

**Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization
July 11, 2022 – 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, 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
Wayne Turner, City of Okanogan, Council Member
Jimmer Tillman, Elmer City, Public Works Director
Sally Ranzau, City of Winthrop, Mayor
Aaron Studen, Town of Twisp, Council Member
Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member (joined at 5:23 p.m.)
Misty Ruiz, City of Brewster, Clerk
Teagan Levine, City of Tonasket, Council Member
Kelly Hook, City of Pateros, Mayor
Todd McDaniel, City of Omak, City Administrator
Jeff Sarvis, Town of Winthrop, Public Works Director
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management, Director
Kate Tollefson, WSDOT, Regional Liaison
Kathy Murray, WSDOT, NCW Planning Manager
Gabe Philips, WSDOT, Regional Planning Manager (joined at 5:15 p.m.)
Aren Murcar, SCJ Alliance, Planner

*All attendees participated via Zoom

Call to Order

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

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 – June 13, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Motion:

Secretary Brent Timm moved to approve the June 13, 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 the UPWP budget is \$77,310 and only \$6,000 has been spent so far. There hasn’t been an invoice generated since the end of April, but he will submit one soon.

Regarding the HSTP budget, he received a bill for \$12,859, which makes an approximate total of \$26,000 spent of the \$60,000 contract.

Update: Secretary Report

Secretary Timm had nothing to report.

Update: Okanogan County Report

Commissioner/Vice-Chairman Chris Branch reported on the following:

- The 2022 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted today. There were a series of recommendations, and some involve transportation issues such as roads for emergency access.
- Regarding ARPA funds for the county, they are working on some contract provisions and the Civil Deputy is reviewing them to make sure they are using the funds for eligible projects.
- They were contacted by an individual who has an animal rescue and wondered how the cities/towns are handling stray animals. He discussed various issues of strays/wild animals.
- There has been discussion about the Lake Management District and that certain towns aren’t paying into the district. Oroville does pay in, thus the Mayor of Oroville may be interested in this topic.

Okanogan County Engineer/Treasurer Thomson reported on the following:

- Due to recent flooding, the chip seal program is one week behind. They started on Riverside Cutoff Rd. today, Aeneas Valley will be tomorrow, and they will finish up in the Methow area.

Update: Washington State Department of Transportation

WSDOT NCW Planning Manager Kathy Murray had nothing to report and solicited questions. Chairman Neal asked about any updates on the Railroad Crossing just south of Oroville. She stated she wasn’t sure and will need to do some research.

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WSDOT Regional Liaison Kate Tollefson reported on the following:

- The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Consolidated Grant Program is now online. <https://wsdot.wa.gov/business-wsdot/grants/public-transportation-grants/grant-programs-and-awards/consolidated>. Eligible applicants: Nonprofits, tribes, public transit agencies, and local agencies in Washington state. Eligible projects include planning grants, and some involve transportation. One eligibility requirement is that the need must be identified, which the HSTP is working on now. She suggested anyone reach out to her with any questions.

Commissioner/Vice-Chair Branch discussed an issue of transient vendors selling products along highways throughout the county. He stated a group of local businesses have brought concerns about these vendors and felt the competition wasn't quite fair. One specific location of concern is at the Bridgeport weigh-station junction. He asked if WSDOT had any thoughts regarding requiring licensing as this may be within the county right of way. WSDOT Planning Manager Murray stated there was a request for signage today, but she wasn't sure if it was for the same issue. Commissioner Branch wondered about a possible time limit signage yet doesn't want the signage to affect other rightful users in the right of way. He asked if Ms. Murray could join a Commissioner's meeting to discuss the issue further as he'd like to get a response to those who questioned.

Brewster City Clerk Misty Ruiz stated there is no issue within their city as the city requires a business license, thus the transient vendors have moved outside the city limits.

Chairman Neal stated the City of Oroville had a transient business service contract drawn up and went away from the business registration process. He stated he would forward the contract to Commissioner Branch.

There was also discussion about a possible business license program requirement.

County-Wide Emergency Updates/Discussion

Okanogan County Emergency Management Director Maurice Goodall reported the following:

- The June 3, 2022, Bonaparte flooding on Lighting Creek ended with significant mud/debris coming down FS RD 100. It affected one house significantly and 2 other buildings. There are still ongoing issues, and they are working on the road due to recent wash outs.
- On July 3rd and 4th 2022, Conconully had extensive flooding in the Muckamuck burn scar area and a flash flood warning was issued on the 4th. One home/cabin was completely destroyed and there was significant debris built up on the bridges, which caused mud and water to flow down Main Street. Conconully has been working hard to clean up the situation and they are looking for funds to help the town out as it is costing approximately \$6,000/day.

