City of Aberdeen is excited to partner with TRL and the Aberdeen School District to facilitate Libraries in the Park.
  - Flower Baskets are up and expanded this year due to generous donations.
  - Founders Day Parade is July 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Splash Festival will be on July 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Sam Benn Park Renovations are underway.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 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