

Whatcom Council of Governments
Executive Committee Minutes
March 12, 2025

In Attendance (In person or via Zoom)

Members Voting: **Bellingham:** Michael Lillquist (Vice Chair), Skip Williams; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (Secretary-Treasurer); **Nooksack:** Kevin Hester; **Port of Bellingham:** Bobby Briscoe; **Whatcom County:** Jon Scanlon

Staff Hugh Conroy, Ron Cubellis, Melissa Fanucci.

A. Call to order

Mr. Conroy determined that a quorum was present, and Vice Chair Lillquist called the meeting to order at 3:17 PM.

B. Consent Agenda: Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2024, and January 2025 claims.

Motion: Mr. Hansen moved, seconded by Mr. Scanlon, to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

Motion Passed

E. Budget Report

Mr. Cubellis reviewed the 2025 budget to date. There were no questions.

F. New Business

1. Considering approval of a professional services agreement with RSG for conducting a regional, household travel survey (HST).

Mr. Cubellis referred the committee to the subject memo and gave a brief description of the HST project (which the Policy Board voted to fund last year) and asked the committee to approve the director to enter into the services agreement to hire the consultant, RSG (required by WCOG's procurement policy for expenditures over \$100,000)

Motion: Mr. Briscoe moved, seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve the director to enter into the services agreement with RSG.

Motion Passed

G. Other Business: Mr. Conroy informed the committee that The Opportunity Council has decided to not renew its membership on the Council Board.

Mr. Conroy recapped a discussion with Tom McBride (WCOG's lobbyist – McBride & Benge Public Affairs). Mr. McBride recommended that Mr. Conroy send a letter to follow up on WCOG's legislative priority project list sent to our delegation in January. Because the state financial picture is particularly bad, Mr. McBride's advice was to use the letter to focus only on the five priority projects. Mr. McBride also agreed that it would be good for the letter to also highlight the deeper impact of proposed budget cuts on existing programs. While advocating for new projects is still a good long-term approach, in this session it seems the challenge is going to be more about keeping what we have.

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H. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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Greg Hansen
Secretary-Treasurer

Signed by:



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Hugh Conroy
Director

Approved December 10, 2025