

Whatcom Council of Governments Board
Minutes
October 11, 2023

In Attendance (In person or via Zoom):

Members *Voting:* **Bellingham:** Michael Lilliquist (Vice-Chair), Edwin “Skip” Williams;
Blaine: Richard May; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (Secretary/Treasurer); **Lake
Whatcom Water & Sewer District:** Jeff Knakal; **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis
(Chair); **Nooksack:** Kevin Hester; **Port of Bellingham:** Bobby Briscoe; **Sumas:**
Bruce Bosch.
Ex Officio: None

Guests Tom McBride

Staff Ron Cubellis, Hugh Conroy, Melissa Fanucci

A. **Call to Order**

Mr. Conroy determined that a quorum was present, and Chairman Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

B. **Public Comment**

None

C. **Agenda Additions**

None

D. **Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda included the minutes of the meeting of May 31, 2023 and May-September 2023 claims.

Mr. May moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Lilliquist - **Approved as presented by unanimous consent.**

E. **Old Business**

None

F. **New Business**

1. Draft 2024 Budget

Mr. Conroy and Mr. Cubellis presented the draft 2024 budget. Mr. Cubellis answered a question about the formula for dues increases.

2. Approval to enter a contract with Transpo Group

Mr. Conroy presented the project background, the RFP process, and selection of Transpo Group to complete the Advanced Border Information System (ABIS) project. Mr. Williams moved to approve entering into the contract with Transpo, seconded by Mr. May. **Motion passed.**

3. Draft 2024 legislative transportation priorities

Mr. Conroy introduced a first draft of the list of projects and project-descriptions that the Council Board could consider for submission to our state legislative delegation for funding requests during the 2024 legislative session.

Council Board Meeting

October 11, 2022

Page 2

Mr. Korthuis reminded the board of the current organization of the list which identifies a top priority for the City of Bellingham, for Whatcom County, and the small cities collectively. Other projects are listed after these top-three priorities.

Mr. McBride discussed how there is a lower potential for new project funding to be identified in a short-session / supplemental budget year but still important to keep our priorities in front of the delegation.

Mr. Conroy asked if funding allocation changes could be more feasible in the short session, e.g., shifting funds towards preservation or changing the funding year of programmed projects. Mr. McBride noted that these types of issues have been coming up – especially as individual project costs have increased due to inflation or supply-chain delays.

I. **Director's Report**

No items to report

J. **Correspondence**

None

K. **Board Open Forum**

No discussion or announcements


L. **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

9AEEC6A6D7C441F...

Greg Hansen
Secretary-Treasurer

DocuSigned by:

C0BEC771DAE745D...

Hugh Conroy
Director

Approved December 13, 2023