

**Okanogan Council of Governments/
Regional Transportation Planning Organization
February 8, 2021 – Meeting Minutes**

Present: Soo Ing-Moody, Town of Twisp, Mayor – OCOG Chairperson
Chris Branch, Okanogan County Commissioner – 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
Sally Ranzau, Town of Winthrop, Mayor
Jon Neal, City of Oroville, Mayor
Deanne Konsack, OCTN, Operations Manager
Jon Culp, City of Okanogan, Mayor
Tim Rieb, City of Brewster, Council Member
Misty Ruiz, City of Brewster, Clerk/Treasurer
Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member
Marylou Kriner, City of Tonasket, Mayor
Teagan Levine, City of Tonasket, Council Member
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Dept of Emergency Management Director
Laurie Jones, Okanogan County Public Health Director
Tony Hawley, Okanogan County Sheriff
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 5:03 pm.

Welcome/Role Call

Chairperson Ing-Moody welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

Additions: None

Deletions: None

Approval of Minutes

Motion:

Council Member Kriner moved to approve the January 11, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ranzau and passed unanimously.

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Update: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Thomson reported to the Board he had recently received an invoice from SCJ Alliance for approximately \$3,500 and that we are on track with our budget for the Back Roads Study.

Update: Secretary Report

Secretary Scalf reported that the Project Rating for the Consolidated Grant Program had been submitted.

Update: Okanogan County Report

Commissioner/Vice Chairman Branch reported on the following:

- He urged the towns and cities to submit to the County any Capital Facilities Plan projects that may directly impact County projects; those projects can be sent to Clerk to the Commission Lanie Johns
- The County departments are recovering slowly after the recent cyberattack on their computer systems. Some files are still not accessible but their Central Services Department did a good job recovering and bringing the majority of the services back in a timely manner. Some emails between 01/14/21 and 01/23/21 were lost, anyone who sent an email during this time and has not received a response back is encouraged to try again.

Update: Washington State Department of Transportation

George Mazur reported that upon the retirement of Bill Gould, WSDOT Development Services as of December 31, 2020, the North Central Regional Planning Office managed by Nick Manzano assumed the Development Services duties.

Council Member Ranzau asked Mr. Mazur who she could speak with regarding changing the speed limits in Winthrop; Mazur will get her a contact number.

Kate Tollefson announced that the Consolidated Grant Program ranking would be complete on February 26, 2021.

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Update: Back Roads Study

Treasurer Thomson reported that a survey related to the Back Roads Study had been sent out to agencies on February 5, 2021. Thomson reported that he would be meeting with SCJ Alliance on February 9, 2021 to finalize the amended Back Roads Study scope of work and budget. Planner Mazur asked that the final documents be sent to the WSDOT Headquarter as soon as they are finalized.

Updates/Discussion: Coronavirus/COVID

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

- There were some emails lost in her department during the cyberattack on the County.
- The Covid numbers are down in Okanogan County; regionwide as well.
- Approximately 5,700 or 13% of Okanogan County citizens have been vaccinated. The registrations for vaccines are coming in but the vaccine is arriving slowly.
- She answered two questions from the Council, yes, if you receive your first vaccination you are guaranteed your second vaccination and yes, even if you are vaccinated you are still required to wear a mask.

Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management Director reported on the following:

- They are working on getting a central location for people to register for vaccinations and to improve the communications with the State for tracking after the shot is given.
- There is still ample PPE in stock if anyone is in need
- So far, the B11C Variant has not been seen in Okanogan County
- Chairperson Ing-Moody thanked Director Goodall for his department's work assisting with vaccinations.

Tony Hawley, Okanogan County Sheriff reported on the following:

- The Sheriff's Department has purchased a Tech 87 Body Scanner to help decrease the trafficking of contraband into the jail; training on the operations of the scanner will begin soon.
- There has been good communication between the Sheriff's Department and the new Prosecutor.
- Public Health Director Jones commended Sheriff Hawley and his staff on how they dealt with the jail Covid outbreak.

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Formation of a Nominating Committee

At the last OCOG meeting there was interest in discussing the formation of a Nominating Committee to elect officers in the future.

Council Members Ranzau and Kriner suggested that a Nominations Committee need not be formed and instead encourage Council Members to write a letter of interest in the future prior to the election for officers; the Council unanimously agreed.

Water (WRIA 48 and WRIA 49)

Vice Chairman Branch began the discussion of involvement by the towns and cities regarding water issues in WRIAs 48 and 49. He encouraged elected official to “be present at the table” and to pay attention to what is taking place regarding water in our areas; both in the Okanogan Valley and the Methow Valley. Branch believes that OCOG is a great forum in which to share information and learn. He explained that currently Crown Columbia a large corporation is wanting to move water out of our area by moving it downstream and selling the rights. Recently, State Representative Keith Goehner introduced a Bill that would make it illegal to transfer water rights out of basins; unfortunately, the Bill died. Local elected officials were involved in writing the Bill and Representative Goehner intends to continue working on it. Several OCOG members voiced their support of keeping water issues as a topic on future agendas.

Roundtable Updates

Each agency represented is given a few moments, if they wish to report to the group on important issues going on in their jurisdictions.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairperson Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Approved:



Soo Ing-Moody, Chairperson

Attested:



Jackie Gleason, TranGO Clerk of the Board