

GRAYS HARBOR  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
FULL COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY  
March 22, 2007

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Raines at 7:00 p.m. The flag salute was given.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Chuck Caldwell (Port of Grays Harbor)  
Jonathan Ciesla (Quinault Indian Nation)  
Nick Johnson (City of Ocean Shores)  
Desiree Dodson (City of Westport)  
Commissioner Tom Casey (Grays Harbor PUD)

Administrative Sub-Council

Chairman – Mayor Vickie Raines (City of Cosmopolis)  
First Vice-Chair – Chris Thomas (City of Montesano)  
Secretary – Mike Wessells (Timberland Regional Library)  
Representative At Large – Dave Osgood (City of Elma)

Guests

Debbie Clemen, Nancy Allison, Jesse Cardenas

Council Staff

Vicki Cummings, Nancy Trask

Mayor Raines stated for the record that John Pellegrini was excused from this meeting due to attending the Hoquiam Town meeting. A quorum was established.

**3. PRESENTATION**

Columbia Pacific RC&EDD, Nancy Allison and Jesse Cardenas – Jesse Cardenas, who is the Director of the RC&EDD, spoke on his program elements: 1] land management, 2] land conservation, 3] water management, and 4] community development. RC&D is a unique USDA program which helps people in rural areas plan and carry out activities that increase conservation of natural resources, supports economic development and enhances the environment and standard of living in local communities.

Nancy Allison, Coordinator of the Columbia-Pacific RC&EDD, spoke on “what Columbia-Pacific can do for you” and discussed the following:

- >develop partnerships to address local issues
- >work with local Economic Development Councils
- >explore funding opportunities
- >develop infrastructure opportunities for communities
- >assist in reducing poverty in a four-county area
- >perform computer modeling for non-industrial private forest landowners
- >provide assistance to non-profit organizations.

Who should be involved?

- >local citizens
- >conservation districts
- >local economic councils
- >city council
- >tribes
- >non-profit organizations
- >port authority
- >public utility districts
- >public development authorities
- >state and local government

#### 4. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

➤ Approval of the Meeting Agenda

*Mike Wessells made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; second, Jonathan Ciesla. Motion passed.*

➤ Approval of the February 22, 2007 Meeting Minutes

*Mike Wessells made a motion to approve the GHCOG February 22, 2007 meeting minutes; second Nick Johnson. Motion passed.*

➤ Administrative Sub-Council Report, Chairman Raines

Chairman Raines reported the Administrative Sub-Council approved the March bills and the April payroll. She also had a limited discussion on the thought of having a press release announcing the GHCOG’s new Administrative Sub-Council and also include a report on what the GHCOG does.

Mayor Raines also commented on the Vision 2020 workshop sponsored by some of the employees of Grays Harbor Paper. She said it sounds like a real intriguing process and plan. They anticipate the project to cost about \$300,000. Mayor Raines suggested the GHCOG get involved in this process.

Commissioner Casey said the subject came up at their PUD Commission meeting last Monday and came to the same conclusion Mayor Raines did. ”As I listened to it I thought that is exactly what the COG does. The problem is that there were many people at that meeting that don’t know or have ever heard about the COG, but they really are reinventing the wheel. It has already happened, but COG doesn’t spend any money promoting itself, the problem with that is that it is more likely to get reinvented. The players at this table, the cities and the districts at this table, to respond with “that’s a great idea” – I think you need to look at a contract with the COG.”

Desiree Dodson stated, “Everybody has little groups trying to get there and no one is working together. Maybe we could do something once a year where we have a legislature send off where we could actually have a day where all these entities get together on the same level, have lunch, and everybody has a spokes person who says these are the projects we are working on; you have everybody there and plan for a whole day and everybody gets to toot their horns. They will probably figure out what they are working on is the same and maybe it would give the opportunity for all of us to hear each other and actually face to face.” The Council Members concurred. Mayor Raines suggested scheduling that gathering for this Fall. This subject will be discussed at the April GHCOG meeting.

➤ **Old Business**

**Resolution No. 476, STP Request for Reduction in STP Match Amount**

Vicki reported on the February 23<sup>rd</sup> STP Technical Committee meeting. Part of the meeting discussion centered on matching funds amount. The matching funds amount according to the Surface Transportation Program is 13.5%. Vicki stated when the policy was established we set it at 15%. “The reason we did that was to see a little bit of extra participation from the communities and to stretch the allocated amount. We only get x-amount of dollars per year for that funding pot. So we figured it would be a way to stretch the pot out and maybe help fund a few extra projects.”

When Vicki met with the Technical Committee they had some concern over that 15% and were not comfortable with paying an extra percentage. A request was made that Vicki go back to the GHCOG, as they are the decision maker, and ask that we don’t do that and that we lower the amount back to 13.5%.

***Resolution No. 476 died for lack of a motion. No action was taken on the resolution, and the amount of required matching funds, identified in Resolution No. 470, remains at 15%.***

➤ **SR 109 Notification of Funds Availability**

Vicki reported she just received notification that the funding is available. Parametrix was chosen after the round of interviews of consultants. Parametrix has a lot of background and a lot of experience in doing corridor management plans and handling city by-way funds; they are community process oriented.

Debbie Clemen, WSDOT, Vicki and Curt Warber, Parametrix Project Manager, will be meeting March 23 to develop the Scope of Work.

➤ **New Business**

➤ **Resolution No. 475, Support of a Doppler Radar Weather Station in Westport**

***Mike Wessells made a motion approving Resolution No. 475; second, Commissioner Caldwell. Motion passed.***

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

➤ ***Vicki Cummings***, Executive Director

- Working on GH Transit’s Transportation Development Plan; that plan will be adopted early in April.

- Also working with GH Transit on a couple of different processes related to the Aberdeen station downtown. We got them funding through enhancements at the end of 2005 and in the middle of 2005 we got them funding through a Federal program that would allow them to get the buildings knocked down, get that whole area renovated and the new transit station built. We have been having trouble getting the funds released.
- Working on the Unified Planning Work Program, which is done every year that deals with transportation and this is the document that ties our work here in Grays Harbor County with the 5-county SW Washington RTPO with the state. We outline what we did in the last year and what was accomplished and what is coming up for next year.
- Working on the Transportation Community System Preservation (TCSP) program; these are applications to the Feds; we cannot ask for money directly for programs, we have to use this TCSP process. The two that Vicki submitted were for \$5 million in funding for re-evaluation of the US 101 Alternative Bypass (truck route) EIS. We also asked for \$2 million for the Port Industrial Road project, paving of the road to improve capacity, traffic flow and safety. The Port Industrial Road was also one of the projects that came out of the 101 planning process.
- Working on the Montesano Parks Plan; are getting ready to distribute 4,000 surveys.

No staff reports from Julia and Theresa as they were attending other meetings.

**6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- Jonathan Ciesla stated that the Nation is advertising for a new Planning Manager and an Economic Development Planner position is also open.
- Commissioner Casey announced Dennis Kusinich, Congressman from Ohio State, will be at the Bishop Center on March 30. Commissioner Casey also shared his ideas on the Bonneville lawsuit. His proposal was to continue to collect the money from us, but don't just throw it away. He suggests creating a funding agency in the Northwest, covering the territory that BPA has customers in, and that funding agency would then have a narrow scope to its purpose which is to fund projects which would help reduce the threat of global warming, conservation, renewable resources such as the wood-fired thermal plants.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
 115 South Wooding Street  
 Aberdeen, Washington 98520

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 Vickie Raines  
 GHCOG Chair

Date

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 Nancy L. Trask  
 Office Coordinator

Date