

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

- The remote meeting, held via Zoom was called to order by Chairperson Jim Sorensen at 6:30 p.m. Attendance was called.

2. ATTENDANCE

➤ Members:

- City Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg (City of Ocean Shores)
- Mayor Rob Bearden (City of Westport)
- City Councilmember Deborah Ross (City of Aberdeen)
- General Manager Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Library Manager Susan Howlette-Leite (Timberland Regional Library)
- Commissioner Kevin Pine (Grays Harbor County)
- Commissioner Phil Papac (Port of Grays Harbor)
- Mayor Jim Sorensen (City of Elma)
- Mayor Ben Winkelman (City of Hoquiam)
- Mayor Vini Samuel (City of Montesano)

➤ Staff:

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

➤ Guests:

- Nazmul Alam, WSDOT Multimodal Principal Senior Planner

A quorum was established.

3. PRESENTATION

➤ **Cheryl Haywood, Library Director for the Timberland Regional Library**

Cheryl Haywood gave a presentation to update the board on library programs which are covered in more detail in the [TRL Annual Report](#) and [STEM Report](#).

- STEM Resources in all 10 TRL Regions
- WorkSource, PAC Mountain, and other job training opportunities
- EV Charging Stations at some TRL locations
- Expanded Access Hours at many Grays Harbor Locations
- Story Trails are available in all 5 TRL counties
- Demonstration Library currently open at Capital Mall and Hawks Prairie
- Linked & Learning provides staff development and training
- ABC Mouse is a math and science program for ages 2-8 years of age
- Playaways and Launchpads are available for checkout for youth

4. GHCOG BUSINESS

➤ Action: Approval of Current Meeting Agenda

Chairperson, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

Kevin Pine made a motion to approve; second, Ken Mehin. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ Action: Approval of April 2022 Minutes

Chairperson, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the April 2022 Minutes.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, Kevin Pine. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ Administrative Sub-Council Report

Vicki reported a Sub-Council meeting was held via Zoom on Tuesday, May 17th, 2022 to discuss bills and payroll.

➤ Action: Approval of May 2022 Claims Batches #22-05 and May 2022 Payroll

Chairperson, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the May 2022 Claims Batches #22-05 in the amount of \$48,535.97 and May 2022 Payroll in the amount of \$11,899.90.

Phil Papac made a motion to approve; second, Deborah Ross. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

➤ Information: Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Partnership Grant

(ZEVIP): Vicki explained that Energy Northwest is putting in an application for the ZEVIP grant that will include six sites around the Olympic Peninsula, 3 of which will be located in Grays Harbor County in Elma, Ocean Shores, and the Lake Quinault area. GHCOG, as well as other local entities, have provided letters of support for this grant application. Energy Northwest has been awarded ZEVIP grant funding in previous rounds for other areas in Washington State and are able to submit a much more competitive application than if our local entities were to apply individually.

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- None

6. ALL- STAFF REPORT

➤ Vicki Cummings, Executive Director

- Working on annual update to the Traffic Model that was completed last year. Traffic counters are out and local entities have been notified.
- Attended the SWRTPO meeting to get final approval on plans and projects.
- Helped distribute a Public Transportation Survey to our members.
- Working with entities to get their STP projects obligated on time.
- Participated in two WSDOT meetings relating to STP funds.
- Held Elma's 1st Area Wide Plan (AWP) Steering Committee meeting.
- Reviewed and revised the survey for Elma's AWP process.
- Provided support letter for Port/AGP Terminal 4 expansion.

- Fulfilled a census data request for GH Transit.
- The CWCOG Human Services Transportation Planner position will soon be vacant, as Ken Pearrow has taken a new job.
- Dennis Engel, from WSDOT Olympic Region is retiring.
- Completed the Port of GH's Recreation Lands and Facilities Plan.
- Will be starting on City of Elma's Park Plan next.

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

- GHCOG's STP Administration approved by WSDOT after a complicated process.
- Helping local entities to get their 2023 TIPs built.
- Working on completing the Annual Report for the WA State Auditor.
- Submitted STIP Amendments to CWCOG/WSDOT for May.
- Attended meetings with WSDOT and local entities on 2022 STP obligations.

7. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

➤ **Timberland Regional Library, Library Manager Susan Howlett-Leite**

- Books now auto renew, as long as they are not on the waiting list.
- Elma will have some closures due to remodel, check website for dates.

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

- Lots of deer and bears running around in Ocean Shores.
- Council is discussing a Bond on the November ballot to fund new police station.
- Wanting to move to the next phase of the tsunami tower, but the cost for excavation for the pilings is in the \$50-\$100K range.
- Two new restaurants are opening and the pharmacy is moving into the drug store.

➤ **Port of Grays Harbor, Commissioner Phil Papac**

- Port received a grant for the relocation of the gear yard.
- Satsop has three new tenants and lots of additional interest.
- Port is growing.

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

- Still no labor contract after 34 months of negotiations.
- Ridership is up.

