

GRAYS HARBOR  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 28, 2010

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by First-Vice 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)  
Commissioner Chuck Caldwell (Port of Grays Harbor)  
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)  
Diane Lutts (Grays Harbor Transit)  
Christine Peck (Timberland Regional Library)

Administrative Sub-Council:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – Mayor Vickie Raines (City of Cosmopolis)  
Representative at Large – Art Tanner (GHPDA)

Guests:

Debbie Clemen (WSDOT)

Council Staff:

Vicki Cummings, Theresa Julius, Julia Gibb and Nancy Trask

A quorum was established.

**3. GHCOG BUSINESS**

➤ Approval of the Meeting Agenda

*Tim Alstrom made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; second Mayor Raines.  
Motion passed.*

- Approval of the December 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes  
*Mayor Raines made a motion to approve the GPCOG December 10, 2009 meeting minutes; second Tim Alstrom. Motion passed.*
- Administrative Sub-Council Report  
John Pellegrini, Chair, reported the Administrative Sub-Council approved the January bills and the February payroll. No further action was taken.
- New Business
  - Election of 2010 Administrative Sub-Council  
First Vice Chair Pellegrini accepted nominations one at a time for the 2010 Administrative Sub-Council Officers.

The nominations were as follows:

Mayor Vickie Raines nominated John Pellegrini for the position of Chairman; second Commissioner Skolrood. Motion carried.

Art Tanner nominated Mayor Raines for the position of First Vice-Chair; second, Tim Alstrom. Motion carried.

Mayor Raines nominated Commissioner Skolrood for the position of Second Vice-Chair; second Commissioner Caldwell. Motion carried.

Mayor Raines nominated Lyle Powell for the position of Secretary; second, Commissioner Caldwell. Motion carried.

Commissioner Caldwell nominated Art Tanner for the position of Representative at Large; second, Mayor Raines. Motion carried.

Welcome new 2010 officials!

- Resolution No. 515, 2010 Budget Amendment No. 1  
Vicki presented the 2010 budget amendment. She stated that the main reason for the amendment is that she ran into some issues with the consultant for the SR109 Corridor Management Plan in that the consultant did not finish the scope of work by the end of 2009. The SR109 CMP grant revenue line was added to include the 2009 unspent funds of \$49,192.00.

She also announced the City of Oakville will be paying full dues in 2010 which is an increase of \$2,207.00. With these two changes, the 2010 ending fund balance is increased by \$31,643.00.

*Art Tanner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 505, Budget Amendment No. 1; second Commissioner Caldwell. Motion passed.*

- Washington State National Maritime Heritage Area, Letter of Support  
Vicki stated that the GHCOG has been asked by Jeff Cook, representing members of the Aberdeen Revitalization Committee, to draft a formal letter of support for the Maritime Heritage Area. She said they are strongly in support of this project along with the Historical Seaport and several of our communities. Maritime Heritage areas are places recognized by Congress as having nationally significant heritage resources, a designation that allows funding to pass through.

*After discussion Tim Alstrom made a motion to table this issue until the February 25<sup>th</sup> COG meeting so more research could be done; second, Commissioner Caldwell. Motion passed.* Vicki said she will research this subject and bring more information back to the Council.

- 2010 Census Update  
Theresa presented a 2010 Census update fact sheet and explained that this year's census form will be one of the shortest and easiest ever. It has only 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Just one person not counted means less funding for programs such as Head Start, transit grants, community development block grants, Americorps, Medicaid, state children's insurance program and unemployment insurance, just to name a few.

Theresa stated the estimated community funding losses for the 2000 Census was about \$2,900 per uncounted person over 10 years. Undercounts affect our community with losses in funding in both federal and state programs. She also pointed out the 2000 census response rates; Washington 66% and the United States 67%. Grays Harbor County was 53%, 31 out of 39 counties. The Census Bureau is, of course, hoping for a much better response for 2010.

