

Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization
January 9, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes - 5:00 pm
303 S. Second Ave., Suite A, Okanogan, WA

(253) 215 8782; Meeting ID 929 2149 7263; Passcode: 716493; or link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92921497263?pwd=TU1wZktBZHI4S0Y2UHVuMTFIRjY3UT09>

Present: Jon Neal, Okanogan County, Commissioner – OCOG Chairman
*Brent Timm, TranGO, General Manager - OCOG Secretary
Josh Thomson, Okanogan County, Engineer – OCOG Treasurer
Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board
*Wayne Turner, City of Okanogan, Mayor
Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member
Teagan Levine, City of Tonasket, Council Member (joined at 5:06 p.m.)
Misty Ruiz, City of Brewster, Clerk (joined at 5:07 p.m.)
Kelly Hook, City of Pateros, Mayor
Chris Scott, Town of Conconully, Council Member (joined at 5:18 p.m.)
*Ed Naillon, City of Oroville, Mayor
Alan Caswell, Town of Twisp, Council Member
Bobby Watkins, OCTN, Operations Director
*Paul Budrow, Okanogan County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management, Director
Kathy Murray, WSDOT, NCW Planning Manager
Kate Tollefson, WSDOT, Regional Liaison
Gabe Phillips, WSDOT, Regional Planning Manager

*These participants attended in person

Call to Order/Welcome

Chairman Jon Neal called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were given of new Council Members. Chairman Neal is the newly elected Okanogan County Commissioner #3.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion:

Council Member Wayne Turner moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Secretary Brent Timm.

- Agenda
- Minutes from October 10, 2022, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting and November 14, 2022, Regular Meeting

Chairman Neal called for the vote; the motion passed unanimously.

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Update: Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Josh Thomson reported he just prepared an invoice for DOT for July – December 2022, and expenses were just shy of \$1,300. So far, approximately \$8,482 of the budget has been spent. Possible upcoming expenses are the hopes of hiring a part-time position within public works and OCOG which would take up some of the budget; however, there have been various issues with obtaining that position. There are six months left of the biennium and there is no agreement yet, so it would be hard to spend even half of the remaining budget. WSDOT Regional Planning Manager, Gabe Phillips, asked that if OCOG is not going to spend the full budget to let him know so the remaining funds can be allocated to another RTPO and not be lost.

Update: Secretary Report

Secretary Timm reported he has been finishing up the 2022 Coordinated Public Transit & Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP) and invoices will be sent to Josh Thomson at the end of January to wrap things up. He also included a CPT-HSTP Summary brochure in the OCOG meeting packet.

Update: Okanogan County Report

Chairman/Commissioner Neal stated he didn’t have much to report for this meeting as he has been in his new position for only one week. He is learning a lot and will have more to report in future meetings.

Update: Washington State Department of Transportation

WSDOT NCW Planning Manager, Kathy Murray, reported the following:

- WSDOT Regional Liaison, Kate Tollefson, will be transferring to the Planning Department at the beginning of February 2023.
- She would like to discuss a possible partnership with WSDOT and OCOG as they have funding but lack staff and would like to possibly hire a consultant.

WSDOT Regional Liaison, Kate Tollefson, reported the following:

- She will be in her current position until the end of the month and will send out an official email regarding coverage. WSDOT hopes to have her position filled by March.

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- She will work on finalizing the HSTP grant they manage and believes they are on track to use the remaining \$3,000. OCOG can ask for additional funding through this contract, as it is a 4-year contract, if there is additional work they want to do through a consultant or SCJ Alliance. She is happy to work with OCOG in that regard.

WSDOT Regional Planning Manager, Gabe Phillips, reported:

- If OCOG is unable to use all the remaining funds in the budget, he would like to transfer those funds to a rural RTPO and will need time to set that up. He would like to be notified before the end of February 2023, or the funds will be forfeited if not used.

County-Wide Emergency Updates/Discussion

Okanogan County Sheriff, Paul Budrow, reported:

- He has been in his new position for one week and is still learning and catching up on emails. He is supportive of OCOG and encouraged others to let him know of OCOG's needs and will try and make it happen.

