

DRAFT Whatcom Council of Governments
Board Minutes
October 8, 2025

In Attendance (In person or via Zoom):

Members *Voting:* **Bellingham:** Michael Lilliquist; **Blaine:** Richard May; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (Secretary/Treasurer); **Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District:** Jeff Knakal; **Lummi Nation:** Anthony Hillaire; **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis (Chair); **City of Nooksack:** Kevin Hester; **Port of Bellingham:** Bobby Briscoe; **City of Sumas:** Bruce Bosch **Whatcom County:** Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, Satpal Sidhu.

Ex-officio: **Public Utilities District No. 1:** Edy Urry.

Guests Kate Foster

Staff Lethal Coe, Hugh Conroy, Ron Cubellis, Melissa Fanucci.

A. **Call to Order**

Mr. Conroy determined that a quorum was present, and Chair Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Realizing that the microphone was muted for online attendees, Mr. Conroy unmuted the microphone and Chair Korthuis “re-called” the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

B. **Public Comment**

None

C. **Agenda Additions**

None

D. **Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda included the minutes of the meeting of January 15, 2025, and January – August expenditures. **Motion:** Mr. Sidhu moved, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve. **Motion passed** with none opposed.

E. **Approval of Proposed 2025 Meeting Calendar**

Noting the addition of an Executive Committee meeting on March 12, 2025, Mr. Korthuis asked for a motion to approve the 2025 meeting calendar as presented. **Motion:** Mr. Lilliquist moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Sidhu. **Motion passed** with none opposed.

F. **New Business**

1. **Budget Report**

Mr. Cubellis reviewed his budget report for the period January – August 2025.

2. **Draft 2026 WCOG Budget**

Mr. Cubellis introduced and reviewed the next year’s draft budget.

3. **Consideration for adoption of WSDOT’s Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Participation Plan*.**

Mr. Cubellis reviewed the DBE requirements that WCOG complies with how parts of these requirements involve formal alignment with (“adoption of”)

WSDOT's DBE Participation Plan. There was some brief discussion of how this plays out with consultant hiring. **Motion:** Mr. Sidhu, seconded by Mr. Scanlon, moved to adopt the WSDOT 2023 DBE Plan as presented. **Motion passed** with none opposed.

G. Director's report:

Mr. Conroy noted that over the next couple of months he would be working with individual members to review and update WCOG's annual legislative priority project list. Relatedly, Mr. Conroy and WCOG's lobbying team (McBride & Benge Public Affairs) started one-on-one meetings with our region's state legislators earlier this week.

In the upcoming short session, there is very little expectation for any new funding. The advice from legislators at this time is to work to protect the funded programs that we have.

A couple of programs that WCOG and WTA are concerned about are the state's Regional Mobility Grant (RMG) Program and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) grant program. RMG currently provides a large share of the funding for WCOG and WTA's Smart Trips Program. TDM funds the portion of Smart Trips' that provides regional delivery of the state's Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Program. Conference notes from the last legislative session indicate that current plans are to issue no new RMG grants for the next two biennia and to make very large cuts to the TDM program following the current biennium. WCOG and WTA will research and compile a more detailed assessment so that the WCOG Board can consider including a corresponding request in its 2026 legislative priority project list.

I. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Greg Hansen
Secretary-Treasurer

Hugh Conroy
Director

Scheduled for approval on December 10, 2025