

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

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

2. ATTENDANCE

➤ Members:

- Mayor Jim Sorensen (City of Elma)
- Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg (City of Ocean Shores)
- City Administrator Darrin Raines (City of Cosmopolis)
- General Manager Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Library Manager Victoria Rivera (Timberland Library)
- Councilmember Deborah Ross (City of Aberdeen)
- Commissioner Kevin Pine (Grays Harbor County)
- Mayor Chris Miller (City of McCleary)

➤ Staff:

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

➤ Guests:

- Nazmul Alam, WSDOT Multimodal Principal Senior Planner

A quorum was established.

3. GHCOG BUSINESS

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

Chairman Jim Sorensen asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

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

➤ **Action: Approval of April 2023 Minutes**

Chairman Jim Sorensen asked for approval of the April 2023 Minutes.

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

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Chairman Jim Sorensen reported a Sub-Council meeting did not have a quorum, so no meeting was held.

- **Action: Approval of May Claims Batch #23-05 & and May 2023 Payroll**
Chairman Jim Sorensen asked for approval of the May 2023 Claims Batches #23-05 in the amounts of \$5,044.73 and May 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$12,256.89.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- **Action: Resolution #674, Approval of 2023-2030 STP Funding Changes**
The board approved \$7,878,915 in funding to projects scheduled to begin between 2023 and 2030 at the December 2022 GHCOG meeting. These funds needed to be distributed for the region to meet our STP funding allocation and WSDOT's obligation target requirements. The TAC had previously reviewed and vetted the projects and forwarded the STP project list recommendation for funding (included in the packet), but a few projects needed to be switched around in the schedule, so the funding now totals \$7,903,415.

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**
 - GHCOG was notified that we received our third Brownfield Grant award in the amount of \$1 million.
 - Attended the CWCOG RTPO meeting.
 - Working on the 5 county Regional Transportation Plan.
 - Updating the Freight and Goods Transportation System Plan.
 - CWCOG is leading the five-county regional trails planning effort with grant funds. Recruited local volunteers to represent Grays Harbor.
 - Helped some locals with EV Charging Infrastructure application info.
 - Met with the Public Works staff from Ocean Shores to go over the TIP process and familiarize the new staff/positions with GHCOG services.
 - Attended a meeting to discuss funding and demolition of the Elma Theater.
- **Zana Dennis, Office and Grant Coordinator, Planner II**
 - Continue to work with local entities to get their 2024 TIPs completed.
 - Finished the Annual Report and submitted it to the State Auditor's Office.
 - Additional meetings with WSDOT and local entities on 2023 STP obligations.

6. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

- **Timberland Library, Library Manager Victoria Rivera**
 - Summer at TRL starts June 1st and runs through August 31st. Get a free book and activity log when you sign up. Log into the TRL activities and performances you attend and after you have 10 you will get a certificate. TRL.org for more info.

- City of Ocean Shores, Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg
 - Sat in on interviews to replace the retiring Street Department employee of 26 yrs.
 - Jeep's at the Beach starts Friday, May 19th. Trying to set a record for most Jeep's in one place. Big parade on Saturday from 11-3pm.
 - Superhero Music Festival is May 26th-28th.

- Grays Harbor Transit, General Manager Ken Mehin
 - As of May 1st the Wave Route is back to full service.
 - Working on new Transit Center Design, as well as a remodel at the Hoquiam Office.

- City of McCleary, Mayor Chris Miller
 - Hired a 6th Police Officer and the city is finally fully staffed.
 - Working on a city-wide IT infrastructure update and upgrading of the system.

- City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen
 - Grocery Outlet has broken ground at Eagle's Landing.
 - Hoping more people come out for filing week, as currently most seats would be running unopposed.
 - Hired a consultant to head hunt for a Public Works Director since haven't had many applicants.
 - Have a job offer out to a police officer applicant, if they accept the city will be close to full force.

- City of Cosmopolis, City Administrator Darrin Raines
 - City will be discussing the failed RFA and next steps at the next council meeting.
 - Met with Cosmo. They won't be able to test run new product until August, so likely won't be back up and running until the end of 2023.
 - Extended the deadline for bids for the new municipal building to give time for all interested parties to get their bids in.
 - Filing week for elected officials is coming up and the city only has 1 councilmember staying on the council, so lots of open seats to be filled.

- City of Aberdeen, Councilmember Deborah Ross
 - The new City Administrator has been keeping the council and staff busy with meetings, team building, and various strategic planning activities.
 - The Council is considering implementing code to enforce public safety issues due associated with public drug use, but a similar law is currently at the legislative level, so it may not be needed at the local level.

- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Kevin Pine
 - Working on finalizing the Park Plan, which includes ORV Park Renovations and the hiring of a 3rd party operator.
 - Road Department have a lot of projects they have started throughout the county.
 - County building windows are being replaced and then the HVAC will be replaced. Still at least 6 months of renovations to complete.
 - Approved a recruiting process for hiring a County Administrator.

➤ WSDOT, Nazmul Alam, Multimodal Principal Senior Planner

WSDOT Project Update:

US 101 – Grays Harbor Creeks – Remove Fish Barrier

This is part of the US 101 – SR 109 Grays Harbor, Jefferson, and Clallam Counties – Remove Fish Barriers and is being administered by Tumwater PEO. PE is Kyler Kokenge.

Timeline: Spring 2023 to Fall 2023

This project will replace six culverts under US 101 in Grays Harbor County in 2023. The culverts are located under US 101 between mileposts 98.4 and 111.3, between Aberdeen and Humptulips. This is the first bundle of 5 that will correct streams and culverts in 29 locations under US 101 and State Route 109.

