

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEETING MINUTES
August 27, 2009

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Thomas at 7:00 p.m. Chair Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members in Attendance:

Councilmember Tim Alstrom (City of Aberdeen)
Councilmember Nick Johnson (City of Ocean Shores)
Mayor Michael Bruce (City of Westport, via email)
Manager Mark Carlin (Grays Harbor Transit)
Commissioner Mike Wilson (Grays Harbor County)
Commissioner Russ Skolrood (Grays Harbor PUD)

Administrative Sub-Council:

Chair – Chris Thomas (City of Montesano)
2nd Vice Chair – Vickie Raines (Cosmopolis)
Representative at Large – Art Tanner (GHPDA)

Guests:

Buck Meile (Oakville)

Council Staff:

Vicki Cummings, Theresa Julius, Julia Gibb and Nancy Trask

A quorum was established.

3. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

➤ Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Mayor Bruce made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; second Art Tanner. Motion passed.

➤ Approval of the July 23, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Skolrood made a motion to approve the GHCOG July 23, 2009 meeting minutes; second by Art Tanner. Motion passed.

➤ Administrative Sub-Council Report: Chair Chris Thomas

Chair Thomas reported the Administrative Sub-Council met before this meeting to approve the August bills and the September payroll. No action was taken.

➤ New Business

- ACTION: Resolution No. 507, Approval of the Regional Transportation Improvement Plan
Art Tanner made a motion to approve Resolution No.507; second, Mark Carlin. Motion passed.
- ACTION: Resolution No. 508, Commendation for Michael Wessells
Vicki stated that Mike Wessells is now the director of the Yelm library effective August 1. Mike was the Timberland Regional Library representative to the GHCOG for the past 10 years and through this resolution the COG would like to acknowledge him for his exceptional support of the Library, the COG and the region. **Mayor Raines made a motion to approve Resolution No. 508; second, Art Tanner. Motion passed.**
- Discussion: New work Item Request
Vicki stated Commissioner Carter had asked the COG to discuss taking on a new project, a plan for the county to create a new ocean renewable energy source and green jobs for the towns of Ocean Shores and Westport. The town would partner with Burt Hamner's company, Grays Harbor Ocean Energy Company, LLC, to demonstrate the technical feasibility of community scale renewable energy from ocean wind and waves with the goals of obtaining at least half of the electricity needed annually for their towns from ocean renewable energy and of employing community residents for construction, operations and management of the energy facilities and related infrastructure.

Commissioner Carter has asked is it at least worth exploring. The Commissioner is willing to help pursue it, if there are funds available and if it helps to create jobs. Vicki had told Commissioner Carter that the Council would discuss the issue and she would respond to him regarding our discussion.

Nick Johnson stated he had recently talked with the Ocean Shores City Council and they are not interested in pursuing the energy proposal; they operate no utilities and are not in a position to institute something of this magnitude during this economic climate. The City Council also agreed that COG is not in the private sector business and therefore they do not advise COG to pursue this plan.

Mayor Bruce of Westport stated Mr. Hamner had given two presentations to the City, but Westport City Council has chosen to taken no action. They do not adives the COG to take up this project on their behalf.

Vicki asked PUD Commissioner Skolrood for PUDs standing on the project and how they were involved. Commissioner Skolrood said he has heard nothing on this subject.

Mayor Raines made a motion to decline Commissioner Carter's proposition at this time as not enough homework has been done on this subject; second Mayor Bruce. Motion passed.

4. STAFF REPORTS

➤ *Vicki Cummings, Executive Director*

REGIONAL

- Working with the GHPUD and GHPDA on submitting a grant for \$3.1 million to supply all of the infrastructure to complete a fiber network to bring broadband to rural areas lacking access, improve access in underserved areas and support essential community services and economic development.
- Working with the Jobs Team on forming a tour in October.
- Spoke at the Rotary Club in August
- Shared booth at the Grays Harbor County Fair with the GH Chamber of Commerce and other agencies.
- Beginning work on the COG's 2010 budget and work program.

DIRECT

- **Oakville** – Working with the City on ways to fund a new joint city hall and library.
- **Cosmopolis** – Public Works Board Small Cities grant program.
- **Port of Grays Harbor** – Public Works Board Small Cities grant program.
- **Grays Harbor PDA** – Public Works Board Small Cities grant program.

