

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEETING SUMMARY
June 25, 2009

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Thomas at 7:05 p.m. Chair Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members in Attendance:

Councilmember Chris Vessey (City of McCleary)
Councilmember Nick Johnson (City of Ocean Shores)
Mayor Michael Bruce (City of Westport)
Commissioner Al Carter (GH County)
Commissioner Russ Skolrood, (Grays Harbor PUD)
Christine Peck (Timberland Regional Library)

Administrative Sub-Council:

Chair – Chris Thomas (City of Montesano)

Guests:

Tobi Iverson, Jackie Bowen and Susan Ross (U.S. Census Bureau)

Council Staff:

Vicki Cummings, Theresa Julius, Nancy Trask

A quorum was not established.

3. **PRESENTATION: 2010 Census, Tobi Iverson**

Tobi Iverson [Bothell office], Jackie Bowen [Tacoma office] and Susan Ross [Olympia office] presented “2010 Census; It’s In Our Hands,” what elected officials need to know about the 2010 census. The U.S. Census will define who we are as a nation. Taken every 10 years, the census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. By becoming a 2010 Census partner, we can help ensure that everyone in our community is counted so that our community receives its fair share of important services and resources. Every year more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data; more than \$3 trillion over a ten year period.

The 2010 Census questionnaire will be mailed out in March 2010; it asks only a few simple questions of each person; name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race, and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home.

Susan Ross, Assistant Manager of Census Recruiting, will be recruiting people in the Grays Harbor area to assist in the census. You must be over 18 years of age and there will be an FBI check. The Census Bureau will pay \$13.25 per hour, plus mileage and will also pay for training.

Tobi requested that each member entity approve the “2010 Census Partner Proclamation” she distributed, wherein the entity will proclaim that they are committed to partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to help ensure a full and accurate count in 2010.

4. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

- Approval of the June 25, 2009 Meeting Agenda
No quorum present, therefore, the agenda was not approved.
- Approval of the May 28, 2009 Meeting Minutes
No quorum present, therefore, the May 28th minutes were not approved; to be approved at the July meeting.
- Administrative Sub-Council Report: Chair Chris Thomas
No quorum present.
- **New Business**
 - Resolution No. 504, Approval of the GHCOG Grays Harbor Regional 2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Plan
No quorum present, therefore, Resolution No. 504 was not approved. COG staff will email the membership regarding this resolution and members will be asked to vote electronically.
 - Resolution No. 505, Approval of the 2009-2010 RTPO Contract
No quorum present, therefore, Resolution No. 505 was not approved. COG staff will email the membership regarding this resolution and members will be asked to vote electronically.
 - July Picnic Meeting Discussion
After discussion Council consensus was to email all members and have them vote electronically as to whether they would like to continue with the annual picnics or not, as participation in prior years has been low.

5. **STAFF REPORTS**

- ***Vicki Cummings, Executive Director***
 - National Maritime Heritage Area feasibility study; a proposal is making the rounds to designate a large portion of Washington’s coastline a National Maritime Heritage Area. The main idea is to provide a way to recognize Washington’s maritime history and industry from Coast Salish cedar canoes to old lighthouses, from World War II shipyards to houseboat communities. A heritage area designation allows locals to coordinate ways to recognize and protect local historic sites and structures, promote tourism and develop a narrative that ties in life today.
 - Working with the City of Oakville on steps for the design and construction of a new city hall/library building.
 - Following the Highway Trust Fund bankruptcy crisis.
 - Worked with DOT and the Port of Grays Harbor to make adjustments to the Port’s TIP. Also drafted correspondence requesting that DOT correct the Port’s Local Agency Agreement enabling DOT to release the funds for the Port Industrial Road project.
 - Looking for funds for the intersection at Highway 12 and Schouweilier Road at Elma’s industrial park.
 - SR 109 Corridor Management Plan - ongoing planning team meetings and writing segments of the draft plan.

- Working with Grays Harbor County concerning issues related to the use of ARRA funds for the 13 corners project.
 - Created draft segments of the funding assessment portion of the SWRTPO for the Port of Grays Harbor and the City of Aberdeen.
- ***Julia Gibb, Planner/Community Development Coordinator***
- **Ocean Shores:** Discussing potential for library-related capital facility funding research; awaiting discussion with the Library Board; preliminary research.
 - **PDA:** Finalize and deliver project application materials and related economic data research.
 - **Capital Facilities Plan Status** (offered to all members upon receipt of member authorizing resolution): Ongoing throughout this year and next: awaiting go-ahead from one or more following cities expressing interest: Ocean Shores (resolution received; staff not yet ready to proceed), Westport (awaiting resolution), Montesano (awaiting resolution).
 - **Utility Coordinator FTE:** Continue preparation for new FTE; PUD edited position description received; reworking estimated costs based on revised description.
 - **SR 109 Plan Project:** Continue review of the draft SR 109 corridor plan.
 - **2010 Census:** Theresa Julius and I met with State Representative for Grays Harbor to discuss potential work items for 2010 Census public outreach in Grays Harbor.
 - **Jobs Team:** Attended June meeting for Vicki Cummings; researched Weyerhaeuser plant closing data in preparation for local government meeting with company on the future of its harbor industrial lands.
 - **Administrative:** Prepared June GHCOG board meeting minutes.
- ***Theresa Julius, Planner/GIS Coordinator***
- **Aberdeen:** Working with Lisa Scott and Steve Warnken to create a GIS shapefile of Aberdeen’s zoning that the city can use for their mapping.
 - **Hoquiam:** College Hill inundation map for city water department, state reporting. Printed city property and watershed maps.
 - **Port of Grays Harbor:** T1 Terminal improvements site and vicinity maps for CERB application.
 - **Westport:** Six year street plan map for 2010.
 - **Regional Projects:** 2010 TIP adoption is in full swing. Provided assistance to: Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, Elma, Grays Harbor County, Grays Harbor Transit, McCleary, Montesano, Oakville, Ocean Shores, and the Port of Grays Harbor. Jobs Team Weyerhaeuser properties maps. Air photo, zoning, and property maps. Continued Economic Stimulus Project work including: providing updates on the energy programs and posting a funding program listing on the GHCOG web site. www.ghcog.org → Announcements.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- New Work Item - Vicki announced the Port of Grays Harbor has requested the COG to become the support role for the Jobs Team. The Jobs Team consists of many county-wide entities such as the Port, GHPDA, GHEDC, Grays Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Grays Harbor County and the cities of Aberdeen, Hoquiam and Cosmopolis. The main focus is to “promote projects to create jobs.” In the support role the COG would be keeping records, preparing meeting summaries, responsible for follow-up actions and correspondence. Due to no quorum present this subject will be discussed at next month’s meeting.
- Grays Harbor Business Alliance – Vicki stated she received an invitation from LeRoy Tipton, GH Chamber of Commerce, to join his organization and ten others in sharing a booth at the Grays Harbor County Fair August 5 – 9. The booth will be titled “Grays Harbor Business Alliance” because, he said, “we share a partnership and mutual passion. We all eagerly work

