

WHATCOM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD MINUTES
DECEMBER 14, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE (IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM):

MEMBERS VOTING: **Bellingham:** Seth Fleetwood, Michael Lilliquist (Vice Chairman), Kristina Martens; **Blaine:** Richard May; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (Secretary-Treasurer); **Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District:** Todd Citron; **Lummi Nation:** Anthony Hillaire; **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis (Chairman); **Nooksack:** Kevin Hester; **Sumas:** Bruce Bosch; **Whatcom County:** Satpal Sidhu, Kaylee Galloway

GUESTS Tom McBride and Intisar Surur, McBride Public Affairs

STAFF Bob Wilson, Ron Cubellis, Hugh Conroy, Melissa Fanucci

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Wilson determined that a quorum was present, and Chairman Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present, either in the conference room or online.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the minutes of the meeting of October 12, 2022; the proposed 2022 WCOG meeting schedule, and; the list of claims from October 1 through November 30, 2022, in the amount of \$292,680.98, which was emailed to the representatives on December 8, 2022, and which was audited and certified by the Executive Director, acting as the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.090.

MOTION: Mr. Sidhu moved, seconded by Mr. Bosch, to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

E. BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Cubellis presented the budget report for the period ending October 31, 2022.

F. OLD BUSINESS

Draft 2023 Legislative Transportation Priorities

Council Board Meeting

December 14, 2022

Page 2

The Board discussed the list of project funding requests submitted by the various members.

MOTION: Mr. Sidhu moved, seconded by Mr. Hillaire, to adopt *Transportation Priorities of Whatcom County, 2023*, as presented, with additional information to be sent to Mr. Wilson from Whatcom County and the Small Cities Partnership clarifying each of those entities' priority projects.

MOTION PASSED

G. NEW BUSINESS

Final Draft 2023 WCOG Budget

Messrs. Wilson and Cubellis presented the final draft budget to the Board and answered questions posed by the representatives. Chairman Korthuis informed the Board that the Executive Committee had met and passed a motion recommending that the Council Board adopt the final draft, as presented.

MOTION: Mr. Hester moved, seconded by Mr. Sidhu, to approve the 2023 WCOG Budget, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

H. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wilson informed the Board that he had recently submitted to WSDOT WCOG's required Title VI annual report. Unlike previous years, this year he was asked to provide information on the "race, color and national origins" of the staff and the Council Board members. He expressed his extreme discomfort in having to make assumptions about those specific characteristics of other people, but because he was concerned WCOG could be punished for not providing that information (by having federal and state funding withheld), he did, in fact, guess the race, color and national origin of each Board member and provided that information in the report. He then shared his guesses for each board member.

As a means to address this in the future, he suggested that the WCOG New Member Questionnaire could be modified to add an optional question asking for the member's race, color and national origin, but that he would like the Board to formally adopt the modified form at its upcoming meeting. There was consensus to pursue that course of action.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Wilson directed the representatives to a letter included in the meeting packet that he had written recently.

Council Board Meeting

December 14, 2022

Page 3

J. BOARD OPEN FORUM

Mr. Hillaire informed the Board that the Lummi Nation would be hosting a “meet and greet” in February, and that the Board members would be receiving invitations.

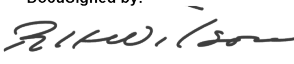
K. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

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Greg Hansen
Secretary-Treasurer

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Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Executive Director

Approved January 18, 2023