Travelers can expect one-way alternating traffic on US 101 at milepost 111.3 north of McNutt Road. Roadwork is planned between 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday through May 25. One-way alternating traffic is also scheduled from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 20. Crews will work until 12 p.m. Friday, May 26 due to Memorial Day weekend.

SR 8 – US 12 to US 101 Paving

Timeline: Construction is Scheduled to begin **May 22.**

Project administered by Aberdeen PEO, PE is Jason Mettler

Workers will repave SR 8 between the US 12 and US 101 interchanges. In the eastbound direction, approximately 21 miles of the left lane will be repaved and approximately 6 miles of the right lane will be repaved. In the westbound direction, approximately 4 miles of the left lane will be repaved. In addition, 0.5 miles of SR 108 will be repaved in both directions between the SR 8 intersection and the East Fork Wildcat Creek bridge.

Travelers can expect reduced speeds and lane and shoulder closures. Lane closures are not allowed from noon on Fridays through Mondays at 5:00 am, or on holidays.

US 101/Hoquiam River-Riverside Ave Bridge - Machine Rooms Rehab

Timeline: Work is scheduled to begin on June 6th and run through the summer.

This project replaces and repairs two machine rooms that help operate the US 101 Hoquiam River Riverside Bridge in Grays Harbor County. Work includes repairs to the existing machine rooms and wall systems, removing the old machine room, and painting the operating room. To do this important preservation work, a large crane will lift materials, including new walls and a roofing system to the machine rooms on top of the bridge. The start of construction has been delayed by long lead times for building materials, primarily metal siding and steel railings. The material procurement delays have pushed the start of construction into the late fall/winter season. Because of this, the start of construction is being delayed until late Spring of 2023, when the conditions will be more conducive for the work and safer for the contractor and travelling public.

During the daytime, travelers may encounter intermittent lane and shoulder closures. The contractor is also permitted eight nighttime total roadway closures at the bridge. During the nighttime closures, both directions of US 101 will be routed across the Simpson Ave bridge.

Project status: construction

Project webpage: [US 101/Hoquiam River-Riverside Ave Bridge - Machine Rooms Rehab | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)

SR 108 - US 101/Mason and Thurston Co Fish Barriers - Remove Fish Barriers

Administered by Lacey PEO. PE is Casey Fraisure.

Timeline: Summer 2023 - Fall 2024

As part of WSDOT's major efforts to remove barriers to fish, this project addresses multiple barriers to fish under SR 108 between McCleary and Kamilche and one location on US 101 near the Mason/Thurston County line.

Work during 2023 will focus on SR 108. Travelers can expect two separate around-the-clock closures on SR 108. Each closure will last 14 days. From July 19 to Aug. 1, both directions of SR 108 will close at milepost 5.5 near McCleary. Travelers will detour via US 101, SR 8, and SR 108. From Aug. 8-21, both directions of SR 108 closed between milepost 7.6 and 8.9 (Milepost 8.9 is 8-miles west of West Hurley Waldrip Road). Travelers will detour via US 101, SR 8, and SR 108. Each closures is subject to change.

US 101/SR 105/SR 105 SPUR – Aberdeen/Westport Signals and ADA

Timeline: This project is scheduled to begin on May 30. Work will begin in Westport and then move to the Aberdeen site.

Aberdeen: This project will replace the signal system at the intersection of US 101 and SR 105, add crosswalks and install ADA compliant curb ramps.

Westport: The signal system at the intersection of SR 105 SPUR and S Montesano Street will be removed and the intersection will be returned to an all-stop condition. Sidewalk, crosswalk and ADA curb ramps will also be improved.

US 101 - SR 109 Grays Harbor, Jefferson and Clallam Counties - Remove Fish Barriers

Administered by Tumwater PEO. PE is Kyler Kokenge.

Timeline: 2023 - 2026

This project will correct 29 identified streams and culverts that cross under US 101 and State Route 109 in Grays Harbor, Jefferson and Clallam Counties. Currently, the culverts under the highways do not allow fish to access vital habitat.

WSDOT and the Design-Build contractor are progressing preliminary design of the 29 sites, which have been separated into 5 bundles of approximately 6 sites per bundle. One bundle containing 6 barriers is underway. Travelers can expect one-way alternating traffic on US 101 at milepost 111.3 north of McNutt Road. Roadwork is planned between 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday and Saturday, May 20 through May 25. Crews will work until 12 p.m. Friday, May 26 due to Memorial Day weekend.

US 12 - SR 8 - Grays Harbor County Fish Passage Barriers - Remove Fish Barriers

Timeline: Construction Summer 2023 - Fall 2026

This project replaces five outdated culverts under US 12 and State Route 8 between the Thurston/Grays Harbor County line and Montesano to improve fish migration.

During construction at each of the project sites, US 12 and SR 8 will be reduced to one-lane in each direction and travelers can expect around-the-clock shifted lanes and reduced speeds.

Project has been awarded to Cecanti Inc. Contractor's schedule pending. Anticipate an early summer construction start date.

Project Webpage: [US 12 - SR 8 - Grays Harbor County Fish Passage Barriers - Remove Fish Barriers | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)

US 12 - Wishkah River Bridge - Mechanical Rehabilitation

Timeline: Fall 2024 - Fall 2025

This project addresses worn mechanical components of the bridge that need replacement. In order to do this important work, the bridge will need to remain in the "down" position which prohibits larger marine vessels from traveling up or down the river.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

Jim Sorensen
Chairman

Date

Vicki Cummings
Executive Director

Date

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