

**Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
March 11, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes - 5:00 p.m.  
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=TU1wZktBZHl4S0Y2UHVuMTFIRjY3UT09>**

**Present:** Jon Neal, Okanogan County, Commissioner - OCOG Chairman  
Josh Thomson, Okanogan County, Engineer - OCOG Treasurer  
Brent Timm, TranGO, General Manager – OCOG Secretary  
Crystal Hawley, TranGO, Clerk of the Board/Facilities Coordinator  
Kelly Hook, City of Pateros, Mayor  
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management, Director  
Kate Tollefson, WSDOT, Tribal and Regional Integrated Planning  
Ed Naillon, City of Oroville, Mayor  
Bobby Watkins, OCTN, Operations Director  
Amie Staggs, OCOG Coordinator  
Wayne Turner, City of Okanogan Mayor  
Teagan Levine, Tonasket Council Member  
Shaun Darveshi, WSDOT Region Planning Manager  
Paul Budrow, Okanogan County Sheriff Office  
Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member  
Sally Ranzau, Town of Winthrop, Mayor  
Erica Good, Okanogan County Child Development Asso.

**Call to Order/Welcome**

Chairman Neal called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

**Motion:**

Vice-chairman Turner moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded. All were in favor; the motion was carried unanimously.

- Agenda
- Minutes from February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Regular Meeting

**Public Comment:**

Chairman Neal opened public comment. A member of the public, Maria Hinds, stated that she was excited to understand more about the Okanogan Council of Governments.

There were no other public comments.

**Update: Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Thomson provided his report.

**Update: Secretary Report**

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Secretary Brent Timm provided his report. Secretary Timm met with WSDOT and OCOG Coordinator, Amie Staggs about Title VI Policies.

**Update: Okanogan County Report**

County Engineer, Thomson, explained that some road restrictions will be lifted.

**Update: Washington State Department of Transportation**

WSDOT Region Planning Manager, Shaun Darveshi, provided his report.

**Discussion: Childcare Partnership Grant**

Erica Good from Okanogan County Child Development Association provided a presentation about a Childcare Partnership Grant funding that will lead a two-year project in Okanogan County. The first year of the project with focus on conducting an in-depth childcare needs assessment in Okanogan and Omak. The second year of the project is negotiable dependent on the findings of year one.

There has been a lack of “affordable high-quality childcare” in the area that is impacting employers’ ability to recruit and retain staff and parents have felt forced to choose to alter their employment.

However, there is currently a lack of data to support this narrative we are all familiar with. Methow Valley School Dist. conducted an assessment in 2014/2015 and DCYF published a report with an estimated potential need in 2017.

Ms. Good further discussed that the number of childcare providers in 3 of 4 counties in North Central Washington has decreased in the last five years, but the capacity for childcare has increased by eighty-seven children over the same time. And many childcare facilities in North Central Washington are small businesses and current subsidies do not cover the total cost incurred by childcare providers. This cost is then passed on to families.

**Discussion: Title VI**

OCOG Coordinator, Amie Staggs, said that the Title VI Policy is complete and is being reviewed by WSDOT. She is hopeful that the policy will be ready for action in the next month or so.

**Roundtable Updates**

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

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Winthrop Mayor, Sally Ranzau, wanted to let everyone know this year Winthrop is celebrating one hundred years with a free kick off celebration at the Winthrop Barn! She wanted to invite everyone to this celebration.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairman Neal adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Neal, Chairman

**Attested:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Crystal Hawley, TranGO Clerk of the Board