➤ *Julia Gibb, Planner/Community Development Coordinator*

REGIONAL

- **Grant application projects:** Federal Stimulus Energy Grant Application Opportunity; worked with PUD staff Kevin Howerton and Theresa Julius to develop grant application outline for energy efficiency block grants for interested cities and county (if agencies have not already decided to apply themselves). Maximum grant per agency is \$135,000. We are offering to help write grants for the following projects: 1] lighting upgrades/retrofit of existing public buildings; 2] weatherization of small public buildings [or small areas within larger buildings, not windows; and 3] energy efficient commercial equipment/appliances; we will be sending out notices to city and county officials within a week or so.
- **Capital Facilities Plans status:** [offered to all members upon receipt of member authorizing resolution]; ongoing throughout this year and next: Ocean Shores [resolution received, staff not yet ready to proceed]; Westport [resolution received this month; COG staff has requested first meeting with designated staff; Montesano [resolution received; research for first section of plan underway: capital facilities inventory].
- **Utility Coordinator FTE:** continue review/revision of position description; salary and overhead costs review continues; meeting August 28 with COG and PUD staff.
- **SR109 Scenic Byways Study:** research history along route; draft historic and cultural highlights background for study consultant; met with key staff at Polson Museum, Ocean Shores Interpretative Center; Museum of the North Beach and Quinault Indian Nation.

➤ *Theresa Julius, Planner/GIS Coordinator*

REGIONAL

- Created the 2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), includes all transportation projects in the County. It then goes to Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO) and WSDOT Highways and Local Programs for inclusion into the Five-County RTPO TIP and the State TIP.
- Continue to identify and share American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) updates and grant opportunities.
- Provided GIS data layers to SWRTPO for projects from the US 101 Regional Circulation project.

DIRECT

- **Aberdeen** – Creating a zoning GIS shape file for the city.
- **Cosmopolis** – Created maps for hazard mitigation plan: critical facilities, contours, FIRM, Tsunami hazard, slope, and flood zone.
- **Hoquiam** – Continue to work on the fire department hydrant GPS project; fire department added PIV and sprinklers to the hydrant GPS project; ongoing work on water system mapping: Sumner Ave and 31st and Airport Way.
- **Montesano** – Provided city street map
- **Westport** – Created draft maps for water system plan update: hydraulic schematic, service area, wellhead buffer zone, existing facilities (pipes system wide). Received a capital facilities plan request from the city, putting together notebooks and spreadsheets for the city. Working to schedule the kick off meeting with city staff.
- **Port of Grays Harbor** – 28th Street Landing Recreation Lands and Facilities plan is ready for adoption at the Port’s September commission meeting.
- **Grays Harbor PDA** – Provided census block data analysis and mapping for the Middle Mile project grant application including population and housing units along route and within one mile radius of nodes.
- **Grays Harbor PUD** –Kevin Howerton requested GHCOG assistance in recruiting cities and the county to seek funding for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program Formula funding. He asked if we could: contact the cities and complete grant applications. To streamline the process, we will suggest specific Energy Efficiency Retrofit projects that can be cost estimated by Kevin.
- **Grays Harbor Chamber** – Created Grays Harbor (harbor area) air photo print for board room display.
- **GHCOG** – Created posters and printed display items for GH County Fair booth.
- **Grays Harbor EDC** – Created 2009 Showcase route map for September 18th showcase.

5. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS** – Vicki reminded the members to please report the business and activities conducted at the COG meetings to their entities. Two-way communication is critical to the mission of the Organization.

6. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Buck Meile from Oakville expressed his political views regarding Governor Gregoire and President Obama.
- City of Westport, Mayor Michael Bruce – Mayor Bruce reported their 2010 budget did not lay off one employee, but the year will call for belt tightening.
- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Mike Wilson – Commissioner Wilson reported the county is making more budget cuts, more furlough days will be needed. He also reported on the following: 1] GH County Health Department is gearing up for swine flu shots; 2] Mary’s River project moving to the East County Industrial Park; 3] critical areas ordinance; 4] Straddle Line ORV Park is having another successful year; and 5] the County hired a new Emergency Management Director.
- Grays Harbor Transit Authority, Mark Carlin – Mark reported GH Transit cannot take furlough days as they need to run the buses at all times; however, he said he always has 10 to 12 extra people for bus services and now he has just five. To help cut costs, they plan to limit some services.

