

**Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
March 13, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes - 5:00 pm  
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>**

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**Present:** Jon Neal, Okanogan County, Commissioner – OCOG Chairman  
\*Wayne Turner, City of Okanogan, Mayor – OCOG Vice-Chair  
Josh Thomson, Okanogan County, Engineer – OCOG Treasurer  
\*Brent Timm, TranGO, General Manager – OCOG Secretary  
Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board  
Teagan Levine, City of Tonasket, Council Member (joined at 5:16 p.m.)  
Kelly Hook, City of Pateros, Mayor  
Jimmer Tillman, Elmer City, Public Works Director  
Ed Naillon, City of Oroville, Mayor  
\*Paul Budrow, Okanogan County Sheriff's Dept., Sheriff  
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management, Director  
\*Jennifer Fitzthum, OCTN, Executive Director  
Shaun Darveshi, WSDOT, North Central Region Planning Manager  
Lauri Jones, Okanogan County Public Health Department, Director

\*These participants attended in person

**Call to Order/Welcome**

Chairman/Commissioner Jon Neal called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

**Motion:**

Vice-Chair Wayne Turner moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kelly Hook.

- Agenda
- Minutes from February 13, 2023, Regular Meeting

Chairman/Commissioner Neal called for the vote; the motion passed unanimously.

**Update: Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer/County Engineer Josh Thomson reported he prepared a \$600 invoice through the end of February 2023, for a total of \$9,081 for the past 20 months.

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Regarding the Unified Planning and Work Program (UPWP) and gathering information for the scope of work for the next 2 years, he didn't receive feedback after last month's meeting. Therefore, he will submit the same plan as previously and have a draft ready at the next OCOG meeting.

**Update: Secretary Report**

Secretary Brent Timm reported there will be a meeting with WSDOT Regional Planning Manager, Gabe Phillips, regarding the UPWP on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the TranGO office. He also received a letter from Planning Manager Phillips reminding that OCOG has until June 30<sup>th</sup> to send an invitation letter to the Colville Confederated Tribes. A draft invite letter will be prepared for next month's OCOG meeting.

**Update: Okanogan County Report**

Chairman/Commissioner Neal reported this year has been the worst conditions for road restrictions due to warm/cold weather fluctuations and they are trying to get the restrictions figured out.

**Update: Washington State Department of Transportation**

WSDOT North Central Region Planning Manager, Shaun Darveshi, reported the following:

- He introduced himself and stated he can be a resource for any policy discussion and offer guidance.
- The City of Omak applied for a Connecting Communities Grant and if approved, there will be a pedestrian safety survey conducted.

Regarding the Oroville Railroad Crossing issue, Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson reported DOT has informed they will begin working on the 1-month project around August 7<sup>th</sup>.

**County-Wide Emergency Updates/Discussion**

Okanogan County Health Department Director, Lauri Jones, reported the following:

- Covid – Highest case rates since Christmas. There has been an outbreak at a local nursing home and there has been 2 covid related deaths in recent months.

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Okanogan County Sheriff, Paul Budrow, reported the following:

- Things are going well with good comradery and communication.
- The jail is currently running with Covid protocols, which may not change until rates come back down.

Okanogan County Emergency Management Director, Maurice Goodall, reported the following:

- They have been working on emergent management issues regarding Conconully Dam and potential failure if there is an earthquake. There will be a meeting put on by The Bureau of Reclamation, Okanogan Irrigation District, and Okanogan County Emergency Management on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Okanogan County Fairgrounds Agriplex from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- Snow levels are high in the mountains, but spring flooding is unknown. If there is rain, it could change things.
- There have been some concerns from Methow residents regarding the lack of designated roads for evacuation routes. He stated they are unable to designate a specific road, but there is more than one way in and out. Residents have requested signage for directions, which they are looking into.

