

**Okanogan Council of Governments/
Regional Transportation Planning Organization
January 11, 2021 – Meeting Minutes**

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
Jon Neal, City of Oroville, Mayor
Jennifer Fitzthum, OCTN, CEO
Jon Culp, City of Okanogan, Mayor
Misty Ruiz, City of Brewster, Clerk/Treasurer
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Dept of Emergency Management Director
Laurie Jones, Okanogan County Public Health Director
Kate Tollefson, Regional Liaison
George Mazur, WSDOT, Senior Planner
Maxwell Nelson, WSDOT, Transportation Planning Specialist

Call to Order

Chairperson Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

Welcome/Role Call

Chairperson Ing-Moody welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

Additions: None

Deletions: None

Correction: Hans Shepherd, SCJ Alliance will not be joining the meeting; instead, Treasurer Thomson will give the Back Roads Study Update.

Update: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Thomson reported on the following:

- As of 12/31/20, \$6,840 has been expended for Task I/Administration
- As of 11/30/20, \$19,784 has been expended for the Back Roads Study

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- SCJ Alliance is on track regarding the spending schedule they presented to WSDOT. He is still waiting for the amended Scope of Work the Council recently approved. Planner Mazur asked that the amendment be prepared as soon as possible and forwarded to Doug Cox, WSDOT Regional Coordinator

Update: Secretary Report

Secretary Scalf no report at this time.

Update: Washington State Department of Transportation

- Planner Mazur reported that mild weather has helped keep transportation issues down
- Regional Liaison Tollefson reported she has been busy with the Consolidated Grant Program
- Planner Nelson thanked us for the circulation of the Head Quarters notice regarding the latest addition (02/15/21) of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP)
- Planner Mazur was asked to forward the electric car charging station grant information to Clerk Gleason for distribution; he suggested those with interest look into the grant process soon because the Governor has included funding in his budget.

Updates/Discussion: Coronavirus/COVID

Laurie Jones, Okanogan County Public Health Director reported on the following:

- As of 01/11/21 in Okanogan County there were 32 new cases of COVID-19, the incident rate was 400/100,000, there was an 11.2% of positives from tests given. She reported Okanogan County is still doing better than neighboring counties
- She reported that she has received both of her vaccines and she had no reaction to the first shot, but was quite sick for about a day after receiving her second shot
- More vaccines should be available after 01/20/21
- She shared that the Confluence Hospital in Wenatchee currently have 33 COVID-19 patients; 11 on ventilators
- She is unhappy with the continued planning of public events. Public Health has no type of enforcement on these events and looks to the public and local leaders to put pressure on the organizers
- There were no Public Health Districts consulted by the Governor's Office when the new "2-Phase Plan" was developed; this is very disturbing to the Health officials

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- A meeting is planned between the Okanogan Public Health, Economic Alliance, and local restaurant owners to work on some creative ideas within guidelines that can be used so as not to lose any more establishments
- The Governor's Office will be looking at regional statistics each Friday to determine which Phase guidelines each region is allowed to work under
- Up to now vaccines have only been given at either the Tonasket or Brewster Hospitals; there will be more assessable vaccine locations soon.

Emergency Management Director Goodall reported on the following:

- A meeting has been set for 01/21/21 at 6:00 pm for the Okanogan County Emergency Service Organization; Director Goodall will be sending out meeting information soon
- He plans to fill out the Back Roads Study Survey Treasurer Thomson sent out
- Council Member Neal discussed a phone service issue that happened in the Oroville area; Director Goodall stated that he was glad he could help get it fixed

Tony Hawley, Okanogan County Sheriff

There was no report given.

Update: Okanogan County Emergency Communications/Dispatch

Chairperson Ing-Moody reported that the letter of support that was approved by OCOG at their December meeting has been sent to Mike Worden for his grant presentation.

Update: Back Roads Study

Treasurer Thomson reported a survey had been sent out to entities related to the Back Roads Study; Thomson asked that the survey be completed and returned as soon as possible. Thomson was asked if more than one response can be submitted per entity. Thomson stated that if there were more than one perspective from an entity it would be considered, but he prefers just one response. Planner Mazur asked if the previously discussed data purchase was going to appear in the amended Scope of Work; Thomson confirmed it would.

****Council Member Branch joined the meeting making a quorum.**

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Approval of Minutes

Motion:

Vice Chairperson Anders moved to approve the December 14, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Branch and passed unanimously.

