

**Okanogan Council of Governments/
Regional Transportation Planning Organization**

April 11, 2022 – Meeting Minutes - 5:00 pm

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

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

Present: Jon Neal, City of Oroville, Mayor – OCOG Chairman
Chris Branch, Okanogan County, Commissioner – OCOG Vice Chairman
Josh Thomson, Okanogan County Engineer – OCOG Treasurer
Brent Timm, TranGO, General Manager - OCOG Secretary
Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board
Kelly Hook, City of Pateros, Mayor
Soo Ing-Moody, Town of Twisp, Mayor
Teagan Levine, City of Tonasket, Council Member
Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member
Wayne Turner, City of Okanogan, Council Member
Chris Scott, Town of Conconully, Council Member
Sally Ranzau, Town of Winthrop, Mayor
Misty Ruiz, City of Brewster, Clerk
Kelly Ross, Town of Nespelem, Clerk
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management, Director
Maxwell Nelson, WSDOT, Planner

*Council Member Teagan Levine joined at 5:12 pm

Call to Order

Chairman Jon Neal called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Welcome/Role Call

Chairman Neal welcomed everyone to the meeting; roll call was taken.

Approval of the Agenda

Additions: None

Deletions: None

Approval of Minutes – March 14, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Motion:

Secretary Brent Timm moved to approve the March 14, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sally Ranzau and passed unanimously.

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Update: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Josh Thomson reported there were not many financial expenditures in March, so no invoice was generated. Next month's invoice will incorporate both months.

There will be an upcoming kick-off meeting regarding the contract with SCJ Alliance.

Update: Secretary Report

Secretary Timm reported the kick-off meeting with SCJ Alliance will be this Wednesday, April 13, 2022. He will send the link to everyone, for those who would like to join.

Update: Okanogan County Report

Commissioner/Vice Chairman Chris Branch reported on the following:

- They have begun using ARPA funds for various small projects and are working with the Economic Alliance on other projects. They are also working on Fire District improvements for smaller areas and water projects in Winthrop and the City of Okanogan. They plan to do some work on the Okanogan County Shop and the storage space for the Sheriff's Department may also need to be updated. In addition, they are still reserving some funding for Broadband if possible.
- The County purchased the old Forest Service building which is being used by the courts and a murder trial and jury selection is happening there now.
- Recent wildfires caused hillside erosion in Nespelem. There is a water project there due to water leakage and risk of their water tank sliding off the hillside.

Update: Washington State Department of Transportation

WSDOT representative Maxwell Nelson reported on the following:

- WSDOT is now accepting applications for the Safe Route to School and Pedestrian and Bicyclist Program grant opportunities until June 06, 2022. They have done outreach in Okanogan County for grant potential and funding to approve walking and biking paths.
- The Oroville Railroad Crossing project is waiting to move forward as the engineers are now in discussion with the Railroad. Within the next one to two months, they plan to do additional paving to smooth the road which will be a temporary improvement.

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County-Wide Emergency Updates/Discussion

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

- The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) has been approved by FEMA and they now need cities and counties to adopt it. He will begin reaching out to cities and talk with them about a resolution. He will send a copy of the plan to the TranGO Clerk of the Board who can then forward on to everyone.
- There will be a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) meeting on Wednesday, April 13th at 6 pm in the Commissioners Hearing Room. This will be a good meeting to understand how to get funds coming back to the County.
- He attended a Fire Advisory Committee meeting last week where it was discussed how to implement the burn ban and move forward with decisions.
- They will begin working on a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Action: Resolution #2022-02 - Washington State Auditor Data Sharing Agreement

No discussion on the matter.

Motion:

Commissioner/Vice Chairman Branch moved to approve Resolution #2022-02 - Washington State Auditor Data Sharing Agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Chris Scott and passed unanimously.

Discussion: Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the RTPO Administrative Support Position

County Engineer/Treasurer Josh Thomson reminded everyone OCOG had advertised for this position but there were no applicants. During the last OCOG meeting, it was discussed that possibly the County would be interested in partially funding this position, in addition to being partially funded by the RTPO. He reported he spoke with the Commissioners, and they are interested in doing this. Several OCOG Council Members agreed this would be a good idea.

Commissioner/Vice Chairman Branch stated they considered that the Pacific Northwest Trail employee may be a good candidate for this position. Branch stated as this was newly introduced, he didn't have a timeline envisioned, but the sooner the better. Council Member Soo Ing-Moody, former OCOG Chairperson, reminded Branch that RTPO has some benchmark timelines which do need to be met, and wondered if there was anything OCOG/RTPO could provide to help the Commissioners with their ideas. Branch stated anytime a timeline is produced, it encourages quicker movement.

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County Engineer/Treasurer Thomson stated they first need to come up with a position description, then OCOG needs to approve it, which would therefore take at least 3 months if it was fast tracked. Council Member Ing-Moody reminded everyone that the RTPO job description was already in place, so they just needed the job description on the County side. It was mentioned that the State Auditor may require reporting in May and again in the Fall. Secretary Timm reported he had spoken with Gabe Philips from WSDOT who stated reporting does need to happen soon, so he will follow up with that.

Chairman Neal stated they needed to figure out the percentage of time this position would spend working on OCOG issues and how much time working on County issues. Commissioner/Vice Chairman Branch asked if the position was created to work 20 hours per week on OCOG issues. Secretary Timm clarified originally the position was advertised to work 30 hours per month for OCOG.

Discussion: Brewster Jail Fees

City of Brewster Clerk Misty Ruiz reported they are working with their City Attorney who has drafted a contract with the County regarding jail fees, but they want to get approval from the City's main Attorney before bringing to OCOG. She hopes to have something by the beginning of next week.

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 5:47 pm.

Approved:



Jon Neal, Chairman

Attested:



Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board