

GRAYS HARBOR  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 26, 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:

Mayor Dean Bunkers (City of Ocean Shores)  
Commissioner Russ Skolrood, (Grays Harbor PUD)  
Terri Gardener (Grays Harbor Transit)  
Commissioner Chuck Caldwell (Port of Grays Harbor)  
Chris Vessey (City of McCleary)  
Tim Alstrom (City of Aberdeen)  
Commissioner Al Carter (GH County)  
Mayor Dave Osgood (City of Elma)

Administrative Sub-Council

Chair – Chris Thomas (City of Montesano)  
First Vice-Chair – John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)

Guests

Nancy Allison (Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership)  
Dave Rountry (Department of Ecology)

Council Staff

Vicki Cummings, Theresa Julius, Julia Gibb, Nancy Trask

A quorum was established.

3. **PRESENTATION** – Dave Rountry, Department of Ecology, “Water Quality Improvements in the Chehalis and Grays Harbor Watershed”

Dave spoke about the water quality protection work that is happening in the Chehalis Basin. At the end of his presentation he invited the members to a meeting to be held Friday, April 17, at the Department of Ecology Lacey office from 9am until 12 Noon. The meeting purpose is to give citizens, landowners and agencies such as the Chehalis Basin Partnership and their Water Quality Committee a chance to tell about the good work their organizations are doing for water quality.

4. **PRESENTATION** – Nancy Allison, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership  
Nancy presented the WCSSP Interlocal Agreement. She explained that the Interlocal Agreement is executed by and between the Lead Entity Groups (LEGs) of the Washington Coast Region for the purposes of facilitating collaborative decision making in support of salmonid restoration and sustainability within Water Resource Inventory Areas 20 to 24. The LEGs of the Washington Coast Region are the North Pacific Lead Entity Group, the Quinault Indian Nation and Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties.

Nancy explained that the Agreement designates a governing unit and contracting/fiscal agency for the purpose of regional collaboration on common issues including salmonid recovery and habitat restoration. The parties to this Agreement shall be the participating counties, cities, tribes and Ports within the Washington Coast Region. She said she is not looking for money, but for participation. No action was taken.

5. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

- Approval of the Meeting Agenda  
*John Pellegrini made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; second Commissioner Carter. Motion passed.*
  
- Approval of the February 26, 2009 Meeting Minutes  
*John Pellegrini made a motion to approve the GHCOG February 26, 2009 meeting minutes; second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed.*
  
- Administrative Sub-Council Report: Chair Chris Thomas  
Chair Thomas reported the Administrative Sub-Council met before this meeting to approve the February bills and the March payroll. No other action was taken.
  
- Old Business
  - Economic Stimulus Project Update  
Vicki reported the ESP group met again on March 10 to discuss what has changed since their December meeting and the next steps. Debbie Harper, USDA's Community Programs Specialist, spoke to the group about community infrastructure and water programs. Any one wanting to access stimulus needs can go to recovery.wa.gov site to get the heads up for opportunities.

Debbie stated that USDA had stimulus dollars available but have had very little requests for the funds. She encouraged anyone with a project needs to apply as they cannot move on to fund their regular program until these dollars are used up.

Also discussed were the EDA, PWTF and CDBG programs. "There is \$330,000-\$340,000 in their regular program. They want to stimulate the economy too, so they will allocate that full amount in one shot," stated Vicki. Applications are due May 11 and no more funds will be loaned until 2011.

- Resolution No. 499, Surface Transportation Program (STP) ARRA Funding Project Approval  
The Grays Harbor STP County Region has received additional STP funds through the American Re-investment and Recovery Act in the amount of \$1,761,629.00 and additional Enhancements funding through the ARRA in the amount of \$47,680.00 for a grand total of \$1,809,309.00. The following projects will be funded with those dollars:

Hoquiam - City Wide Ped Safety/Mobility Imp Phase II	\$195,000
Grays Harbor Co. – Wynoochee/Wishkah Rd 13 Corners	750,000
Aberdeen – Heron St Sidewalk Bulb-out Project	730,000
McCleary – Simpson Avenue Sidewalks (STP)	86,629
(Enhancements)	<u>47,680</u>
<b>Total ARRA Funds</b>	<b>\$1,809,309</b>

*John Pellegrini made a motion to approve Resolution No. 499; second, Chris Vessey. Motion passed.*

➤ New Business

- Resolution No. 500, 2008-2009 RTPO Contract Amendment No. 2  
Vicki asked for approval to amend the 2008-2009 RTPO contract; the GHCOG would receive an additional \$6,000 to be used to develop branding concepts and a logo for the SR109 Hidden Coast Scenic Byway; therefore increasing the contract from \$41,500 to \$47,500. *John Pellegrini made a motion to approve Resolution No. 500; second, Chris Vessey. Motion passed.*
- Work Program Addition, Utilities Coordinator Position  
Vicki stated she was invited to meet with the PUD Commissioners and discuss the Utilities Coordinator position. The PUD is serious about moving forward; it has been identified as a huge need stated Commissioner Skolrood. This position will be a full time job and the PUD is committed to fund the first two years.

Vicki said at this point a white paper needs to be developed. It will outline the initial duties of the position, scope of work, job description and associated costs. Upon completion she will then give the documents to the PUD Commissioners to review.