Okanogan County Emergency Management Director, Maurice Goodall, reported the following:

- Lauri Jones from the Department of Health was unable to attend this meeting but wanted to report there have been approximately 4 positive Covid tests per day. Goodall is still providing supplies for anyone in need.
- They have been busy with emergency management trying to provide winter preparedness education for people living very remotely. They assisted people living off grid who are out of wood for heat on Palmer Mountain.
- Due to recent weather conditions, some roads are closed and there have been issues up on Cameron Lake Rd.
- Brewster – There was a “Shelter in Place” on Sunday, January 8, 2023, due to snow that fell off a building onto cold storage ammonia pipes which sent up an ammonia cloud. There were good responses from medical and fire, but six people were sent to the hospital for treatment.
- They have had some issues with the Emergency Management notification system as far as cell phone carriers not distributing the alerts timely.

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- Weather – He had a recent discussion with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and was told the remainder of winter will be colder and wetter than normal and the snow will be heavy. He stated the County has sandbags if needed and will deal with issues as they arise.
- They held an exercise with the Bureau of Reclamation to discuss potential emergent situations if the Conconully Dam were to fail. A lot of water would go up Spring Coulee and would then hit Okanogan. He has a map available in his office for anyone would like to discuss what might happen if there is a failure.

Mr. Goodall was asked about a recent alert/notification that went out regarding Enloe Dam. He stated he wasn't sure what that was about, but there are cameras/sensors which monitor the dam and believes a sensor had been tripped.

Action: Ranking of Consolidated Grant Applications

Secretary Timm stated as part of the Consolidated Grant Application process, OCOG is allotted three A projects, three B projects and three C projects. As OCOG is an RTPO, it has the capability of ranking these projects in order of funding. Okanogan County Transportation and Nutrition (OCTN) Executive Director, Jennifer Fitzthum, applied for this grant and submitted three A projects.

Motion:

Secretary Timm moved to approve three A projects which were submitted by OCTN. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ed Naillon.

Chairman Neal asked if buses were available regarding the Bus Replacement project. Secretary Timm stated OCTN had ordered 4 buses, but the manufacture cancelled delivery, however, the buses are still on order and the manufacturer needs to build more. The Bus Replacement fund also allows for graphic design and would be included in the grant.

WSDOT Regional Liaison Tollefson stated the Regional Ranking form is due to WSDOT by January 27, 2023, in the online Grants Management System (GMS). Secretary Timm will work with Josh Thomson who has access to GMS to make sure it gets submitted.

Chairman Neal called for the vote; the motion passed unanimously.

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Action: OCOG Executive Board Elections

Chairman Neal opened the floor for nominations.

Motion:

Secretary Timm moved to nominate current Chairman Jon Neal to remain as the OCOG Chair. The motion was seconded by Council Member Naillon. No other nominations were received.

Chairman Neal called for the vote; the motion passed unanimously.

Motion:

Council Member Wayne Turner volunteered as Vice-Chair. Secretary Timm moved to nominate Council Member Turner as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Chairman Neal.

Chairman Neal called for the vote; the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: RTPO Administrative Support Position MOU Draft/Update

Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson reported he was still waiting for the issue regarding insurance to be answered and hopes to have answers by the next OCOG meeting.

Secretary Timm stated if they can find insurance then this new position for OCOG could move forward. If not, then it will require each entity to sign a release or clause. Either OCOG would self-insure this position or buy insurance. Chairman Neal asked if anyone had received information from AWC regarding insurance. Thomson stated AWC was looking into the issue. Chairman Neal asked Council Member Naillon to ask the City of Oroville's Clerk to see if she can contact AWC and ask if there is anything they can do or provide suggestions. He asked if a "temp" hire would be beneficial. Secretary Timm stated yes, any help would be beneficial to make sure the RTPO is running as it truly should, to attend meetings and apply for various grants. However, when the .25 FTE position was advertised prior, there was no response.

Discussion: Brewster Jail Fees

Brewster City Clerk, Misty Ruiz, stated there hasn't been much progression on this topic, but with the new administration now in place, she hopes to get things moving again.

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Public Comment:

There was no public comment at this time.

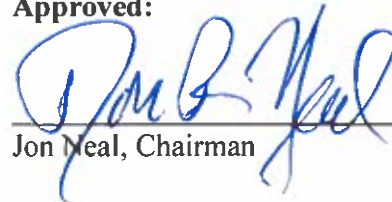
Roundtable Updates

Each agency represented is given a few moments, if they wished, to report to the group on important issues going on in their jurisdictions.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairman Neal adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Approved:



Jon Neal, Chairman

Attested:



Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board