

Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
May 8, 2023 – 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  
Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board  
Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member  
Teagan Levine, City of Tonasket, Council Member  
Ed Naillon, City of Oroville, Mayor  
Alan Caswell, Town of Twisp, Council Member  
Kelly Hook, City of Pateros, Mayor  
Jimmer Tillman, Elmer City, Public Works Director  
Shawn Davisson, City of Okanogan, Public Works Director  
Aaron Studen, Town of Winthrop, Council Member  
Mike Worden, Okanogan Co. Sheriff's Dept., Chief of Special Operations  
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management, Director  
Bobby Watkins, OCTN, Operations Director  
Shaun Darveshi, WSDOT, North Central Region Planning Manager  
Gabe Philips, WSDOT, Regional Planning Manager  
Kate Tollefson, WSDOT, North Central Washington Regional Planning

\*These participants attended in person

### Call to Order/Welcome

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

### Approval of Consent Agenda

#### **Motion:**

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

- Agenda
- Minutes from April 10, 2023, Regular Meeting

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

### Public Comment:

There was no public comment at this time.

Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
May 8, 2023 – 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>

---

**Update: Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer/County Engineer Josh Thomson reported he is working on an annual report for the State Auditor's office. The draft is due later this month.

**Update: Secretary Report**

Secretary Timm reported he and Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson met with WSDOT Regional Planning Manager, Gabe Philips, regarding the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He thanked Thomson for the work he put into this.

**Update: Okanogan County Report**

Chairman/Commissioner Neal and Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson reported on the following:

- There is a lot going on regarding water inundation throughout the county. There are several locations with flooding, washouts, or water over the roadways. They hope water flow will slow by the end of the week.
- All road restrictions have been lifted.
- Okanogan County Fairgrounds was utilized for 3 different events this past weekend.
- Road construction is starting south of Malott on Old Hwy 97 and there will be one-lane road traffic. Expected project completion is mid-late June.

**Update: Washington State Department of Transportation**

WSDOT North Central Region Planning Manager, Shaun Darveshi, reported the following:

- He thanked Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson and Secretary Timm for their work on the UPWP and stated he provided them with some suggestions.
- He reported he provided timelines via email to specific individuals who had questions regarding certain projects from the last OCOG meeting.

**Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
May 8, 2023 – 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>**

---

- Hwy 20 is expected to reopen May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Omak Bridge Project is still on the schedule based on the latest budget they have. The project is expected to start 2025-2026, with completion in 2027.

WSDOT Regional Planning Manager, Gabe Philips, reported on the following:

- He also thanked Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson and Secretary Timm for their work on the UPWP.
- He reintroduced Kate Tollefson who is working as a Regional Planner.

WSDOT North Central Washington Regional Planner, Kate Tollefson, reported on the following:

- They are still in the process of filling the WSDOT Public Transportation Division's Community Liaison position for the North Central Region.

### **County-Wide Emergency Updates/Discussion**

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

- There are county-wide flooding issues with road washouts and wash-overs.
- Conconully reservoir had been dumping out quite a bit of water, but it slowed this week.
- There is flooding in Mazama, and the US Forest Service is working on certain areas that have only one escape route.
- The flood meeting at the Okanogan Fairgrounds went well last month.
- The Okanogan River is presently doing ok, but with the warm spell coming this weekend, it will raise waters again. He has spoken with all city officials, who have sandbags ready if needed.

Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
May 8, 2023 – 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>

---

**Action: Approval of 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson reported the UPWP draft was presented last month, and he met with WSDOT this past week for review. Some changes were made, and he also noted possible changes for next year such as working on a public participation plan and ADA policy.

**Motion:**

Secretary Timm moved to approve the 2024-2025 UPWP as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hook.

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

**Action: Dispatch Advisory Board Member Appointment (Primary and Alternate)**

Chairman/Commissioner Neal reported 3 applications were received from Pateros Mayor Kelly Hook, Town of Winthrop Council Member Seth Miles and Elmer City Council Member Flora Long.

**Motion:**

Secretary Timm moved to approve that Chairman/Commissioner Neal sign a letter recommending Kelly Hook as the Primary Dispatch Advisory Board Member and Seth Miles as the Alternate Dispatch Advisory Board Member. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ed Naillon.

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

Okanogan County Sheriff's Department, Chief of Special Operations, Mike Worden, reported on the following:

- They have various facilities in the mix to be approved.
- They are in the process of applying to the FCC for actual frequencies to be licensed to Okanogan County.
- They are pursuing another grant to offset some costs.

Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
May 8, 2023 – 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>

---

**Discussion: Review of 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Okanogan Region**

Secretary Timm reminded everyone this plan needs to be reviewed by staff and provide feedback. It was discussed and agreed during the review of the UPWP, to let the new RTPO Administrative Support Staff review the current plan and provide suggestions for a new plan.

**Action: RTPO Administrative Support Position Interlocal Agreement**

Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson reported this Interlocal Agreement was reviewed last month and the only change made was that he added his name as a contact person for all needs.

**Motion:**

Council Member Naillon moved to approve the RTPO Administrative Support Position Interlocal Agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Teagan Levine.

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

**Action: Resolution #2023-01 – Approval of CIAW Membership**

Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson stated the effective date of the insurance will be today, May 8<sup>th</sup>, and the fee reflects the same. There are a total of 3 documents to be approved: Resolution #2023-01, the Interlocal Agreement and the Fees document. Once all are approved, OCOG would be insured and can then move forward with the RTPO Administrative Support position.

**Motion:**

Secretary Timm moved to have Chairman/Commissioner Neal sign the required documents to obtain CIAW Membership. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hook.

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

**Motion:**

Secretary Timm moved to approve Resolution #2023-01 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hook.

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

Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
May 8, 2023 – 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=TU1wZktBZHl4S0Y2UHVuMTFIRiY3UT09>

---

**Discussion/Action: Brewster Jail Fees**

Brewster City Clerk, Misty Ruiz, was not present for the meeting. There were no questions or comments at this time. Chairman/Commissioner Neal stated that if anyone has any comments or suggestions, to either send them to the county or to Mrs. Ruiz.

**Further Discussion regarding the UPWP**

Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson stated that during the UPWP review, the issue of WSDOT as non-voting member of OCOG came up. In many RTPO's, the state is a voting member, rather than non-voting. As WSDOT is a stakeholder in our region, it would be beneficial if certain projects arise, they can provide support and vote on it.

WSDOT Regional Planning Manager, Gabe Philips, stated it is probably best practice across the state to have WSDOT as a voting member, but it is up to the Council. The voting member could be either the North Central Region Planning Manager, Shaun Darveshi, or the new Regional Administrator once they come on board. He also stated the bylaws could be left open (broad) stating, "that the WSDOT Regional Representative is a voting member".

It was suggested there be further discussion around this matter and possibly change the bylaws.

**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.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairman Neal adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Approved:



Jon Neal, Chairman

Attested:



Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board