

Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization
December 11, 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=TU1wZktBZHI4S0Y2UHVuMTFIRjY3UT09>

Present: Jon Neal, Okanogan County, Commissioner - OCOG Chairman
Shawn Davison, City of Okanogan, Mayor - OCOG Vice-Chair
Josh Thomson, Okanogan County, Engineer - OCOG Treasurer
*Brent Timm, TranGO, General Manager – OCOG Secretary
*Crystal Hawley, TranGO, Clerk of the Board/Facilities Coordinator
*Amie Staggs, Planning, Trails and OCOG Coordinator
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management, Director
Berry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member
Teagan Levine, City of Tonasket, Council Member
*Eli Loftis, Okanogan Conservation District
Kelly Hook, City of Pateros- Mayor
Sally Ranzau, City of Winthrop, Mayor
Ed Naillon, City of Oroville, Mayor
Jimmer Tillman

*These participants attended in person

Call to Order/Welcome

Chairman Neal called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Motion:

Vice-Chair Turner moved to approve the agenda and minutes from October 09,2023 regular meeting. Motion was seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Update: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Thomson provided his report.

Update: Secretary Report

Secretary Timm explained that the Regional Transportation Planning Organization is asking four times for the funding increase from the state legislative.

Update: Okanogan County Report

Treasurer Thomson provided the county report.

County-Wide Emergency Updates/Discussion

EM Director, Goodall provided his emergency update.

Update: Community Wildfire Protection Plan- Eli Loftis

Wildfire and Community Resilience Lead, Eli Loftis explained that Led by the Okanogan Conservation District, Okanogan County is embarking on an update of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), last updated in 2013. They will use up-to-date information and fire

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modeling to assess local hazards and identify strategic investments to mitigate risk and promote preparedness. An updated CWPP will improve the ability of Okanogan County residents, local governments, and state, federal, and tribal entities, to respond to wildfires and increase fire resiliency.

Okanogan CD is requesting the participation of three individuals to represent the interests of Okanogan County's incorporated communities as part a of planning committee/core group that will assist the Conservation District and other partners in drafting priorities and recommendations for inclusion in the CWPP. This body will have decision making power on the final contents of the CWPP as submitted. A wider group representing the wide array of different interested parties will also be consulted during the process as well.

The planning committee/core group will meet twice monthly, starting in January on TBD date, and continuing until the CWPP is completed as transmitted to the county, state forester, and FEMA for approval, tentatively scheduled for late May or early June 2024. The meetings will be primarily held in person at the Okanogan CD office at the USDA Service Center in Okanogan. Remote options will be available.

Discussion: Code of Ethics Policy -Amie Staggs

OCOg Coordinator, Amie Staggs explained that she had completed the code of ethics policy.

Motion:

Secretary Timm moved to approve the code of ethics policy. Motion was seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Motion:

Secretary Timm moved to accept the code of ethics policy. Motion was seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion: RAISE Grant- Amie Staggs

OCOg Coordinator, Amie Staggs, explained that RAISE grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, per statute, for planning or constructing surface transportation infrastructure projects that will improve safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration; and innovation.

Ms. Staggs farther explained that the grant is \$1.5 billion with no more than 15% being awarded to projects in a single state. Below is a list of eligible project types for the RAISE Grant:

- highway or bridge projects eligible under title 23, United States Code
- public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code 2
- passenger and freight rail transportation projects eligible under title 49

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- port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry)
- the surface transportation components of an airport project eligible for assistance under part B of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code
- intermodal projects whose components are otherwise an eligible project type
- projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species while advancing the goals of the RAISE program
- projects investing in surface transportation facilities that are located on Tribal land and for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in the Federal Government
- any other surface transportation infrastructure project that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goals of the program

Ms. Staggs will be attending a webinar to help her understand the application process.

Public Comment

There was no public in person or via zoom for comment.

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:

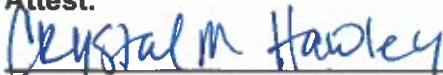
There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairman Neal adjourned the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

Approved:



Jon Neal, Chairman

Attest:



Crystal Hawley, TranGO Clerk of the Board

