

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

- The remote meeting, held via Zoom was called to order by Chairman Ben Winkelman at 6:30 p.m. Attendance was called.

2. ATTENDANCE

➤ Members:

- Mayor Jim Sorenen (City of Elma)
- City Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg (City of Ocean Shores)
- Mayor Rob Bearden (City of Westport)
- General Manager Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Mayor Vini Samuel (City of Montesano)
- Mayor Ben Winkelman (City of Hoquiam)
- City Councilmember Tawni Andrews (City of Aberdeen)
- Commissioner Kevin Pine (Grays Harbor County)
- Councilwoman Clarinda Pies Underwood (Quinault Indian Nation)
- Library Manager Mary Thornton (City of Cosmopolis)

➤ Staff:

- Vicki Cummings, Executive Director
- Zana Dennis, Office and Grant Coordinator, Planner II

➤ Guests:

- Matt Pahs, Multimodal Planning Coordinator, WSDOT
- Bill Elliott, Project Engineer, WSDOT
- Jean Carr, President/CEO SCJ Alliance
- Debra Seeman, Transportation Project Manager, David Evans and Associates
- Jenny Thacker, Senior Project Manager, PRR
- Rob Wilson, Principal Engineer, Grays Harbor County
- John Louderback, Guest, Community Member
- Don Williams, Guest, Community Member

A quorum was established.

3. GHCOG BUSINESS

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

Chairman Ben Winkelman asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, Rob Bearden. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Action: Approval of March 2021 Minutes**

Chairman Ben Winkelman asked for approval of the March 2021 Minutes.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, Rob Bearden. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Chairman Ben Winkelman reported a Sub-Council meeting was held via Zoom. Bills and payroll were reviewed and approved. A meeting was set up to review the by-laws in regard to the PUD's request to consider voting rights for members with reduced dues and some new WSDOT policies were discussed.

➤ **Action: Approval of April 2021 Claims Batches #21-04 and April 2021 Payroll**

Chairman Ben Winkelman asked for approval of the April 2021 Claims Batches #21-04 in the amount of \$3,384.62 and April 2021 Payroll in the amount of \$11,279.52.

Tawni Andrews made a motion to approve; second, Rob Bearden. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **Presentation: WSDOT US 12-SR 8 – Grays Harbor County Fish Passage Barriers – Remove Fish Barriers**

Bill Elliott, WSDOT Project Engineer, gave an overview of WSDOT's requirement to remove fish passage barriers throughout WA State by 2023 and that they will be bulking some of those projects together so they are people to stay in budget and within their court ordered timeline. Five outdated culverts will be replaced in Grays Harbor County that impede fish navigation on US 12 and SR 8 within Grays Harbor County, which include:

US 12

M.P. 12.36 – Camp Creek

M.P. 17.56 – Unnamed Tributary to Wenzel Slough

M.P. 19.17 – Unnamed Tributary to Vance Creek

SR 8

M.P. 3.16 – Unnamed Tributary to Wildcat Creek

M.P. 9.10 – Unnamed Tributary to Mox Chehalis Creek.

Debra Seeman, the Transportation Project Manager from David Evans and Associates, Inc., then went through a detailed PowerPoint presentation that further outlined the projected timeline and how the project was planned to be completed at each location, which entails closing sections of US 12 and SR 8, then diverting traffic from East to West bound lanes (or vice-versa) that will become two-way traffic for the closed sections and then divert back after the section of closure. The proposed schedule for this project is:

Timeline

Summer 2021 – Project advertised for competitive bidding

Winter 2021 - Project awarded

Spring 2022 – Construction begins
Fall 2023 – Most work complete

For further information on the project you can go to the WSDOT project page:
<https://wsdot.wa.gov/projects/us12/sr8/home>

4. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None

5. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Thanks to WSDOT for the presentation and communication.
- Attended the UPWP Meeting.
- Will be attending the upcoming Freight Meeting.
- Will be attending the SWRTPO Meeting in May.
- Attending a stakeholder meeting for the SR 105/Harriman Roundabout Study.
- Have been working with the .09 Committee to review projects.
- Working on a Park Plan for the City of Elma and an update for the Port.
- Will be meeting with the Administrative Sub-Council prior to the GHCOG May meeting to further discuss amending the bylaws.
- Attended a WSDOT meeting in regard to STP obligation timeline for 2021.

