

**Okanogan Council of Governments/
Regional Transportation Planning Organization
April 12, 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
Deanne Konsack, OCTN, Operations Manager
Carlene Anders, City of Pateros, Mayor
Jon Neal, City of Oroville, Mayor
Chris Scott, Town of Conconully, Council Member
Sally Ranzau, Town of Winthrop, Mayor
Misty Ruiz, City of Brewster, Clerk/Treasurer
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Dept of Emergency Management Director
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
Stacy Luckensmeyer, Wenatchee Valley College North, Representative

Call to Order

Chairperson Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Welcome/Role Call

Chairperson Ing-Moody welcomed everyone to the meeting: roll call was taken.

Approval of the Agenda

Additions: Wenatchee Valley College, North Campus – Letter of Support

Deletions: None

Approval of Minutes – February 8, 2021

Motion:

Vice-Chairman Branch moved to approve the February 8, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Anders and passed unanimously.

2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

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Treasurer Thomson discussed the 2022-2023 UPWP, stating that there are not too many changes from the previous biennium. The two-year budget is slated to be \$77,310 for administrative costs and projects. Chairman Ing-Moody gave the council a brief overview of the plan.

Motion:

Council Member Ranzau moved to approve the proposed 2022-2023 UPWP as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Branch and passed unanimously.

Bylaws – Board Representatives and Alternates

The City of Brewster’s Clerk, Misty Ruiz on behalf of the city is requesting an OCOG/RTPO bylaws change to allow for two alternate members to be appointed to the Council.

Motion:

Council Member Anders moved to approve a line be inserted in the bylaws to allow a primary and secondary alternate be allowed to be appointed by member cities and towns. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Branch and passed unanimously.

Wenatchee Valley College, North Campus – Letter of Support

Wenatchee Valley College, North Campus Business representative Stacy Luckensmeyer was present to ask the Council to write a letter of support for their upcoming 2022 project proposal. The project would be for the construction of a Health/Science building to be built in Omak and for needed equipment. This project would give the north campus the ability to provide graduate level education in these fields. The project cost is approximately \$4,917,298 and Ms. Luckensmeyer stated that the local Okanogan County elected officials support is needed.

Motion:

Council Member Anders moved to approve a letter of support be written for the Wenatchee Valley College North Campus construction project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Neal; Vice-Chairman Branch abstained and the motion passed.

Update: Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Thomson reported that as of the end of February 2021 there had been \$7,793 spent on Task 1, Administration and \$28,697 spent on Task 2, the Back Roads Study.

Update: Secretary Report

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There was no report at this time.

Update: Okanogan County Report

Commissioner/Vice Chairman Branch reported on the following:

- He reported that the County auction, which also contained some City equipment for sale went well
- He discussed the impacts of Covid on local utility agencies and stated there may be some help from the County.

Chairperson Ing-Moody stated the importance of spending Covid funds efficiently and making sure there is no overlap when distributing funds.

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 14th
- Railroad crossing improvement on US 97 Eastside of Oroville Road, including a flashing warning sign; expected to begin now on July 12th

Update: Back Roads Study

Treasurer Thomson updated the Council on the Back Roads Study:

- The Survey Summary has been compiled and the survey will go out to the public on the web at the end of the week
- SCJ is developing scoring criteria and should have a draft by April 30th
- He stated that in about 6 to 8 weeks the information would be coming back to the Council for review

Updates/Discussion: Coronavirus/COVID

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

- Okanogan County is doing well on the vaccination counts. Vaccinations will be available to everyone as of April 15th; no restrictions for being vaccinated. He reported there are several locations that vaccinations are available; including the Fair Grounds each Friday
- The Methow Valley is currently performing prescribed burning

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- He urged all jurisdictions to coordinate and decide on one date to start the burn ban. He explained it becomes confusing for citizens of the county when cities, towns, and the county have different start dates
- He reported only one area effected by flooding because of last year's fires so far

Council Member Neal suggested coordinating the burn ban date with local fire departments.

Water

Chairperson Ing-Moody reported that the Department of Ecology will not be moving forward on the request by Crown Columbia for water transfers out of the Methow Valley at this time due to public comment.

The 12th Legislative District Representatives are working on a water banking pilot project and funding.

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 6:09 pm.

Approved


Soo Ing-Moody, Chairwoman

Attested:


Jackie Gleason, TranGO Clerk of the Board