

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

October 12, 2020 – Meeting Minutes

Location: 303 2nd 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
Chris Branch, Okanogan County Commissioner
Sally Ranzau, Town of Winthrop, Mayor
Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member
Marylou Kriner, City of Tonasket, Mayor
George Mazur, WSDOT, Senior Planner
Maxwell Nelson, WSDOT, Transportation Planning Specialist

Guests: Hans Shepherd, SCJ Alliance
Mike Worden, Chief of Special Operations / Communications, Okanogan County Sheriff's Department
Elana Mainer, County Health Issues Advisory Group
Peter Morgan, County Health Issues Advisory Group

Call to Order

Chairperson Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

Welcome/Role Call

Chairperson Ing-Moody welcomed everyone to the meeting; role call was taken and there was no quorum.

Approval of the Agenda

Additions: None

Deletions: None

Update: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Thomson reported that WSDOT is requesting a schedule be developed to show how funds still unspent for the current biennium will be spent by June 30, 2021; Thomson will be working with Han Shepherd, SCJ on that schedule.

Update: Secretary Report

Secretary Scalf reported that the support letter requested by People for People has been sent to them.

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Update: Okanogan County Report

Board Member Branch reported on the following:

Wildfire recovery - The community is pulling together to rebuild fence, provide hay for animals and help with short-term needs. Also, long-term needs of families displaced from the fires are being discussed, including rebuilding homes and/or providing temporary housing for those in need. Guard rail replacement is happening on Cameron Lake Road as well as on Highways 97 and 155.

Elections – Branch is involved in a Race Equity and Leadership Committee; a similar group has been discussed for Okanogan County.

Update: Washington State Department of Transportation

WSDOT Planner Nelson reported on 2021 projects:

There will be railroad crossing improvements done in Oroville, paving on Highway 97 south of Tonasket, and chip sealing done on Highway 97 south of Pateros.

WSDOT Planner Mazur thanked the Council for taking care of some administrative items required by WSDOT. WSDOT employees will continue to work from home through the end of 2020 and at this time there will be furloughs of at least one day per month until June 30, 2021.

Mr. Mazur was asked whether towns and cities with Highways running through them will be required to pay for snow removal in the upcoming 2020-2021 snow season. This issue was presented to a few jurisdictions last winter, but no conclusive answer has been given for this year; Mazur will check into it and get an answer for the Council.

Presentation - “COVID Safe, Because We Care” Business Pledge

Peter Morgan and Elana Mainer representing the County Health Issues Advisory Group were present to share the “COVID Safe, Because We Care” Business Pledge concept. Ms. Mainer reported that the pledge is to keep customers, employees, and community members safe. By businesses signing on to the pledge, they are showing the public that they are committed to follow local and state COVID-19 safety guidelines and practices.

To be recognized as “COVID Safe” a business owner must sign a pledge to adhere to the following practices:

- Make the Message Clear – Masks Required
- Wear facial coverings correctly
- Help customers be safe
- Keep sick and COVID-exposed employees away from work

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- Support sick employees
- Make your space as safe as possible
- Keep our business clean
- Share information with other employees
- Care for each other

An interested business owner can visit <https://okanogancountycovid19.org/> and click on the “COVID Safe Business Pledge” banner. There will be follow up advertising funded by Economic Alliance through social media, radio ads, newspapers, and contact through Chambers.

Coronavirus/COVID 19 Updates/Discussion:

There were no county COVID-19 updates at this time.

Update: Okanogan County Emergency Communications/Dispatch

Mike Worden, Okanogan County Sheriff’s Department Chief of Special Operations / Communications reported to the Council on the status of the timeline and accomplishments of the new communications project. Twisp Mayor Soo Ing-Moody and Brewster Clerk/Treasurer Misty Ruiz have been working with him in an advisory capacity. Mr. Worden discussed the need of a fire proof building on Tunk Mountain to improve infrastructure in that area. Chairperson Ing-Moody reminded everyone that Oroville Mayor Jon Neal and Pateros Mayor Carlene Anders serve as Representative/Alternate from OCOG to the Dispatch Advisory Board.

Presentation/Discussion/Action: SCJ Alliance – Backroads Study

Hans Shepherd, SCJ discussed the use of cellphone data and traffic measurement and monitoring tools to collect data to show where people are traveling. Mr. Shepherd is still requesting feedback on the Scoring Matrix and has been setting up videos and website surveys on the OCOG website to view. Chairperson Ing-Moody urged him to keep asking the OCOG members for answers so he can continue his work.

WSDOT Planner Mazur pointed out that rural areas have less quality data and he urged SCJ to seek a useful and creditable company when looking for this type of data.

Roundtable Updates

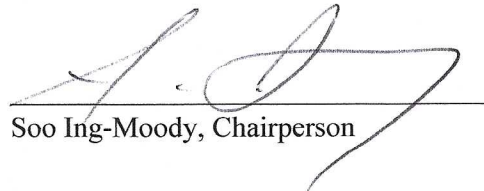
There were no updates at this time.

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Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairperson Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 5:54 pm.

Approved:


Soo Ing-Moody, Chairperson

Attested:


Jackie Gleason, TranGO Clerk of the Board