

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Russ Skolrood (Grays Harbor PUD)

Bob Crumpacker (City of Ocean Shores)

Mayor Brandon Atoch (City of Oakville)

Tim Alstrom (City of Aberdeen)

Lyle Powell (City of Montesano)

Commissioner Mike Wilson (Grays Harbor County)

Mark Carlin (Grays Harbor Transit)

Christine Peck (Timberland Regional Library)

Mayor Michael Bruce (City of Westport)

Administrative Sub-Council:

Chair – John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)

1st Vice Chair – Mayor Vickie Raines (City of Cosmopolis)

2nd Vice Chair – Commissioner Russ Skolrood (Grays Harbor PUD)

Secretary – Lyle Powell (City of Montesano)

Representative at Large – Art Tanner (GHPDA)

Guests:

Bill Dillion (Corporation for National and Community Service), Mary E. Van Verst (Washington Commission for National and Community Service)

Council Staff:

Vicki Cummings, Theresa Julius, Julia Gibb and Nancy Trask

A quorum was established.

3. **PRESENTATION: Bill Dillon, Corporation for National and Community Service (Vista and Americorps Programs)**

Bill Dillon and Mary E. Van Verst from the Washington Commission for National and Community Service spoke on the many programs that Americorps Washington has to offer. More than 33,000 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities and increase civic engagement through 136 national service projects across Washington. Serving with national and local nonprofits, schools, faith-based organizations and other groups, these citizens tutor and mentor children, coordinate after-school programs, build homes, conduct neighborhood patrols, restore the environment, respond to disasters, build nonprofit capacity and recruit and manage volunteers. This year, the Corporation for National and Community service will commit more than \$35,500,000 to support Washington communities through three national service initiatives; 1] Senior Corps, 2] AmeriCorps, and 3] Learn and Serve America.

4. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

➤ Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Vicki stated her change to the agenda, which was removing Resolution No. 516 (Approval for Transportation Stimulus Funding) for action. The Jobs Bill channels funds for transportation through the Surface Transportation Program which the GHCOG administers. In order to use the funding within the restrictive federal guidelines a county-wide paving project has been proposed. The project is equitably based on road miles and population.

Vicki said she met recently with the full Technical Advisory Committee and also held a sub committee meeting regarding how the approximate \$1.7 million will be divided between the jurisdictions in the county. The TAC is still working out the process, so therefore, the resolution is not ready for action. **Art Tanner made a motion to approve the meeting agenda without Resolution No. 516 action item; second, Tim Alstrom. Motion passed.**

➤ Approval of the January 28, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Art Tanner made a motion to approve the GHCOG January 28, 2010 meeting minutes; second Tim Alstrom. Motion passed.

➤ Administrative Sub-Council Report

John Pellegrini, Chair, reported the Administrative Sub-Council approved the February bills and the March payroll. An office Visa card was discussed, no further action was taken.

➤ Old Business

▪ Washington State National Maritime Heritage Area, Letter of Support

Vicki stated that this subject had been tabled until this meeting as more research was needed before a letter of support could be addressed. In summary Vicki found the following:

- No systematic process exists for identifying qualified candidate sites and designating them as national heritage areas.

- While the Congress generally has made designation decisions with the advice of the park Service, it has, in some instances, designated heritage areas before the agency has fully evaluated them.
- The Park Service's criteria are not specific.
- The Park Service has not yet developed clear and consistent standards and processes for reviewing areas management plans, even though this is one of the agency's primary responsibilities.
- National heritage areas do not appear to have directly affected the rights of property owners. To address property concerns, the designating legislation of 13 of the 24 heritage areas and management plans of at least 6 provide explicit assurances that the areas will not affect property owners' rights.

Vicki suggested that the GHCOG not take a stand, she said a letter of support should be done jurisdiction by jurisdiction. Communities within the county have and have not supported this issue. She felt it would be inappropriate for the GHCOG to override the decision of the individual jurisdictions. She asked for permission to reply to the Aberdeen Revitalization Committee that the Council recommends any official business related to the Heritage Area done on a jurisdiction by jurisdiction basis. Chairman Pellegrini said he would entertain a motion that the Council give Vicki that authority to draft that letter and state the Council's position. ***Mayor Bruce made a motion that the GHCOG give Vicki the authority to send a letter to the Aberdeen Revitalization Committee stating the Council's position regarding the Letter of Support be done jurisdiction by jurisdiction; second Bob Crumpacker. Motion passed.***

➤ **New Business**

▪ **GHCOG 50th Anniversary**

Staff is planning to celebrate the COG's 50th anniversary all year long, such as articles regarding the anniversary will appear in the local newspapers along with other acknowledgements. Vicki suggested that the members share their comments or suggestions with her and staff. Highway 12, Wynooche Dam and the Westport boat basin are just a few of the projects that started at the GHCOG. The GHCOG was very instrumental in the development of the Grays Harbor PDA and the Satsop Development Park.

