

WHATCOM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD MINUTES – DRAFT
OCTOBER 9, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS **VOTING:** Scott Korthuis (Vice Chairman), Lynden; Jack Louws (Secretary-Treasurer) and Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County; Kelli Linville, April Barker and Terry Bornemann, Bellingham; Bonnie Onyon, Blaine; Victor Johnson (for Jay Julius), Lummi Nation; Tom Jones, Nooksack; Bobby Briscoe, Port of Bellingham; **EX-OFFICIO:** Pat Alesse, Birch Bay W&SD; Larry Brown, Sudden Valley Association; Pete Stark, WTA

GUESTS Chris Comeau, TTAG; Peter Frye, Lummi Nation Planning Department; Michael Jones, City of Blaine; Michael Lilliquist, WTA Board; Guy Occhiogrosso, Bellingham Regional Chamber; Mary Sewright, Mt. Baker School District; Terry Terry, CTAG

STAFF Bob Wilson, Ron Cubellis, Hugh Conroy, Lethal Coe

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Korthuis, acting as chairman, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Sewright, who serves as superintendent of the Mt. Baker School District, informed the Board that the School Board passed a resolution at its meeting of September 26, 2019, requesting the “formal attention” of the Washington State Department of Transportation in addressing the District’s concerns regarding safety along the State Route 542 corridor in the vicinity of the school campus. She then asked the Council Board to pass a motion in support of the District’s concerns. Chairman Korthuis – who had been informed by Mr. Wilson that the District had not yet reached out directly to WSDOT – expressed his belief that such an action by the Board would be premature in the absence of a formal request to WSDOT for assistance. Mr. Wilson added that he had spoken to Jay Drye of WSDOT’s Mt. Baker Area Office about this situation, and that Mr. Drye had expressed to him his enthusiasm for working on this matter with the District. There was a strong consensus from the Board to encourage the Mt. Baker School District to reach out directly to Mr. Drye, and Mr. Wilson indicated that he would provide Ms. Sewright with Mr. Drye’s contact information.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: Mr. Bornemann moved, Mr. Briscoe seconded, to approve the agenda.

MOTION PASSED

D. MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAY 8, 2019

MOTION: Mr. Sidhu moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2019.

MOTION PASSED

E. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Briscoe seconded, to approve the list of claims from May 1 through September 30, 2019, inclusive, in the amount of \$694,732.81, which was contained in the revised meeting packet sent to the representatives on October 4, 2019, and which was audited and certified by the Executive Director, acting as the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.090.

MOTION PASSED

F. BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Cubellis presented the budget report as of September 30, 2019.

G. OLD BUSINESS

None

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed 2020 WCOG Budget

Messrs. Cubellis and Wilson presented the first draft of the proposed 2020 budget and answered questions posed by several Board members. Mr. Wilson reminded the members that the final draft will be brought before the Executive Committee for its review, and then the Board for adoption, at their upcoming meetings on December Eleventh.

2. Unfunded Transportation Needs of Whatcom County, 2020

Mr. Wilson explained the process he used to compile the list of proposed funding requests for the annual transportation legislative agenda. Mr. Johnson requested that the "Slater Road and Bridge" project be added to the list, which was followed by discussion. Several members expressed their support for including this project, and Mr. Wilson stated that he been asked by Mayor Jon Mutchler of Ferndale to express his support, since he was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Louws expressed his opinion that, if added to the list, the sole project sponsor should be the Lummi Nation.

There was further discussion concerning ranking the nine road projects (including the previously-discussed Slater Road project). It was suggested that the Transportation

Technical Advisory Group review the projects and make a recommendation to the Council Board. Mr. Wilson expressed his concern with TTAG making recommendations on prioritization, since that was the province of the Board itself. Another member then suggested that TTAG simply review the projects to ascertain their “readiness,” and Mr. Wilson responded that he would present that idea to TTAG. The Board agreed to rank the road projects at its December meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Barker moved, Mr. Briscoe seconded, to adopt the list of *Unfunded Transportation Needs of Whatcom County, 2020*, including the Slater Road and Bridge project requested by the Lummi Nation.

MOTION PASSED

I. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Wilson stated that he had nothing of urgency to report.

J. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

K. BOARD OPEN FORUM

No comments were offered.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Jack Louws
Secretary-Treasurer

Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Executive Director