Update: Okanogan County Report

Commissioner/Council Member Branch reported on the following:

- Melanie Bailey has been appointed by the County Commissioners to serve at the Prosecuting Attorney for the County until the next election
- He stated he would be completing the survey sent out regarding the Back Roads Study and encouraged others to as well
- He reported that the 40/40/20 Rural County Money program set up by the Commissioners by bond will be coming due in 2023. He feels that OCOG should begin discussions now on how they see these funds should be used in the future. Chairperson Ing-Moody asked that this item be placed on the next OCOG meeting agenda and that Board Member Branch provide the Council with some history on the subject for that meeting.
- He encouraged each municipality to keep on top of their future water needs and to pay attention to what discussions are being held at the WRIA 48 and 49 board meetings.

Action: 2021 Meeting Dates

Chairperson Ing-Moody discussed monthly meetings versus bi-monthly meetings; below is the discussion:

- Meeting at 4:30 pm is inconvenient for some
- Bi-Monthly meetings may be better for this group as achieving a quorum has consistently been an issue this past year; a special meeting can always be called if needed
- Others stated the desire to hold monthly meetings; meetings every 2 months could mean a very long interval between meetings
- Since information can so easily be shared, the need for monthly meetings may seem redundant and preparing for meetings and attendance is a lot of work, especially since there had been many meeting in 2020 where a quorum was not met
- Clerk/Treasurer Ruiz asked if there could be 2 alternate members from Brewster. No one opposed the suggestion; the bylaws will be reviewed to see if a revision can be made

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Motion:

Council Member Branch moved to maintain the monthly meeting schedule and to change the start time from 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Anders and passed unanimously.

Treasurer Thomson suggested that if OCOG meetings start happening in person again, we revisit the meeting frequency again at that time.

Action: Election of 2021 OCOG Executive Committee

Chairperson Ing-Moody began discussion on the nominations/elections of OCOG Executive Committee positions by providing the Council some history. She explained that Josh Thomson is the Treasurer at this time because the County has the fiduciary responsibility as outlined in the bylaws and therefore it has made sense that he has been in charge of accounts payable for invoices since the County received the RTPO funds distributed by the State. She explained that Kelly Scalf is the Secretary because her TranGo has been able to provide a staff person to aid in administrative duties. Previously, the Town of Twisp had been providing this service before our official designation as an RTPO. She stated that she would be happy if anyone should be interested in serving in the capacity as Chair and outlined the duties of the position. She offered to serve as Vice-Chair if anyone should be interested.

Motion:

The 2021 OCOG/RTPO Elections/Nominations were conducted as follows:

- Council Member Branch nominated Chairperson Ing-Moody for the position of Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Council Member Ranzau and passed unanimously; Chairperson Ing-Moody will continue as Chairperson for 2021.
- Vice-Chairperson Anders nominated Council Member Branch for the position of Vice-Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Council Member Neal and passed unanimously; Council Member Branch will serve as Vice-Chairperson for 2021.
- Chairperson Ing-Moody nominated Treasurer Thomson for the position of Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ranzau and passed unanimously; Treasurer Thomson will continue as Treasurer for 2021.
- Chairperson Ing-Moody nominated Secretary Scalf for the position of Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Council Member Branch and passed unanimously; Secretary Scalf will continue as Secretary for 2021.

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Vice-Chairperson Anders recommended forming a nominating committee for future elections instead of performing the elections from the floor of a regular meeting. Chairperson Ing-Moody asked that the bylaws be reviewed and that this item be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Action: Ranking of Consolidated Grant Program Applications

Secretary Scalf discussed the Consolidated Grant Program and shared the process in which the OCOG must rank and take action on the list of those entities that have applied. These grants are for operation and equipment for public and special needs type transportation. This year, the only grant in our region was submitted by Okanogan County Transportation and Nutrition (OCTN) for vehicle replacement. Scalf reported that this grant program, over the last 6 years has replaced all of OCTN's fleet. Secretary Scalf recommends the Council support the OCTN's application.

Motion:


Secretary Scalf moved to support the OCTN Consolidated Grant Program application and authorize Chairperson Ing-Moody to sign any applicable documentation. The motion was seconded by Council Member Branch and passed unanimously.

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; there were no reports at this meeting.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairwoman Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 6:07 pm.

Approved:

Soo Ing-Moody, Chairwoman

Attested:


Jackie Gleason, TranGO Clerk of the Board