

**Okanogan Council of Governments/
Regional Transportation Planning Organization
March 8, 2021 – Meeting Minutes - 5:00 pm**

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
Deanne Konsack, OCTN, Operations Manager
Jon Culp, City of Okanogan, Mayor
Chris Scott, Town of Conconully, Council Member
Misty Ruiz, City of Brewster, Clerk/Treasurer
Tony Hawley, Okanogan County Sheriff
Kate Tollefson, Regional Liaison
George Mazur, WSDOT, Senior Planner
Maxwell Nelson, WSDOT, Transportation Planning Specialist

Guests: Nicole Ahlem, Colville Tribe, Traffic Safety Coordinator
Kwis Logan, Colville Tribe, Public Safety Grants
Brenda Schmidt, Colville Tribe, Tribal Department of Transportation
Mary McCrea – Water Law Attorney (Retired)
Lorah Super – Methow Valley Citizens Council Program Director

Call to Order

Chairperson Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 5:09 pm.

Welcome/Role Call

Chairperson Ing-Moody welcomed everyone to the meeting and called for introductions

Approval of the Agenda

Additions: None

Deletions: None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were not approved; there was not a quorum

**Okanogan Council of Governments/
Regional Transportation Planning Organization
March 8, 2021 – Meeting Minutes - 5:00 pm**

Update: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Thomson reported to the Board that through 01/31/21 there has been approximately \$7,125 spent on Task 1 and approximately \$24,494 spent on Task 2. Thomson stated that there is approximately \$4,900 left in the Task 1/Administration budget to be spent by 06/30/21 and that the spending in Task 2 is on track with the budget. Chairperson Ing-Moody asked if time spent on virtual RTPO meetings were chargeable to the budget; Planner Mazur confirmed that was an allowable charge.

Update: Secretary Report

Secretary Scalf reported that according to the RTPO calendar the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) will need to be updated in 2022. Scalf explained that a needs assessment is part of this plan and that OCTA is currently conducting a transportation survey that will help with that part of the plan. She shared with the group that she is working hard to get information out quickly to the citizens of Okanogan County and is planning to contact each of the Councils, Chambers, School Districts, and social service agencies with hope that these groups will help spread the word about the survey.

Update: Washington State Department of Transportation

WSDOT Planner Nelson reported on the following 2021 projects:

- Beginning July 6th, 13 miles of paving south of Tonasket on Highway 97 and 5 miles of chip sealing south of Pateros on Highway 97 and crack sealing on the shoulders on Northern sections beginning in April
- Railroad crossing improvement on US 97 Eastside of Oroville Road, including a flashing warning sign; expected to begin middle of April

Update: Back Roads Study

Treasurer Thomson updated the Council on the Back Roads Study:

- The Scope of Work has been updated and submitted to WSDOT
- The second round of survey emails encouraging participation have been sent
- SCJ has been making contacts and collecting surveys
- Next up, the survey will be available to the public

**Okanogan Council of Governments/
Regional Transportation Planning Organization
March 8, 2021 – Meeting Minutes - 5:00 pm**

Updates/Discussion: Coronavirus/COVID

Chairperson Ing-Moody reported on the following COVID related items:

- Public Health is working hard to create a central location for registering for vaccinations
- School staff is now eligible for vaccinations
- Some pharmacies are beginning to provide vaccinations

Tony Hawley, Okanogan County Sheriff reported on the following:

- Inmates are receiving vaccinations at the jail
- His department is helping distribute personal protective equipment

Water (WRIA 48 and WRIA 49)

Mary McCrea, a retired Water Law/Environmental Attorney and Lorah Super, the Program Director/Board Supervisor for the Methow Valley Citizens Council were both present to discuss a for profit Trust Water Agreement being proposed by Crown Columbia and considered by Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE). Ms. McCrea began by providing a summary of the intent behind the proposed Water Trust Agreement. Crown Columbia is seeking approval from the DOE to transfer 49.9 cubic feet per second (CFS) from the Methow Valley. Crown Columbia is an investment company that plans to profit off of the sale of water; our state's public resource. If the agreement is approved Crown Columbia will control a large amount of water, to be sold for a profit by the investment company.

This type of transfer agreement would give Crown Columbia a lot of control over where and how water can be used and at what cost to the consumer. Upstream water rights are very valuable. The time is now to comment on the economic and environmental impact and we need to show a united front. Ms. McCrea volunteered to help with working on letters; the deadline is March 19, 2021. Mayor Culp shared that the City of Okanogan passed a resolution opposing private water banking and supporting local water banking; he volunteered to share it with the Council. A Conservation Pilot Project for water banking is being spearheaded by Representative Steele and Representative Goehner; they are asking for \$350,000 for the project. McCrea also mentioned Representative Short as another good resource related to water issues.

Discussion: Bylaws – Board Representatives/Alternates

Chairperson Ing-Moody explained that Brewster is asking that they be allowed to appoint two alternates to the OCOG Board in case one is unable to attend. The Council agreed and directed

**Okanogan Council of Governments/
Regional Transportation Planning Organization
March 8, 2021 – Meeting Minutes - 5:00 pm**

the secretary to make the change in the bylaws and get them out to all member for consideration at the next meeting.

Update: Okanogan County Report

Commissioner/Vice Chairman Branch reported on the following:

- The Commissioners wrote a letter to the Department of Labor and Industries asking them to not levy fines on businesses who have not fully complied with all Covid requirements
- There are court appeals in regards to the County Comprehensive Plan, one specifically pertains to the opening statement. The comment period is undetermined at this time.

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 6:12 pm.

Approved:


Soo Ing-Moody, Chairwoman

Attested:


Jackie Gleason, TranGO Clerk of the Board