

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 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:

- Mayor Jon Martin (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)
- Mayor Jim Sorensen (City of Elma)
- 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. 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, Deborah Ross. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Action: Approval of May 2022 Minutes**

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

Deborah Ross made a motion to approve; second, Ken Mehin. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Vicki reported a Sub-Council meeting was not held this month due to scheduling conflicts but the bills and payroll were sent out for their review.

- **Action: Approval of June 2022 Claims Batches #22-06 and June 2022 Payroll**
Chairperson, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the June 2022 Claims Batches #22-06 in the amount of \$3,257.92 and June 2022 Payroll in the amount of \$11,899.90.

Deborah Ross made a motion to approve; second, Ken Mehin. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- **Action: *Resolution #665 – Surface Transportation Program (STP) Approval for Additional Funding**: The City of Aberdeen requested an additional \$250,000 in STP funding to complete the CN phase of their Aberdeen Downtown Traffic Improvements project. Grays Harbor County requested an additional \$225,000 in STP funding to reduce the local match on the CN phase of their Ocean Beach Road Paving project. The STP funding requested needed to be obligated this year to help meet the obligation targets set by WSDOT. GHCOG staff notified the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee. The TAC approved the request and recommended forwarding to the GHCOG/STP Policy Board for approval.

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

4. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None

5. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Brownfield grant is actively working on 3 properties in Aberdeen, 2 in Hoquiam, and the Area Wide Plan (AWP) for Elma.
- Assisted Stantec (consultant) and the City of Elma with formulating a city wide survey for the AWP that has now being distributed to community members.
- Stantec helped the City of Hoquiam recover \$1 million in insurance payments for the retirement of an old landfill by connecting them Historical Research.
- Working nonstop with WSDOT and local entities to ensure that STP projects are obligated and our targets are met.
- Working with CWCOG to ensure that critical projects in GH, like the US12 Grade Separation and the Port's Terminal 4 Expansion are identified with in Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) plans and databases.
- Fulfilled a census data request from Grays Harbor Transit.
- Putting together an informational packet to identify Critical Rural Freight Corridors (federal designation) in the Grays Harbor area eligible for National Freight funding.
- Completed a Traffic Count Data request.

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

- Continue to work with local entities to get their 2023 TIPs completed.
- Working with Chris on updating GHCOG's IT platforms and fixing GIS.
- Finished the Annual Report and submitted it to the State Auditor's Office.
- Additional meetings with WSDOT and local entities on 2022 STP obligations.

- Attended an informational meeting on the new National Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (NEVI), which announced that the plan will include additional EV grant funding pending the plans development.
- Completed a map request for the City of Hoquiam.

6. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Timberland Regional Library, Library Manager Susan Howlett-Leite
 - The Elma Library's remodel will reopen June 21st after the remodel is complete.
 - Summer Library Programs start June 1st; receive one free book for signing up and one for completing the program. Hundreds of people have already signed up.
 - Library in the Parks Program will start in June. Aberdeen will have 4 park locations and the YMCA will be providing free lunches.
- City of Ocean Shores, Mayor Jon Martin
 - City received additional funding for their High Dune Trail Project.
 - Council approved a Bond for the November ballot to fund new police station.
 - An offer was accepted for the Public Works Director who will be starting August.
- Grays Harbor Transit, General Manager Ken Mehin
 - End 3rd year in labor negotiations and still no contract with the labor union.
 - The offices will be closed on Monday, June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.
- City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen
 - Road projects have started and paving will continue through the summer.
 - The police station remodel is going slower than expected with the much needed assistance of architectural and engineering guidance.
 - The theater demolition and fire station reroofing are both being reviewed by engineers before they can move forward safely.
- City of Westport, Mayor Rob Bearden
 - The city held its first 2023 budget workshop.
 - Approved bid to connect some roads around Hancock Avenue.
 - Looking for grant opportunities for EV charging stations.
 - The red roofs have been installed at the Maritime Museum and McCausland Hall.
 - Working on replacing the last few of the 12 sewer pump stations in the city that needed to be updated.
 - Street Superintendent, Greg Barnes, is retiring after 37 years with the city.
- City of Montesano, Mayor Vini Samuel
 - Construction season has started.
 - Dan Wood resigned from City Council due moving out of the area, the Council seat needs to be filled.

- City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Deborah Ross.
 - The Council approved funding for the Fry Creek Pump Station.
 - Council honored Chief Hubbard, as he is retiring from the Fire Department as of June 11th.
 - The roundabout project is ahead of schedule and should be completed by the middle of September.

- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Kevin Pine
 - Commissioners held their 2nd workshop on homelessness.
 - Health Department issued an RFP to help determine guidelines for the cold weather shelter next winter.
 - Commissioners attended a presentation from the Quinault Indian Nation on their new treatment facility that will be opening to serve 250-300 clients.

- 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 \(wa.gov\)](#)

 - US 101 - S of Cosmopolis - Stabilize Slope:
Final paving is complete. Waiting for favorable weather to complete the final road striping. 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 \(wa.gov\)](#)

One additional item of note since last board meeting: SR 109 at the Grass Creek Bridge was reduced to one lane on May 24th after the annual bridge inspection revealed excessive rot and loss of capacity in a pile. We are currently evaluating repair options to restore capacity to the bridge. A timeline for restoring 2-lane is not known at this time.
Project webpage: [US 101 - SR 109 Grays Harbor, Jefferson and Clallam Counties - Remove Fish Barriers | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

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

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

Jim Sorensen
Chairperson

Date

Vicki Cummings
Executive Director

Date