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

- Council is taking action to have Elma recognized as a Purple Heart Community.
- Met with FEMA in regard to funding availability to help pay for flood damage from last year, which they are currently funding at 90%.
- Public Hearing for the City's 6 year street plan/TIP for 2023.
- Working on reducing the scope of work for the Police building.

➤ **City of Westport, Mayor Rob Bearden**

- City is opposed to wind energy off their coast.
- Circus will be in town May 27th.
- Coastguard City Designation Ceremony, May 28th, 11am, Maritime Museum.

- Applied to RCO for improvements at the skate park.
 - Waiting to hear from FEMA on 2nd tsunami tower.
 - Finished putting red roof (historically significant) on Maritime Museum.
 - Blessing of the Fleet is May 29th at 1pm.
 - Blue Ribbon Trail is a new memorial for commercial fisherman lost at sea.
 - Street of Flags Ceremony is May 30th at flags and then at VFW following.
 - Still working on sewer pump upgrade on 12 and a few more to complete project.
 - Moving forward with installing two new wells since supply chain is improving.
- City of Hoquiam, Mayor Ben Winkelman
- Council is trying to figure out how to direct Opportunity Zone investments in a way that best benefits the City and its residents.
 - Appointed a new Fire Chief, Matt Miller.
 - Still looking at RFA relationship with Aberdeen.
 - A family of cougars is living on Sunset Hill and is quite comfortable.
- City of Montesano, Mayor Vini Samuel
- Mayor Vini has a foot injury, so the city employees have been handling things.
 - Attended an AWC Legislative Priorities Meeting (Vini is on the committee). Please let her know if you have topics for her to bring up at future meetings.
 - Trying to get a daycare built and hoping to start building by 2023.
 - Whitney's is doing an extensive remodel.
 - City roads, sidewalks, sewer and storm water are all in a state of repair for the next few months of construction season.
- City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Deborah Ross.
- The Capital Facilities Plan was completed and reported to the council with a prioritized list of projects and funding.
- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Kevin Pine
- Commissioners approved ARPA spending; mostly for infrastructure upgrades.
 - Commissioners approved selling a plat to a developer for housing in Brady area.
 - Commissioners passed a resolution to protect Big Foot.
 - Judd performance at county fair was cancelled due to death.
 - Pioneer Rock will be moved to the County Fair Grounds.
 - Commissioners provided letter of support for Port of GH expansion.
 - Commissioners are opposing the proposed offshore Trade & Wind Project.
- WSDOT, Nazmul Alam, Multimodal Principal Senior Planner
- US 101/Hoquiam River-Riverside Ave Bridge - Machine Rooms Rehab: Construction is scheduled to begin late summer/early fall to repair outdated and damaged machine rooms which help operate the bridge.
Project webpage: [US 101/Hoquiam River-Riverside Ave Bridge - Machine Rooms Rehab | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov/transportation/transportation-projects/us-101-hoquiam-river-riverside-ave-bridge-machine-rooms-rehab)

- US 101 - South of Cosmopolis - Stabilize Slope:
Weather permitting, crews plan to complete final paving and road striping early next week. Once final striping is complete, the final order of work will be the installation of a fence on top of the retaining wall.
Project webpage: [US 101 - S of Cosmopolis - Stabilize Slope | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)
- Olympic Region Strategic Bridge Preservation 2021-23:
Construction is scheduled to occur in June on the 2 bridges in Grays Harbor County. Work will occur on the US 12 Satsop River Bridge (westbound bridge only) and the US 12/SR 8 bridge (eastbound bridge only) near Elma, and at both locations the work will be accomplished utilizing daytime single lane closures. Work is weather dependent.
Project webpage: [Olympic Region Strategic Bridge Preservation 2021-23 | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)
- US 12 - SR 8 - Grays Harbor County Fish Passage Barriers - Remove Fish Barriers:
Project is expected to go to advertisement in December. Construction is expected to begin in summer 2023. This project corrects several fish barriers between Montesano and McCleary.
Project webpage: [US 12 - SR 8 - Grays Harbor County Fish Passage Barriers - Remove Fish Barriers | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)
- US 101 - SR 109 Grays Harbor, Jefferson and Clallam Counties - Remove Fish Barriers:
Current work includes some preliminary utility relocation. The first bundle is expected to correct multiple barriers north of Hoquiam in 2023.
Project webpage: [US 101 - SR 109 Grays Harbor, Jefferson and Clallam Counties - Remove Fish Barriers | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)
- US 101 and SR 115/Olympic Peninsula - Chip Seal:
Bid opening for the project is May 25th. Construction will occur this summer/fall. This project will chip seal 2 miles of SR 115 between Ocean Shores and SR 109.
Project webpage: [US 101 and SR 115/Olympic Peninsula - Chip Seal | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Ken Mehin made a motion to adjourn; second, Kathryn Sprigg. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Jim Sorensen Date
Chairperson

Vicki Cummings Date
Executive Director