

Whatcom Council of Governments  
**DRAFT** Board Minutes  
January 21, 2026

In Attendance (In person or via Zoom):

Members      *Voting: Bellingham:* Jace Cotton, Michael Lillquist; **Blaine:** Richard May; **Everson:** John Perry; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (Secretary/Treasurer); **Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District:** Jeff Knakal; **Nooksack:** Kevin Hester; **Sumas:** Bruce Bosch; **Whatcom County:** Jessica Rienstra, Satpal Sidhu. *Ex-officio: Public Utilities District No. 1:* Atul Deshmane; **Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA):** Les Reardanz.

Staff            Lethal Coe, Hugh Conroy, Ron Cubellis, Melissa Fanucci  
Guests          Eukia

**A. Call to Order**

Mr. Conroy determined that a quorum was present and Vice Chair Lillquist called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**B. Public Comment**

None

**C. Agenda Additions**

None

**D. Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda included the minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2025, minutes of the December 10 Executive Committee, November-December expenditures, and cancellation of the December 9, 2026 Executive Committee meeting.

**Motion:** Mr. Hester moved, seconded by Mr. Sidhu, to approve. **Motion passed** with none opposed.

**E. Budget Report**

Mr. Cubellis reviewed his budget report for the period ending December 31, 2025..

**F. Business**

**1. Appointment of three small-city representatives to the Executive Committee.**

All three current small-city representatives to the Executive Committee indicated their willingness to continue. No others indicated interest. **Motion:** Mr. Lillquist, seconded by Mr. Sidhu, moved to approve the appointments of Msrs. Hansen (Ferndale), Hester (Nooksack) and Korthuis (Lynden). Motion passed with none opposed.

**2. Election of officers**

All three current officers (Chair, Vice Chair, & Secretary/Treasurer) confirmed that they were interested in serving in those positions again. No others indicated interest. **Motion:** Mr. Lillquist, seconded by Mr. Hester, moved to appoint Mr. Korthuis as Chair, Mr. Lillquist as Vice Chair, and Mr. Hansen as Secretary/Treasurer. **Motion passed** with none opposed.

**3. Consideration of adoption of WCOG's 2026 Cost Allocation Plan.**

Mr. Cubellis reviewed the memo explaining the need for and method of developing the 2026 Cost Allocation Plan. Mr. Sidhu asked if the method has worked well. Mr. Cubellis, referring to Table 3 in the Plan which shows that of the \$446,410 of eligible costs for recovery in 2025, only \$8,008 was not recovered and is thus carried forward to 2026 as additional, eligible costs. Mr. Sidhu agreed that that was very good. **Motion:** Mr. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Sidhu, moved to approve the 2026 Cost Allocation Plan as presented. **Motion passed** with none opposed.

**G. Director's report:**

Mr. Conroy gave an update that the legislative priority list approved by the Council Board at its December meeting had been submitted. Referring specifically to the list's inclusion of a request to preserve funding for WSDOT's Regional Mobility Grant (RMG) Program, the governor's proposed transportation budget does include funding for RMG in both biennia (27-28 & 29-30) that the legislative budget report from last session planned to suspend. Mr. Conroy and WCOG's lobbyists (Mc Bride & Benge Public Affairs) are continuing to work with our state delegation to advocate that the legislature leave the governor's proposal intact.

**I. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Mr. Lillquist adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

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Greg Hansen  
Secretary-Treasurer

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Hugh Conroy  
Director

Approved May 13, 2026