

GRAYS HARBOR  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES  
June 17, 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 Sorensen (City of Elma)
- City Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg (City of Ocean Shores)
- City Administrator Darrin Raines (City of Cosmopolis)
- City Councilmember Tawni Andrews (City of Aberdeen)
- Maintenance Supervisor Diane Lutts (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Library Manager Stephenie Reece (Timberland Regional Library)
- Mayor Ben Winkelman (City of Hoquiam)
- Councilmember Clarinda Pies Underwood (Quinault Indian Nation)
- Commissioner Kevin Pine (Grays Harbor County)

➤ Staff:

- Vicki Cummings, Executive Director
- Zana Dennis, Office and Grant Coordinator, Planner 1

➤ Guests:

- John Louderback

A quorum was established.

**3. GHCOG BUSINESS**

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

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

*Clarinda Underwood made a motion to approve; second, Tawni Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.*

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

Chairman, Ben Winkelman, asked for approval of the April 2021 Minutes.

*Clarinda Underwood made a motion to approve; second, Jim Sorenson. 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. Project timelines, the 2022 budget and future hiring needs were discussed.

➤ **Action: Approval of June 2021 Claims Batches #21-07 and June 2021 Payroll**

Chairman, Ben Winkelman, asked for approval of the June 2021 Claims Batches #21-06 in the amount of \$37,170.36 and June 2021 Payroll in the amount of \$11,279.52.

*Clarinda Underwood made a motion to approve; second, Tawni Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

- None

**NEW BUSINESS**

➤ **Action: Approval of Resolution #656, Grays Harbor Council of Governments 2021 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Plan**

Vicki explained this resolution is for the Grays Harbor Council of Governments Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and should not be confused with the GH Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (Regional TIP). The only funding secured projects in the TIP is Surface Transportation Program Administration for 2022 through 2025.

*Clarinda Underwood made a motion to approve; second, Kevin Pine. Motion passed unanimously*

➤ **Action: Approval of Resolution #657, GHCOG contract with Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments**

This is the standard, annual \$35,000 contract with Cowlitz-Wahkiakum COG to cover Regional Transportation Planning Organization planning activities, which was changed to a two year contract and will now be for 2021-2023 and a total amount of \$70,000.

*Clarinda Underwood made a motion to approve; second, Tawni Andrews. Motion passed unanimously*

4. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- The Washington State Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Washington State Office of Equity, is conducting an Equity Baseline Assessment. This assessment will help WSDOT and the state identify actions and policy and procedure revisions that are needed to ensure our work bridges opportunity gaps and reduces disparities to create equitable and just outcomes for everyone in Washington. WSDOT is hosting virtual listening sessions to hear feedback on what we can do to be more equitable.

WSDOT has three stakeholder listening sessions available:

- . 1 - 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 29
- . 8 - 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 30
- . 5 - 6:30 p.m., Thursday, July 1

Registration is required. To register, please email: [OEOffice@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:OEOffice@wsdot.wa.gov) or call 360.705.7319. If you need an accommodation, please contact [WSDOTADA@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:WSDOTADA@wsdot.wa.gov) 10 business days in advance of the meeting.

## 5. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

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

- Report will be less in-depth than usual due to being out on medical leave.
- Working with 4 local entities to assist with timely obligation of STP funds.
- WSDOT announced a Zero Emission Grant will be opening soon for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- GHCOG will be participating in a Zoom Meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to get more information on the Zero Emission Grant and explore opportunities for collaborating with partners around the peninsula to implement EV charging stations around the entire US 101 loop.
- A new bank of Electrify America charging stations has been installed at Walmart.

### ➤ **Zana Dennis, Office and Grant Coordinator, Planner 1**

- Working with all GH entities to prepare and adopt their 2022-2027 TIPs.
- Working with STP funding awardees on obligating funding before August 2021.
- Completed and submitted GHCOG's Annual Report to the State Auditor.
- Worked with local entities to get Inter-local agreements returned to CWCOG.
- Worked with Stantec and Elma on Brownfield Phase 2 for mortuary property.
- Worked with Aberdeen on project amendment and obligation.
- Farewell to Diane Lutts, as she will be retiring at the end of the June.

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

### ➤ **Timberland Regional Library, Library Manager Stephenie Reece**

- All Timberland Libraries are opening on June 28<sup>th</sup>, many with increased hours.
- Assessing hours to try to better meet/match demand and usage.
- Reading rooms, self-service, computer usage, and donations start June 28<sup>th</sup>.
- In-person programming will not be resuming at this time.
- As of June 21<sup>st</sup> masks were only asked to be worn by non-vaccinated patrons.
- TRL has added its 28<sup>th</sup> library location at the Capitol Mall in Olympia.
- The “express stand model” library is a pilot idea that Stephenie would like to see expanded to the Grays Harbor area.
- Story Trail Hikes were added to the Summit Trail in Elma, the John Gable Trail in Hoquiam, and the Light State Park in Westport.

### ➤ **City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Tawni Andrews**

- Still working with Hoquiam on RFA.
- Hired consultants to do a study on the police and fire buildings.
- Founder Day Parade will be held on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Art Walk will be held on July 31<sup>st</sup> at Morrison Park.
- Both festivals are not going to be charging booth fees this year, contact Tawni if you need more information on applying for a booth. Facebook has festival pages.

- City of Ocean Shores, City Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg
  - 300 new home starts this year in Ocean Shores.
  - Ocean Shores has grown 44% over the past 3 years.
- Grays Harbor Transit, Maintenance Supervisor Diane Lutts
  - Trying to gear up to regular service levels with mass hiring and training so can start providing weekend services again.
  - In final stages of labor negotiations with the union.
  - Received a couple new buses.
- Quinault Indian Nation, Councilmember Clarinda Pies Underwood
  - New Generations Building is open, which provides a tribal evacuation location.
  - Chief Taholah Day will be held on July 4th this year with vendors and fireworks, but masks will be asked to be worn and non-tribal members will not have access to the beach.
  - Clarinda has been busy with a rambunctious new puppy and a visiting son.
- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Kevin Pine
  - Debating having a smaller version of the County Fair this year.
  - County is hiring due to a large amount of staff retirements.
  - New playground has been installed at Vance Creek Park.
  - Starting in July the Commissioners will meet weekly.
- City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen
  - City Clerk retired after 42 years of service. Taking applications now and hope to start interviews to fill the position in the next two weeks.
  - Using Brownfield grant to its fullest and getting Phase 2 assessments done on the mortuary and the theater properties. Ideally, the mortuary will become a Justice Center that combines the police and court facilities.
  - Summer construction projects have started and are coming along nicely.
  - Final contracts on 12<sup>th</sup> Street lift station have been received.
  - Juneteenth will be a topic at the council meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- City of Cosmopolis, City Administrator Darrin Raines
  - Things are moving along in Cosmopolis.
  - Monthly revenue is back on track after a \$500k annual loss in 2020.
  - Municipal building is on hold until spring due to building costs.
  - Working with the Flood Authority to develop a storm water utility.
  - Cosmo is open and doing well besides supply chain issues for shipping.
- City of Hoquiam, Mayor Ben Winkelman
  - Simpson Avenue is being resurfaced.
  - Downtown Revitalization Plan was presented to Council.
  - Council will start taking action to institute suggestions from the plan like lowering speed limits for public safety.

