

**Okanogan Council of Governments/
Regional Transportation Planning Organization
June 14, 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
Marylou Kriner, City of Tonasket, Mayor
Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member
Shawn Davisson, City of Okanogan, Public Works Director
Chris Scott, Town of Conconully, Council Member
Tim Rieb, City of Brewster, Council Member
Carlene Anders, City of Pateros, Mayor
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
Hans Shepherd, SCJ Alliance
Roni Holden-Diefenbach, Economic Alliance

Call to Order

Chairperson Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

Welcome/Role Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

Additions: None

Deletions: None

Approval of Minutes – March 8, 2021

Motion:

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

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Update: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Thomson reported that as of the end of May 2021 there had been \$8,688 spent on Task 1, Administration and \$30,633 spent on Task 2, the Back Roads Study. There is approximately \$27,000 left on the SCJ Alliance contract for the Back Roads Study that will be billed to OCOG prior to the June 30, 2021 deadline. George Mazur reminded everyone that the deadline to have invoices is within the first few days of July.

Update: Secretary Report

Secretary Scalf reported she had received a letter for WSDOT announcing the award of a \$60,000 grant to prepare a Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP). Scalf stated that an RFQ would need to go out soon to hire a consultant; outreach is a key element of the process and takes time. Secretary Scalf explained that in order for OCTA or OCTN to be eligible for the Consolidated Grant Program a current HSTP must be in place.

Chairman Ing-Moody asked Secretary Scalf for a timeline. Scalf replied that she could have a draft RFQ out to the Executive Board for review by June 18th, board approval at the July 12th meeting and a consultant chosen by September or October. Secretary Scalf stated that grant funds are available as of July 1st.

WSDOT Regional Liaison Tollefson shared with the Board that they are currently updating the HSTP guidebook which is slated to be completed in July.

Secretary Scalf provided a brief history of the program pointing out the main objective of the program is to coordinate with other agencies to avoid duplication of services.

Update: Okanogan County Report

Commissioner/Vice Chairman Branch asked Treasurer Thomson to give an update on County construction projects:

- Construction project on Old 97 near Brewster will be paved this week, and the project should be completed by early July.
- The County is completing the design and will be soliciting construction bids to replace a bridge on Park City Loop Rd this month. Construction could begin as soon as the middle of August.
- Pre-level for chip seal is complete, and county crews will be chip sealing in July

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- We are improving and chip sealing the first half mile of Rendezvous Road north of Winthrop. This road is currently unpaved.

Commissioner/Vice Chairman Branch reported on the following:

The County has a new website, they are still working out the glitches. Vice-Chairman Branch asked that if while using the website you see anything questionable to notify them

The Commissioners will be holding a hearing on June 22nd to discuss a new tax for pest control. The request for an additional \$1.61 per parcel in the County is coming from the Pest Control Board.

Update: Washington State Department of Transportation

Regional Liaison Tollefson reported that OCTN was awarded a grant through the Consolidated Grant Program for bus replacement.

Senior Planner Mazur reported that the Safe Routes to School program received additional funding and that the joint City of Omak/Colville Tribe project slated for construction in 2022 or 2023 is in a better position to be funded according to their ranking.

Senior Planner Mazur recommended to the group that each municipality have a plan in place regarding Electric Vehicle Charging Stations; there will be money available soon and everyone should have their plans updated. Ms. Holden-Diefenbach shared that there is a program through Plug-In North Central Washington to partner with the local college to develop programs for training on both maintenance of charging stations and mechanical training for electric vehicles.

Senior Planner Mazur reported on the following:

- The Highway System Plan blueprint for preserving, maintaining, improving and operating interstates, US routes, and state routes in Washington. The plan also serves as the basis for highway funding recommendations and budget requests
- He shared his personal observation that momentum appears to be building to increase federal and state funding support for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Some other existing discretionary grant programs ask for grantees to demonstrate that the requested project is included in a locally-adopted or regionally-adopted plan. No additional EV charging funding has been approved, nor have any official guidelines/criteria been established for distributing potential future funding

Planner Nelson reported on the Active Transportation Plan, a network analysis of bike and pedestrian facilities in Washington State. Part one of the plan is currently available.