➤ **Zana Dennis, Office and Grant Coordinator, Planner II**

- Auditing files to see what GHCOG paperwork needs board signatures and will be sending out things for the board to sign via AdobeSign at the end of April.
- Auditing STP obligations and contacting STP awardees on obligation timeline.
- Attended a WSDOT meeting in regard to STP obligation timeline for 2021.
- Still working on mapping for City of Aberdeen Fire

6. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

➤ **City of Ocean Shores, City Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg**

- Council decided to do a voucher system for spring cleanup this year. People will need to come to the convention center to pick up the vouchers.
- EMS renewal will be on the April 27th ballot.
- North Beach Senior Center has been elemental in food collection, distribution, and delivery during COVID-19 with \$2 million last year and \$600,00 this year in USDA distributions, donations, and volunteers.

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

- Zana was calling on members to speak and accidentally skipped Mayor Samuel. Apologies!

➤ **Grays Harbor Transit, General Manager Ken Mehin**

- Still in union negotiations.
- Working on hiring and training staff so they can go back to 7 day a week service.

- City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen
 - Took delivery of the City's first new fire truck in decades.
 - Put in an offer on the old Funeral Home on 4th and Young in hopes of turning it into a Law and Justice Center, as it has a large meeting room that could be used for court hearings and other large meeting needs.
 - Annexation of Fire District 5 will be on the April 27th ballot, so they could merge with the City of Elma Fire Department.
 - The Chamber is moving forward with the Heat on the Street car show and will be having a street dance the Friday before the car show.

- City of Westport, Mayor Rob Bearden
 - Rob Parnell submitted his resignation due to illness, so the new GHCOG alternate will be Melissa Huerta.
 - Nice weather and good fishing in Westport.
 - Started putting in the 2 new City wells, which will be about 540 ft. deep.

- Quinalt Indian Nation, Councilwoman Clarinda Pies Underwood
 - Guy Capoeman was elected as the new Quinalt Nation President. Fawn Sharp served 5, 3 year terms as the Quinalt Nation President, as is now Vice-President.
 - The Nation won 4 litigations to confirm their ownership of Lake Quinalt and they will now be working on a survey of the lake so they can start a clean-up and preservation program to remove predators and get the lake healthy.

- City of Hoquiam, Mayor Ben Winkelman
 - Downtown Revitalization Consultant's report is almost ready for review.
 - Talking with the Aberdeen Mayor about how to fund a navigation program for their Emergency Services providers.
 - Hiring for both Police and Fire, but challenging to find qualified applicants.
 - Will be holding the first in-person meeting with public on April 26th, although most staff will be attending via Zoom.
 - Hoping to have an RFA on the fall ballot for capital improvements for Fire.
 - On May 21st & 22nd the City of Hoquiam will be celebrating its 131st birthday with a celebration at Olympic Stadium.
 - La Voque's is being renovated and the new owners hope to have it completed within 18 months. The bike and coffee shop will remain in the building.
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- Timberland Regional Library, Hoquiam Library Manager Mary Thornton
 - All TRL locations are at least partially open, but still doing take-out.
 - Computers are available by reservation for 30 minute timeslots.
 - Working Summer Reading Programming, which will be virtual.
 - No in person programming until fall at the soonest.

- City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Tawni Andrews
 - Still doing meetings via Zoom.
 - Looking at designs for new police and fire facilities.
 - Working with Hoquiam on Flood Authority, Levy, Navigation and other projects.
 - City Police and other volunteers are assisting at the vaccination site.
 - Council is working out details on how the Founder's Day and Art Walk events will be held this year, but do plan to hold them.

- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Kevin Pine
 - Looking at how they can restructure the County to streamline services. Attended a presentation from a consulting firm that could potentially help with the process.
 - Commissioners voted to extend the marijuana moratorium for 6 more months.
 - Commissioners are still discussing going back to in person meetings.
 - Commission meetings have focused the budget.

- WSDOT, Matt Pahs, WSDOT Multimodal Planning Coordinator
 - None due to WSDOT Presentation.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Clarinda Underwood made a motion to adjourn; second, Jim Sorensen. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Ben Winkelman
 Chairman

Date

Vicki Cummings
 Executive Director

Date