The COG's history from 1960 to 2000 is on the COG's web page; staff will be adding the years 2001 to date.

5. STAFF REPORTS

➤ Vicki Cummings, Executive Director

Direct

- Working with Oakville to fund the design and construction of a community building housing the library, city hall and police department..

Regional

- Working on 2010 transportation appropriations.

- Held an information meeting sponsored by the Lewis County PUD regarding flood control options within the Chehalis River Basin.
- Assisting Columbia Pacific RC&EDD on a grant as follow up to their economic recovery grant. This grant will focus on Businesses through the EDCs and provide technical advice and tools to retain their work force; grant amount is \$225,000.
- Vicki is requesting a \$250,000-\$300,000 appropriation to do a siting study on the US 101 Circulation Project for 1] Intelligent Transportation Systems 2] Gateway Mall access points, and 3] a rail car storage yard outside of the city of Aberdeen.
- Attended a recent Mayors meeting; they are discussing the possibility of a regional jail facility; how has that been done in other places.
- Attended an update meeting on Vision 2020.
- Working with the Grays Harbor PDA and the PUD on Round 2 of a broadband grant.

➤ Julia Gibb, Planner/Community Development Coordinator

Direct

- Capital Facilities Plans: No further progress from Montesano, Westport or Ocean Shores on their individual CFP projects. Almost ready for Step 2 with Westport; awaiting Step 1 inventory from Montesano; awaiting go ahead for first meeting with Ocean Shores, Ken Lanfear. Interest in help from COG doing a CFP shown by Elma and the County fairgrounds staff.
- Cosmopolis Hazard Management Plan: Asked to sit on review team. Review and comments sent in on current draft; attended team meeting on February 17 with consultant reviewing the latest comments and changes.
- Ocean Shores Comprehensive Plan: Was asked to review and reformat original 1998 Comprehensive Plan to incorporate recent major amendment package in 2007; note any inconsistencies or needs for further amendments because of reformatting.
- Grays Harbor Planners Forum: Develop and host first planners forum for Grays Harbor public planners to be held March 4 from 2:00-3:30pm at the Port Commission Chamber. The agenda will include the latest news from the Department of Commerce; individual county/city/agency news; discussion of issues of interest for future meetings/presentations.

Regional

- On February 5, 2010, gave speech on rural area CFPs to the Smart Growth National Conference in Seattle.

➤ Theresa Julius, Planner/GIS Coordinator

Direct

Cosmopolis – Provided map updates for the city’s hazard mitigation planning project.

Grays Harbor County – Provided population estimates for the Pacific Beach area to county planning staff.

Hoquiam – Water system mapping, continued work. 7th Street updates.

McCleary – Created instructions for set up and use of a free GIS viewer for the electric utility. The crew can view the GPS data they collected last fall for poles, transformers, cabinets, and switch valves. They will be able to view the locations and underlying data in

office.

Montesano – Provided Mike with their parking map.

Port of Grays Harbor – Produced Westport Marina area map.

Columbia Pacific RC&EDD – Created a four county service area map.

Grays Harbor COG – Created 50th anniversary logo to be used on GHCOG stationary. Updating the GHCOG brochure, it's tired and needs to be freshened up.

Regional

- Collected road and population data for surface transportation program committee work.
- Coordinating the regional planner's forum. Email invites have gone out to area planning staff. First meeting will be March 4th.
- Went to the coastal study scoping meeting, by FEMA and Dept. of Ecology. The study is to collect more current coastal flooding issues. The study could lead to adjustments in local FIRM maps. With the final product FIRM data will be available in a GIS format and we will have the ability to map the data with other data sets. This will be extremely useful to local planning staff.
- Went to the Hoquiam Business Association meeting this week. They had presentations on the new market tax credit program, which promotes commercial business projects and job creation, and Hoquiam's historic register program. I understand Alissa Thurman will be giving her presentation at an upcoming GHCOG meeting. Alissa will be brining left over materials on the new market tax credit program to the planner's forum next week. I believe some local planners will find the information useful when assisting clients.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - None

7. MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Osgood extended his thanks to Julia for her community development work for the City of Elma, as they now have an architect on board to help the city plan for construction work on city hall and the police and fire departments.

Mark Carlin announced Grays Harbor Transit's grand opening of the Aberdeen Station will be held March 9 at 3pm; everyone is invited. He also extended his thanks to Vicki and staff for reviewing his appropriations applications; Senator Murray's office will be meeting with Mark on this subject.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

115 South Wooding Street
Aberdeen, Washington 98520

John Pellegrini
Chair

Date

Nancy Trask
Office Coordinator

Date