



1. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

- The remote meeting, held via Zoom, was called to order by Chairperson Troy Meyers at 6:31 p.m. Attendance was called.

2. ATTENDANCE

- Members:
 - Councilmember, David Lawrence (City of Aberdeen)
 - Mayor Linda Springer (City of Cosmopolis) – Voted Remotely via Email
 - Councilmember, Brandon Pauley (City of Hoquiam) – Voted Remotely via Email
 - Mayor, Chris Miller (City of McCleary)
 - Mayor, Tyler Trimble (City of Montesano)
 - Councilmember, Bill Breedlove (City of Oakville)
 - Councilmember, Rich Hartman (City of Ocean Shores)
 - Councilmember, Troy Meyers (City of Westport)
 - General Manager, Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
 - County Administrator, Sam Kim (Grays Harbor County)
 - Elma Library Manager, Dee Depoe (Timberland Regional Library)
- Staff:
 - Vicki Cummings, Executive Director
 - Mark Northrop, Planner II
 - Natalie Jensen, Office Coordinator
- Guests:
 - Nazmul Alam, WSDOT Multimodal Principal Senior Planner
 - Don Williams, Community Member

A quorum was established.

3. GHCOC BUSINESS

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

Chairperson Troy Meyers asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, David Lawrence. The motion passed unanimously.

➤ **ACTION: Approval of March 2025 Minutes**

Chairperson Troy Meyers asked for approval of the March 2025 Minutes.

Rich Hartman made a motion to approve as amended; second, Ken Mehin. The motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Executive Director Vicki Cummings reported that a Sub-Council meeting was held. The April bills and payroll were reviewed and approved. A discussion about staff attendance at the upcoming Washington Brownfield Conference was held. The Brownfield grant fully pays for registration, travel and time. Planner Mark Northrop and Vicki will be attending in May. No other action was taken.

➤ **ACTION: Approval of April 2025 Claims Batches #25-4 which includes May 2025 Payroll**

Chairperson Troy Meyers asked for approval of the April 2025 Claims Batches #25-4 in the amount of \$31,029.30.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, David Lawrence. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **DISCUSSION: New Project Updates**

Brownfields Grant Updates: GHCOG has been running the program for nearly 10 years, with over 29 sites (49 parcels) being worked on currently. Twenty-four of those sites are part of the Northshore Levy projects in both Hoquiam and Aberdeen. This week there was a 63-page court order that came down from the U.S. District Court, stating that any previously awarded funds would not be rescinded, which is good news. The Levy project is still waiting for an update on the FEMA funding. Brownfield grants are heavily invested in the Levy project and will pay for the Phase I & II assessments. The assessments must be made before the property is purchased to be eligible for clean-up funds. Finished the Quality Assurance Plan and the Building Materials Survey Plan and submitted both to Commerce and EPA for approval. In process now: 18 Phase I and 16 Phase II environmental assessments, nine regulated building materials surveys, and 15 clean-up and reuse plans. The average cost of phase I is \$6,000-\$10,000 and phase II is \$25,000+. There is no cost to the brownfield coalition participants.

The statewide group of Regional Councils is holding discussions on the current lack of professional planners, what to do about the shortage and other intergenerational issues. We participated in several of these discussions. The main focus is how to best encourage planning disciplines as a career path.

GHCOG staff are working on a needs survey for our members. We want to better understand current issues members are facing and where/how COG can provide the best support.

4. **ALL STAFF REPORT**

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Working with WSDOT Southwest Region on the SR 105 National Scenic Byways Project. This will open us up to another pot of funding and free advertising. GHCOG represents the various stakeholders in Grays Harbor County.
- FHWA is offering a free Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) online course for local agencies and tribes.
- Open House and a survey for Rail Future in Washington, highly encouraging members to participate.
- Following SB 5801 closely and have submitted testimony. The public hearing will be April 22.

- WSDOT to implement Work Zone Safety cameras. First test speed monitoring camera went up near JBLM.
- GHCOG will be hosting transportation Policy Meeting with the RTPO on May 7th, meeting invites went out two weeks ago.
- Free ROW training opportunity through WSDOT happening April 23rd.

➤ **Mark Northrop, Planner II**

- April 2nd attended an Open House for City of Cosmopolis' new administrative building.
- April 4th, Vicki took staff on a field trip of the East County TIP projects, including stops in Oakville, Elma, Montesano and Satsop Business Park.
- Title IV currently being developed, including a demographic profile.
- Currently developing a process for accepting Mapping Service requests.
- Keeping an eye on training opportunities for our members for distribution.

