

Whatcom Council of Governments Board
Minutes
December 13, 2023

In Attendance (In person or via Zoom):

Members *Voting:* **Bellingham:** Seth Fleetwood; **Blaine:** Richard May; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (Secretary/Treasurer); **Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District:** Jeff Knakal; **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis (Chair); **Lummi Nation:** Jim Washington; **Whatcom County:** Satpal Sidhu, Kaylee Galoway; **Sumas:** Bruce Bosch.
Ex Officio: None

Guests Kirk Vinish

Staff Ron Cubellis, Hugh Conroy, Jaymes McClain

A. **Call to Order**

Mr. Conroy determined that a quorum was present, and Chairman Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

B. **Public Comment**

None

C. **Agenda Additions**

None

D. **Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda included the minutes of the meeting of October 11, 2023, October and November 2023 claims, and the proposed 2024 meeting calendar.

Mr. Hansen moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Bosch - **Approved as presented by unanimous consent.**

E. **Budget Report**

Mr Cubellis reported on the WCOG budget period ending October 31, 2023.

F. **Old Business**

1. Draft Legislative Priorities.

Mr. Conroy reviewed a recently updated list of priority projects being prepared for circulation to our region's state legislators. Some modifications had been made to remaining project costs. Discussion included consensus on retaining the Sumas project as the small-cities' top priority.

Motion: Mr. Fleetwood moved, seconded by Mr. May, to approve the legislative priority project list as presented. **Motion passed.**

F. **New Business**

1. Draft 2024 Budget

Mr. Cubellis presented the draft 2024 budget.

Motion: Mr. Fleetwood moved, seconded by Mr. Bosch, to approve the WCOG 2024 budget as presented. **Motion passed.**

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2. WCOG support for WA RTPO's legislative request for increased state-wide funding.

Mr. Conroy introduced (from the packet) a one-page summary prepared by several RTPO directors (including Mr. Conroy) stating the reasons RTPO funding is critically low and needs to be increased to the suggested amount of \$12 million per biennium.

Mr. Conroy added that there is also a sense that RTPO Policy Board Chairs might be asked to collectively sign a letter corresponding to the request in the one-page summary in the packet.

Mr. Korthuis appreciated that the issue was brought to the board's attention and expressed his sense that it was important for the board to support this position, not only for the WCOG RTPO but the state-wide RTPO program. Various board members also indicated agreement with this position.

Mr. May moved, seconded by Mr. Bosch, to indicate WCOG support for the legislative request for increased RTPO funding as presented.

Motion passed

I. **Director's Report**

Mr. Conroy reminded the board that WCOG's option to extend its lease comes up next June (2024) and he and Mr. Cubellis will be looking at options (not that there is an expectation of moving at this time).

As part of previous lease renewal terms, the parking lot is being resurfaced.

Apropos of details in today's budget memo:

- The kick-off meeting with the Transpo Consulting for the Advanced Border Information System project was held yesterday with U.S. and Canadian border inspection agencies, and went very well.
- The first meeting of the Safety Action Plan Committee (working on WCOG's SS4A project) was held last month and also went very well

J. **Correspondence**

None

K. **Board Open Forum**

Kaylee Galloway noted that the Governor's budget came out today. Ms. Galloway suggested that if others were planning trips to Olympia during the session some coordination could be good.

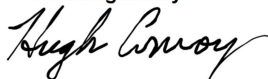
L. **Adjourn**

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

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Greg Hansen
Secretary-Treasurer

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Hugh Conroy
Director

Approved January 17, 2024