

# Okanogan County of Government

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February 10, 2020

Location: 303 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S, Suite A, Okanogan, WA 98840 (TranGO Office)

Present: Soo Ing-Moody, Town of Twisp, Mayor – OCOG Chairperson  
Carlene Anders, City of Pateros, Mayor – OCOG Vice-Chairperson  
Josh Thomson, Okanogan County Engineer – OCOG Treasurer  
Kelly Scalf, TranGO CEO/General Manager - OCOG Secretary  
Jackie Gleason, TranGO, Clerk of the Board  
Jon Neal, City of Oroville, Mayor  
Tim Rieb, City of Brewster, Council Member  
Chris Branch, Okanogan County Commissioner  
Shawn Davisson, City of Okanogan, Public Works Director  
Cindy Gagne, City of Omak, Mayor  
Dennis Brown, City of Tonasket, Mayor  
Tegan Levine, City of Tonasket, Council Member  
George Mazur, WSDOT Planner – by phone  
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan Emergency Management, Director

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Ing-moody called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

## **Welcome/Introductions**

Those in attendance were asked to introduce themselves and state their agency/jurisdiction.

## **Approval of the Agenda**

**Additions:** None

**Deletions:** None

## **Minutes**

### **Motion:**

Council Member Neal moved to approve the January 13, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rieb and passed unanimously.

## **Update - Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Thomson reported that there have been approximately \$2,500 in expenses so far this year.

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## Update - Secretary Report

Secretary Scalf reported that Nina Stocker has taken the Washington State Department of Transportation's position formerly held by Greg Wright.

## Update - Okanogan County Report

Council Member Branch reported that he had been in Olympia and there is a possible change related to Growth Management regarding critical areas being discussed; he will update the council next month on any changes.

## Transportation Improvement Program Plan (TIP)

Treasurer Thomson presented the Council with a draft TIP for review and approval at the March meeting. The Council discussed whether a resolution or public hearing was required before taking action; it will be researched prior to the March meeting.

## Council Member Mileage

The Council discussed whether mileage should be paid to those attending OCOG/ORTPO meetings. Each Council Member was tasked with asking their Councils if they would be paid for their mileage even if their municipalities were not reimbursed. Chairman Ing-Moody stated that the Twisp Town Council believes the Town should be reimbursed. Chairman Ing-Moody stated her concern that the ability to retain a quorum may be compromised without this incentive, especially for jurisdictions having to travel further and donate more time to get to meetings it is an unfair burden; quorum has been a struggle in the past. The Council agreed to continue the mileage reimbursements for those desiring it.

## Phase 1: Website Overview and Backroads Study

Hans Shepherd, Planner for SCJ Alliance began with giving the Council an overview of the website that he designed for OCOG/ORTPO; the Council seemed happy with the website overall.

Mr. Shephard then began discussion on Phase I of the Okanogan County Backroads Study, the report was presented as follows:

### 1. Introduction

- 1.A - Study Purpose
- 1.B Study Need

### 2. Study Background

- 2.A Overview of Phase I Background Investigation
- 2.A.1. Data Collection and Assessment

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- 2.A.2. – Land Management Areas (LMA) Research and Engagement
- 2.A.3. – OCOG Work Session
- 2.B – Findings and Key Considerations: There is minimal coordination between agencies in planning for / or maintaining rural roads; Resources are scarce for rural roadway needs; Fire management and suppression is a priority for every land management agency; Severe wildland fires create long-term risks for highly rural roads; Residential pressures are growing in highly rural parts of the region; Agriculture relies on rural roads for seasonal access; Access to highly rural essential public facilities is an on-going concern for utilities; Community-based emergency planning and preparation efforts are underway; Designated roadless areas are prevalent in highly rural areas; Roadway geodata exists and is regularly shared among different agencies; High quality lidar data is sought for multiple application in most LMA's; and Funding opportunities reward collaboration and partnerships.

### 3. Phase 2 Implementation – Recommended Approach

- 3.A – Process Overview
- 3.B – Implementation Framework
- Task Area: Develop Preliminary Route Network for Evaluation; Map key places and rural routes; Identify key places; Map key access routes; Adjust the route map as needed; Review and refine the preliminary route map through engagement; Land management agency review and refinement; Public review and comment on preliminary rout map; Evaluate draft priority route conditions; Assess route characteristics; Assess route vulnerabilities; Quantify potential costs to upgrade roads serving dispersed residential development; Develop customized mapping tools; Identify and pursue follow-up activities.

4. Next Steps: Continue engagement efforts with land management agencies; Secure grant funding for Phase II activities.

### 5. Conclusion

#### **Phase 2: Okanogan County Backroads Study**

Hans Shepherd, Planner for SCJ Alliance was present to discuss Phase II of the Okanogan County Backroads Study, the draft Scope of Work and budget was presented as follows:

#### Overview

#### Implementation

- Task 1
  - Development Preliminary Route Network
  - Understanding



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- Task 2
  - Evaluate Priority Route Conditions
  - Understanding
- Task 3
  - Follow-Up Activities
- Task 4
  - Project Management
  - Understanding

The total budget for Phase II will be \$50,199.00.

## **Motion:**

Chairman Ing-Moody moved to approve A-1 Scope of Work for the Okanogan County Backroads Study with the stipulation that the word “staff” be taken out of the document wherever it appears and to authorize Okanogan County to initiate a contract with SCJ Alliance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Neal and passed unanimously.

## **Representative Goehner Email Regarding Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Intent to Charge Municipalities for Snow and Ice Removal**

Chairman Ing-Moody shared with the Council an email between Representative Goehner and WSDOT regarding plowing and ice removal on sections of highways that run through a municipality. Representative Goehner contacted WSDOT and received an email back from Willy Leiste, WSDOT Legislative Analyst referring to RCW 47.24.020(06). This RCW states in part that “...the city or town, at its own expense shall remove all snow, except that the state shall when necessary plow the snow on the roadway”. Mr. Leiste stated in his email that they currently have agreements with some municipalities and basically just want to correct any inconsistencies in their practice related to the RCW. He stated that there would not be any charges to the municipalities for the current year (2019-2020), however there will be more discussion. There was some discussion sharing current WSDOT practices amongst various jurisdictions around the County. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that there appears to be a difference in interpretation of the RCW amongst WSDOT and some municipalities.

## **Discussion – Okanogan County Emergency Management Committee Update**

Emergency Management Director Goodall invited everyone to the Multi-Hazard Planning Session on February 20<sup>th</sup> and emphasized the need for all towns and cities to provide the input that is required for the plan to pass.

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Goodall reported that an Okanogan County snowplow slide off into Salmon Creek. He wanted to remind everyone that in these situations Emergency Management needs to be notified. Goodall urged everyone to contact Emergency Management if there are any reports of flooding as well.


**Roundtable Updates**

There were no updates at this meeting.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairman Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

**Approved:**

  
Soo Ing-Moody, Chairman

**Attested:**

  
Jackie Gleason, TranGO Clerk of the Board