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Update: Back Roads Study

Hans Shepherd, SCJ Alliance presented an update to the Council regarding his progress on the Back Roads Study using a Power Point document. The identified roads have been grouped by use and accessibility. After the stakeholders took the survey and stakeholder interviews were complete, the survey was put out to the public. Mr. Shepherd reported that 65 surveys were completed by the public. A final report will be presented to the Council at the July meeting.

Updates/Discussion: Coronavirus/COVID

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

- Vaccines are being distributed at the Okanogan County Fair Grounds, the Pateros Fire Hall and at most pharmacies
- The burn ban date is still being discussed with various communities
- Planning to develop a Fire Advisory Board
- The Emergency Management page on the new county website will be used more for notification and information
- There is an Annual Fire meeting on June 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- There has been no damage reported from the June 13th lightning storm

Ms. Holden-Diefenbach reported that some of the local businesses are providing incentives to employees that show proof of vaccination. The goal is to not have business closures due to employees testing positive for Covid.

Invitation Letter for Participation in OCOG – Colville Tribes

Chairperson Ing-Moody reported to the Board that an invitation letter to the Colville Tribes is being drafted as an RTPO requirement through WSDOT. Ing-Moody stated that although this is a requirement, the group would sincerely appreciate having representation of the Colville Tribes as a voting member.

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Interagency Data Sharing Agreement between Okanogan Council of Governments and the Office of the Washington State Auditor

Treasurer Thomson reported to the Board that OCOG had received an Interagency Data Sharing Agreement from the Washington State Auditor's Office. Secretary Scalf reported that OCTA had also received this agreement and that she was going to have Attorney Scott DeTro review it.

Motion:

Treasurer Thomson moved to approve cost sharing with OCTA for Attorney Scott DeTro's review of the Interagency Data Sharing Agreement from the Washington State Auditor's Office. The motion was seconded by Council Member Anders and passed unanimously.

Secretary Scalf will provide the agreement to Attorney DeTro for his review.

Action: Resolution #2021-01 – Bylaws

Motion:

Vice-Chairman Branch moved to approve Resolution #2021-01 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Scott; the motion failed.

The Council reviewed the draft copy of the bylaws presented to them related to the request from the City of Brewster to be allowed to appoint two designees. The Council felt that the changes in the bylaws as presented did not provide the adequate language needed. Chairperson Ing-Moody asked that Secretary Scalf prepare another draft of the bylaws to be presented at the July meeting.

Discussion: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Vice-Chairman Branch provided a document developed by Clallum County as a tool in identifying a summary of the larger plan that they believe will be helpful to individuals, businesses and local governments as a tool to use when prioritizing projects. Branch asked OCOG members to review the information provided and to go back to their municipalities to develop a list of funding priorities to share with the County Commissioners.

Ms. Holden-Diefenbach gave a brief example of a project regarding broadband service she is involved in, along with the Colville Tribes and a group in the Methow Valley. A broadband feasibility study has been done and projects identified and submitted to the state. This group's end goal is to provide broadband to every household in Okanogan County. Consultants have already been hired to aid in processing applications as funding becomes available. Ms. Holden-Diefenbach reported to the Council that the Okanogan County PUD has the largest amount of

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fiber infrastructure currently in the county and has recently become eligible for funding through ARPA.

Vice-Chairman Branch stated that there is \$8.2 million in the ARPA alone, the Commissioners would like to have participation by municipalities to identify gaps in service and to avoid duplications.

Water

Chairperson Ing-Moody invited everyone to the next Methow Watershed Council meeting on June 17th which begins at 5 pm. They will be hosting two guests who will be speaking about water banking. Paul Jewell, the Policy Director for the Washington State Association of Counties and previously served as a County Commissioner for Kittitas County where they developed a water banking system and Trevor Hutton with the Department of Ecology Central Regional Office.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairperson Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 6:37 pm.

Approved:



Soo Ing-Moody, Chairperson

Attested:



Jackie Gleason, TranGO Clerk of the Board