- 2009 Year End Report  
Vicki distributed to the members the 2009 Annual Report and discussed "what work items were accomplished in 2009." She highlighted, to name a few, the following projects:
  - ✓ Capital facilities planning
  - ✓ Census 2010
  - ✓ Economic stimulus – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
  - ✓ Jobs Team Grays Harbor
  - ✓ Park and Recreation Planning – Port of Grays Harbor 28<sup>th</sup> Street Landing Recreational Lands and Facilities plan
  - ✓ Community development – Oakville, Ocean Shores and the PUD
  - ✓ SR109 Corridor Management Plan
  - ✓ Surface Transportation Program - \$1.8 million
  - ✓ Ongoing Port Industrial Road improvements
  - ✓ Mapping services
  - ✓ Data projects
  - ✓ Public grant and loan funding

#### 4. STAFF REPORTS

➤ Vicki Cummings, Executive Director

**Regional**

- Anticipating another round of Economic Stimulus funding for transportation projects; similar to last year's funding \$1.7 million
- Working on 2010 transportation appropriations
- Columbia Pacific RC&EDD is putting together its Area Plan; this is the document that drives their work effort. They are required to outreach the public to acquire this information. Vicki shared the RC&EDDs survey and asked each community to work through the survey with their councils and respond. This is an opportunity for the cities who are RC&EDD members (Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, Hoquiam, Montesano and Ocean Shores) to contribute.
- 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.

➤ Julia Gibb, Planner/Community Development Coordinator

**Direct**

- City of Elma; Drafted Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) general purpose grant application for interior and exterior improvements to the Elma Senior Center and Food Bank. Application required public hearing, numerous procedural steps and lengthy forms. Elma is requesting \$145,000; city owns the building and land; leases the operations to non-profits who run the food bank and senior center.
- Ocean Shores Library Expansion; expansion project on hold pending outcome of budget issues for operating funds to keep existing library open.
- Cosmopolis; on review team for hazard management plan.
- Westport and Montesano; finalizing their capital facilities plan's first step; inventory. No word from Ocean Shores when they want to begin their plan.

**Regional**

- Capital Facilities Plan related; will be giving a speech to the national conference on Smart Growth issues. Invited to be part of the Capital Facilities panel and discuss experience with the Westport CFP development.
- SR109 Scenic Byway Plan; working on the final edits to the plan.

➤ Theresa Julius, Planner/GIS Coordinator

**Direct**

- Cosmopolis – produced liquefaction susceptibility map for the city's hazard mitigation planning project.
- Elma – produced city limits map regarding the annexation project.
- Grays Harbor County – updated Fire District map to include 2009 population estimates.
- Hoquiam – added the Train Depot and historic home on 5<sup>th</sup> Street to the city's historic register; continue to work on the city's water mapping system; continue to work with the Fire Department to create new hydrant maps.

- McCleary – working with city electric utility staff on a GPS project that will collect pole, transformer and vault locations and data.
- Port of GH – the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Landing Recreation plan was certified by the Recreation and Conservation office; the Port is now eligible to apply for state recreation grant funding when available.
- Westport – provided air photo prints for display.
- GH Chamber of Commerce – updated floor plans for 2010 Expo in March
- Jobs Team – created informational postcard regarding the Jobs Team hosted state budget meeting; provided technical and formatting assistance on the power point presentation for the 2010 Legislative send off.

#### **Regional**

- Produced the November 2009 COG newsletter.
- Published the first quarter 2010 COG Public Funding Notification Alert.
- Participated in the annual state data center meeting and the American Community Survey training.
- Updated the COG web page.
- Continue ARRA updates.
- Provided the GH Chamber of Commerce a census article for their newsletter.

#### **5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Copies of the 2010 GHCOG Member List were distributed to the Council, along with a list of the GHCOG's 2010 office closure dates.

#### **6. MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

- City of Cosmopolis, Mayor Vickie Raines – The City Council held a strategic planning retreat regarding the pulp mill, a maintenance and operation levy in the fall and the dam project.
- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Mike Wilson – Commissioner Wilson reported on the following: 1] Public Health Department reported not many H1N1 cases, however it could come back in the spring, 2] Mark Reed Hospital may relocate in Elma, 3] received additional state funds to do 13 corners, 4] critical areas ordinance is close to distribution, and 5] Commissioner Terry Willis was recently elected chair of the Chehalis Flood Authority.
- WSDOT, Debbie Clemen – Debbie stated DOT has been happy with the mild weather.
- Grays Harbor PDA, Art Tanner – Art reported the PDA officers recently held a retreat to discuss issues that do not seem to get accomplished at their board meetings.
- Port of Grays Harbor, Commissioner Chuck Caldwell – Commissioner Caldwell stated a kick-off celebration was held honoring their contract with Chrysler and Omaha AG is investing \$40 million in a “super market” for grain.