**Discussion: Approval of Transportation Alternatives (TA) - WA Local Control Plan**

Treasurer/Engineer Thomson reported WSDOT Transportation Alternatives (TA) are federal funds to be used for transportation alternatives, such as trails, sidewalks, etc. He received notice from WSDOT that a Local Control Plan was needed, listing how OCOG oversees certain activities, to receive continued TA funding. A draft was compiled which is vague, but should cover the information that is required.

**Motion:**

Secretary Timm moved to accept the TA Local Control Plan as presented and for the Chairman to sign. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Turner.

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Chairman/Commissioner Neal called for the vote; the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer/Engineer Thomson also reported he received an email today from the Town of Winthrop requesting an increase in TA funds. He stated Winthrop was awarded TA funds in 2014 for the Susie Stephens Trail project but was delayed due to right of way issues. Original bid prices were from 2014 and due to an increase in construction costs, they are unable to finish the project. They are now requesting additional funding of \$45,511 to finish the project, with a total project price of \$287,726. They have not made any additions to the original scope of work but have reduced some of the scope of the project. WSDOT North Central Region Planning Manager Darveshi requested to be included in emails related to projects for small towns.

**Motion:**

Treasurer/Engineer Thomson moved to approve additional TA funding of \$45,511 for the Town of Winthrop. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Turner.

Chairman/Commissioner Neal called for the vote; the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion: Okanogan County Board of Health Open Position No. 7**

Okanogan County Health Department Director, Lauri Jones, reported they have an open position #7 on their Board of Health for any city or town elected official (mayor or council member). The current position had been represented by the City of Okanogan, but that person will be leaving. Their hybrid Zoom and in-person meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month from 1:30-2:30 p.m. and there is a \$100/meeting stipend. She requested that anyone interested provide a letter of intent to the County Commissioner, Clerk of the Board, Lalena Johns.

**Discussion: Review of 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Okanogan Region**

Secretary Timm reminded everyone that the current 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) needs to be reviewed every 2 years to make sure it's up to date or make any needed changes. It will be due to WSDOT by the end of biennium (June 30<sup>th</sup>) and will be back on the agenda in May 2023. He reported there have not been any updates to the plan since creation in 2017.

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**Discussion: RTPO Administrative Support Position MOU Draft/Update**

Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson reported he obtained an insurance quote from Cities Insurance Association of Washington (CIAW) for this proposed position, so members don't have to absorb any liability. The insurance agent searched a lot of different companies and only got one response from CIAW. The fee is \$5,649 per year plus a 10% service agent fee, has the coverage needed for this position and would cover all OCOG representatives. He did find one other policy that was cheaper, but it wouldn't cover OCOG's needs.

This position has been in discussion with county commissioners but has not yet been passed by resolution. He stated if this was agreeable with OCOG members, a motion would be needed to move forward. He could then bring back an MOU to have a county employee fill the ¼ FTE for the RTPO administrative support position to conduct OCOG work.

Secretary Timm thanked Treasurer/Engineer Thomson for his work on this position.

**Motion:**

Secretary Timm moved to approve the purchase of the proposed CIAW insurance policy for OCOG. The motion was seconded by Council Member Teagan Levine.

Chairman/Commissioner Neal called for the vote; the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion: Brewster Jail Fees**

Brewster City Clerk, Misty Ruiz, wasn't present for the meeting, therefore no updates.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment at this time.

**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.

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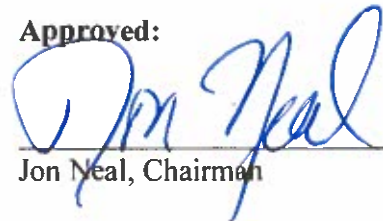
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Council Member Levine asked for an update regarding Team Okanogan and asked if anyone from the cities met with them or had an update. Chairman/Commissioner Neal stated he talked with a few of the members from Team Okanogan who are working on getting things in motion. Vice-Chair Turner also reported he had received some information from them since the last OCOG meeting and will gather the info and forward to everyone.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairman Neal adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

Approved:



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Jon Neal, Chairman

Attested:



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Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board