➤ **Natalie Jensen, Office Coordinator**

- Attended (separately) Cosmopolis Open House & Attended east county TIP Fieldtrip.
- Monthly Claims & Books.
- Attended a State Auditor Annual Report Requirements Training
- Filed the SAO Annual Report for the organization.
- Renewed the agency's SAM for federal awards. Updated annually.
- Worked with team to create the Federal Funding Issues Survey.
- Reviewing & updating the Personnel Policies & Procedures
- Completed/participated in Generational Differences in the Workplace and Future of Rail in Washington surveys.

5. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None

7. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

➤ City of Aberdeen, Councilmember, David Lawrence

- Loss of funding for the Northshore Levy major topic, they are at 60% design.
- Pedestrian Safety improvement projects on First and Market Streets, - ADA ramps put in and replaced.
- Stoplight surveys, some stoplights will be removed, and some will be put in. Will be swapping the equipment out to save funds.

➤ City of Hoquiam, Councilmember Brandon Pauley

- The main concern addressed at the last meeting involved Moore Wright's intentions with the recent purchase of Hoquiam's largest motel and with it approximately 90% of our LTAC funds.
- Concerns over the levee funding getting pulled, but Brian Shay is confident that will get fixed and returned to us.

➤ City of Montesano, Mayor Tyler Trimble

- Recommend the group review SB 5804, the main item of note is the Public Works Assistance Funding that will be dedicated to more fish barrier projects.

- Work Zone Safety Speed Camera has also been installed near Elma on one of the SR 8 Fish Passage projects.
 - TIB funding is approved through council, more sidewalk, chipseal and paving projects to come. Kudos to Mike Olden for getting the TIB Grant.
 - Looking forward to the new Daycare opening in September.
- City of Oakville, Councilmember Bill Breedlove
- TIB Grant for School and Pine Streets is moving into construction phase between June and August this year.
 - Another TIB Grant for citywide ADA retrofitting funding will begin Phase I soon.
 - Independence Day parade has been scheduled for July 5th – encourage all to attend. Chamber of Commerce worked hard on it.
- City of Ocean Shores, Councilmember Rich Hartman
- BRIC Grant on hold – affecting final design and construction of Burm on Marine View Drive and Tsunami tower on hold. Lots of changes, however, the City had enough matching grant funds.
- City of Westport, Councilmember Troy Meyers
- Selected an engineering firm for the Tsunami Evacuation Tower, funds obligated, moving forward with the project.
 - Pacific Avenue Revitalization project moving forward. Includes City Street Department, City Hall, and Senior Center. Adding a park with a non-powered boat launch for kayaks, education and pergola.
 - EIS for the Westport Golf Course is out for public comment. Looking for community feedback.
 - Had a hearing about the C-Link cable landing. Alaska Power and Telephone are moving their communication cables to Westport from Oregon. No additional requirements needed, and City approved this move.
 - Crab feed this weekend.
 - Fireworks will not be affected by cost increases this year and will have a bigger display this year.
 - Landing Tax is not going to pass this legislative session, but it is moving forward. Initially a fractional percent, now presenting a full percent with the support of Rep. Tharinger. Could be applied to roads.
 - Tracking SB 5804.
- Grays Harbor County, Administrator Sam Kim
- Had a presentation on the Westport Golf Links proposal and will be drafting a letter of support for the City. 303 continuing jobs, \$29.5 million annual economic impact, and a \$3 Million annual tax increase.
 - Approved 3 new positions, Chief Financial Officer, Project Manager for Capital Facilities Plan, and Executive Assistant for the Board of Commissioners.
- Grays Harbor Transit, General Manager Ken Mehin
- Working with the new Dial-a-ride software to do a custom build that better fits our needs and provides improved customer support to our riders.
 - The delivery of the final two buses of the nine total replacement buses will be by the end of this week. Supply chain issues caused the three-month delay.
- Timberland Regional Library, Elma Library Manager Dee Depoe

- Last week was National Library Workers Day. Five Grays Harbor staff members were recognized nationally by the American Library Association.
- Story Trails will happen again in Elma (Shafer State Park) and Westport this summer.

➤ WSDOT, Nazmul Alam, Multimodal Principal Senior Planner

- [US 12 - SR 8 - Grays Harbor County Fish Passage Barriers - Remove Fish Barriers](#)
- Timeline: Spring 2023 - Winter 2025, This project replaces five outdated culverts under US 12 and State Route 8 in Grays Harbor County between Montesano and the Thurston County line for improved fish migration.
- What to expect: US 12/SR 8 is reduced to one lane in each direction at [five locations](#) between Montesano and the Thurston County line.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Ken Mehin made a motion to adjourn; second, Sam Kim. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Troy Meyers
Chairperson

Date

Vicki Cummings
Executive Director

Date