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- Due to heavy rain, the irrigation ditch in Mazama was washed out. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is reviewing the situation.
- On July 20, 2022, there will be a 2022 Fire Season Meeting at the Okanogan County Fairgrounds from 12-3 p.m.
- The final version of the 2022 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted. He will reach out to the cities to adopt the same plan. If cities are signed up under this plan, they will be eligible for mitigation funds. They plan to do a yearly review of various action items, such as hazards, and ensure follow-up of these projects. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan is also being worked on, including ingress and egress of the roads.
- They still have Covid 19 test kits available for distribution along with N95 masks, which could be used for either smoke or virus protection.
- He will meet with the County Treasurer/Auditor in approximately one month to review the budget.

Action: Town of Winthrop - Scope Change and Additional Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Funds for the Susie Stephens Trail Crossings and Signage

Okanogan County Engineer/Treasurer Thomson reported Winthrop has a TAP funded project, which has been in the works for several years, and TAP funding goes through the RTPO. They applied for construction funding and the local project stated they needed to have the scope changed. They were on a tight time frame, so he communicated with OCOG's executive council who agreed to move forward with approving the scope change and having it ratified at this meeting.

Town of Winthrop Public Works Director, Jeff Sarvis, stated the scope change is very minor entailing the removal of a center divider. They have completed everything else with other funds and now have the right of way. They will have a few more expenses such as street lighting for the crossing and the cost increase for the project compared to last year, but they don't know the total dollar amount yet.

Motion:

Commissioner/Vice-Chair Branch moved to ratify the scope change as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jimmer Tillman and passed unanimously.

Discussion: SCJ Alliance Update

SCJ Alliance Planner Aren Murcar reported he has been working on the Coordinated HSTP. They completed the public outreach portion and attended three more Farmer's Markets in Tonasket, Omak, and Twisp in June. Okanogan Days and the Twisp Market were very well attended. The survey closed last week

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with 276 participants and they are in the process of summarizing the information now. There was low participation from Spanish speaking individuals.

There were challenges regarding input from the Colville Tribe as their Public Transit Coordinator did not reply. Certain Tribal Planners were also contacted who were not able to provide input. He will work with Kate Tollefson from WSDOT to see if there is anyone else they can reach out to with the Tribe to obtain their input.

They held an Advisory Committee meeting in June which involved stakeholders and what the final recommendations of the plan will be. They had a list of approximately 20 recommendations, discussed the priorities and are working on refining them. There will be another Advisory Committee meeting on July 19, 2022, at 1 p.m. The invite link will be forwarded to all OCOG Members by the Clerk of the Board. They plan to turn in a draft by August 1, 2022, for review and will entertain suggestions for changes. The final report is due to WSDOT by October 1, 2022.

Discussion: Preparation of UPWP Annual Report

Okanogan County Engineer/Treasurer Thomson informed the Council this was a reminder that an Annual Report will be due by the end of September 2022, which will need to be adopted by this group at the September OCOG meeting. He will work on the draft.

Discussion: Compile a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

Okanogan County Engineer/Treasurer Thomson reported this is another reminder that an RTIP is due in October. He has received three so far from various cities, which is usually adopted by the cities in July. He reminded the cities to send the RTIP's to him if they haven't yet done so.

Discussion: RTPO Administrative Support Position Update

Okanogan County Engineer/Treasurer Thomson stated he has spoken with the County Commissioners about partially funding this position and he hopes to have the final approval tomorrow. He would like to have a draft for the next OCOG meeting and asked if there were any specifics on the MOU/draft cover. Chairman Neal stated a maximum amount available to pay by OCOG should be listed and Secretary Timm agreed. It was suggested that if there were any other concerns or suggestions, to contact Chairman Neal, Secretary Timm or Okanogan County Engineer/Treasurer Thomson.

Discussion: Brewster Jail Fees

City of Brewster Clerk, Misty Ruiz, reported she and Omak City Administrator Todd McDaniel worked with the County on updating the jail fees contract. They are coming close to an agreement with the County Sheriff, Jail Administrator and Attorney who have all reviewed the agreement. They will add a clause

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regarding a contract termination date, create some type of consortium like they have with dispatch to allow for some input of the running of the jail and look at a yearly fee. Mr. McDaniel stated it will be nice to have things finalized and balanced out to budget accordingly. The County wants to have one contract for all the cities and Clerk Ruiz stated she wanted to make sure all concerns were identified. It was suggested that if anyone has any concerns or suggestions regarding the contract, to contact Ms. Ruiz, Mr. McDaniel or Commissioner Branch.

Chairman Neal stated he had a conversation with the Okanogan Behavioral Health Care (OBHC) Director regarding the delay of needed medications upon inmate release. The OBHC Director stated he is working on trying to keep an inmate on state medical assistance, even while incarcerated.

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 5:59 p.m.

Approved:



Jon Neal, Chairman

Attested:



Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board