*Chris Vessey made a motion to move forward and to prepare the white paper report; second, Commissioner Carter. Motion passed.*

- Resolution No.501, GHCOG Credit Card Policies  
Vicki explained the need for an office credit card to facilitate staff in business and day to day operations. In doing so the GHCOG must comply with the requirements of the Washington State Auditor’s Office to adopt written credit card policies governing the authority, distribution and use of those cards.

*Commissioner Al Carter made a motion to approve Resolution No. 501; second, Mayor Bunkers. Motion passed.*

- Resolution No. 502, Re-designation of STP funding  
The GHCOG received a letter from Russ Esses, Grays Harbor County Public Services, requesting to transfer STP project funds from the Hill Road project to the Wynooche-Wishkah Road 13 Corners Realignment Project. This transfer is necessary to provide funding so the 13 Corners Realignment Project can be completed as designed.

*Chris Vessey made a motion to approve Resolution No. 502; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed.*

## 6. **STAFF REPORTS**

### ➤ *Vicki Cummings, Executive Director*

- Worked the past three weeks on a National Scenic Byways grant for the Mo clips rail depot.
- Earlier this month held another SR 109 Scenic Byways workshop – hope to have the final draft done by May.
- Met with the RTPO/MPO/WSDOT Coordinating Committee to discuss DOT’s role of confusion in the ARRA funding process.
- Attended the Vision 2020 open house community meeting at the Aberdeen High School, represented the Governance and Infrastructure committee.
- Gave a presentation to Tourism Grays Harbor about the progress of the SR 109 project.
- On March 27 will be addressing the Leadership Grays Harbor group.
- Worked with Grays Harbor Transit on their appropriation request for funding to purchase busses and vans; sent letter of support.
- Researching safety funds and other possibilities for funding for the Ocean Shores round-a-bout project.

### ➤ *Julia Gibb, Planner/Community Development Coordinator*

- Continue working with Vicki and Theresa to track federal and state developments with an eye toward what various programs can mean for Grays Harbor and our member agencies.
- Follow-up second ESP meeting with specific meeting at Elma City Hall on March 18 to discuss with Mayor Osgood, planning and public works directors and city council members – possibility of Elma applying for USDA ARRA loans for up to three Elma projects listed on GHCOG non-transportation project spreadsheet. Discussed USDA program particulars and Elma’s issues. Discussed next steps.
- Follow-up initial work for the City of Oakville on multi-family planning and zoning regulations; prepared documents and map for the open house; attended and participated in the March 19 open house.
- Researched and developed cost estimates for completion of the Cosmopolis Local Hazard Mitigation Plan per state evaluation; evaluated request for GHCOG help in finishing the plan.
- Assisted the City of Ocean Shores in determining eligibility for loan forgiveness for anticipated 2009 DWSRF award for water system improvements.
- Developed job description for utility coordinator position.
- Researched grant and loan opportunities for acoustical test facility for the PDA.

- Capital Facilities Plan: Continue with the development of forms, spreadsheets, plan outline and adoption process for participating GHCOG agencies with Theresa. This is a major work program item for 2009.
- Attended Coastal Communities meeting on March 4.

➤ ***Theresa Julius, Planner/GIS Coordinator***

- Assisted Cosmopolis city staff with researching the city's web site issues.
- City of Hoquiam:
  - >Continued to work with Al Telecky to produce ongoing water system updates, Beacon Hill locations.
  - >Provided investigation site air photo to Hoquiam police for display at trial.
  - >Added new site to Hoquiam Historic Register – LaVogue department store site.
- Provided 2000 Census family and household income data for City of Ocean Shores.
- Port of Grays Harbor:
  - >28<sup>th</sup> Street Landing recreational lands and facilities plan. The complete draft is posted on the Port's web site for public review – [www.portofgraysharbor.com](http://www.portofgraysharbor.com)
  - >Assisting Diane with recreation and conservation funding board 2009 boating facilities grant application for improvements at the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Landing.
- Regional Projects
  - >Continued Economic Stimulus Project work including updating funding opportunities (loans and grant programs) as information becomes available and posting a funding program listing on the GHCOG web site – [www.ghcog.org](http://www.ghcog.org), announcements.
  - >Local Transportation Improvement Plan updates to include ARRA funding: Aberdeen-Heron Street, Hoquiam-city wide sidewalk project, McCleary – Simpson Avenue sidewalks and Grays Harbor County – 13 corners.
  - >Two day GPS TerraSync and Pathfinder office training including project planning, data dictionary creation, equipment setup, software setup, field data collection – basic and advanced techniques, data post processing and exporting data.

**7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

The GHCOG received a letter from Buck Meile thanking Julia on her excellent work and support to Dan Thompson regarding the MFR zoning and the public meeting at the City of Oakville held on March 19.

**8. MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

- John Pellegrini reported the City of Hoquiam had to pass an ordinance to have DOT pave Highway 101 from 6pm to 6am. This project will last a couple of months.
- Chris Vessey thanked staff for McCleary sidewalk project funding.
- Mayor Bunkers reported that the traffic count in Ocean Shores is up 8 to 9 per cent; he also reported the fire station will be completed in August.
- Commissioner Carter announced that the Hogan's Corner water bid will open in April and construction will start this summer.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

