

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FULL COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY
May 24, 2007

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Raines at 7:05 p.m. The flag salute was given.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members in Attendance:

Lisa Benn (Port of Grays Harbor)
Jonathan Ciesla (Quinault Indian Nation)
Nick Johnson (City of Ocean Shores)
Mayor Michael Bruce (City of Westport)
Commissioner Tom Casey (Grays Harbor PUD)
Don Fargo (GH Transit)
Commissioner Bob Beerbower (GH County)

Administrative Sub-Council

Chairman – Mayor Vickie Raines (City of Cosmopolis)
First Vice-Chair – Chris Thomas (City of Montesano)
Second Vice-Chair – John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)

Guests

Debbie Clemen, David Quigg, Ron Pinnick, Jamie Spivey and Brian Shay

Council Staff

Vicki Cummings, Theresa Julius

3. **PRESENTATION**

David Quigg/Vision 2020 Grays Harbor, Building a Sustainable Grays Harbor – Mr. Quigg spoke the Grays Harbor 2020 oversight structure, such as establishing the task force and steering committee, creating a community partners forum and selecting an on-site project coordinator. He also spoke on the work plan, public involvement, the oversight process and implementation planning. He is looking at a budget of \$300,000 from June 2007 to May 2009.

Grays Harbor 2020 Mission – “Our mission is to engage the community in building a sustainable and economically viable Grays Harbor that supports People, Planet and Profits.”

Grays Harbor 2020 Vision – “As the eco-industrial hub of North America for more than 100 years, Grays Harbor is a visionary community that successfully blends our natural beauty and heritage with a sustainable economy.”

After a brief discussion and answer period Mayor Raines directed staff to attend the planning meetings to see where the Council of Governments could assist the organization on behalf of all the COG members.

4. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

- Approval of the Meeting Agenda
Jonathan Ciesla made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed.

- Approval of the March 22, 2007 Meeting Minutes
Jonathan Ciesla made a motion to approve the GHCOG March 22, 2007 meeting minutes; second John Pellegrini. Motion passed.

- Administrative Sub-Council Report, Chairman Raines
Chairman Raines reported that the Administrative Sub-Council met before this meeting and also met on April 26 to approve the bills and payroll. At this evening’s meeting the Administrative Sub-Council approved the Executive Director’s recommendation for STP funding. Chairman Raines also reported that the mayors of Grays Harbor County appointed Vicki Cummings to be the cities choice to sit on the newly established Washington State Boundary Review Board for Grays Harbor County and her participation was approved by the Administrative Sub-Council. County Commissioner Mike Wilson is going to check to make sure there is no conflict with her representing the county as a whole and with her experience she would be a good choice.

- New Business
 - Resolution No. 476, 2007 Budget Amendment No. 1
John Pellegrini made a motion to approve Resolution No. 476, amending the 2007 budget; second, Commissioner Casey. Motion passed.

 - Resolution No. 477, 2006-2007 RTPO Contract Amendment No. 1
John Pellegrini made a motion to approve Resolution No. 477; second, Nick Johnson. Motion passed.

 - Resolution No. 478, Surface Transportation Program Approval for Funding
John Pellegrini made a motion approving Resolution No. 478; second, Chris Thomas. Discussion was held. Mayor Bruce opposed that the City of Aberdeen was on the funding list and for that reason he made a plea to Dorothy Voege about reconsidering joining GHCOG. Mayor Voege told Mayor Bruce that the city has to cut somewhere and they did not see the economic viability of belonging. Mayor Bruce stated it bothers him to see that they are on the list for \$600,000 and they have also been on previous lists and they do not want to belong to this organization. He asked if the GHCOG really has to fund them and could another project from a member be chosen instead. Vicki Cummings said that she understands Mayor Bruce’s

sentiment and agreed with him, but she is really cautious that if now they are removed from the list it could cause a liability issue. The process is funded with administrative dollars from the STP pot of funds. However, those dollars are coming to an end and agencies will no longer be able to use STP funds to administer the process. Once that happens there is no legal liability to include non paying members in the process. Mayor Bruce said he will vote in favor of the resolution, but is adamantly against the fact that Aberdeen is included in the list. Other members of the Council voiced their agreement with Mayor Bruce. Mayor Raines called for the question. ***Motion passed.***

Mayor Raines stated that Vicki Cummings and she will attend the next Aberdeen City Council meeting.

▪ Discussion: Annual Picnic Meeting Location

Vicki stated the picnic will be held in July and asked for suggestions on the location. She stated the GHCOG has not been to Ocean Shores or Westport. Chairman Raines suggested Montesano. Mayor Bruce suggested the Maritime Museum in Westport

Vicki said staff will check on the Montesano and Westport park facilities and will send out an email well in advance of the picnic date of Thursday, July 26.

5. STAFF REPORTS

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

- Thanked Mayor Raines and office staff for doing an excellent job keeping things running during her medical leave absence.
- Resubmitted TCSP grants per DOT requirement changes. Grants are for construction money for Port Industrial Road and also for \$5 million to do the EIS on the truck route.
- Working on the local agency agreement and prospectus which is all the paperwork needed for SR109 to get the State to obligate the money.
- Started working on the Grays Harbor County update to our SW Washington Regional Transportation Plan.
- Finalizing the categorical exclusion for GH Transit; this is the environmental documentation that is needed for them to begin to complete their downtown Aberdeen station.
- Recently received a request to assist in organizing the next American Planning Association of Washington convention to be held in Ocean Shores in 2008.

➤ ***Julia Gibb***, Community Development Coordinator

Not in attendance, but submitted documentation of work during April and May:

- Continue research and compilation of community development issues and priorities for Montesano, Cosmopolis and Hoquiam,
- Needs assessments underway for the next review by key staff,
- Attended two Hoquiam Town Hall meetings on Phase 2 of Hometown Hoquiam (Berk and Associates, consultants) and on update of comprehensive plan (John Kliem, consultant) together issued information for needs assessment and heard from the public about their issues and concerns,

- Attended Sustainable Grays Harbor Roundtable; participated in discussion on Grays Harbor issues,
- Attended the National Trust Main Street conference
- Attended USDA and Columbia Pacific RC&EDD Listening Post presentations for Grays Harbor jurisdictions and discussion on local issues,
- Attended Spring Western Washington Planners meeting in Bremerton
- Consulted on Cosmopolis update of Critical Areas ordinance, per state requirements,
- Attended the Montesano Planning Commission hearing on comprehensive plan update,
- Attended Ocean Shores hearing on Weatherwax site development/sale options and general community development needs/issues in Ocean Shores.

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

- Announced the 6 year street plan needs to be adopted by the end of June.
- Completed the review of the City of Cosmopolis critical areas.
- Working on comp plan maps for Montesano and Hoquiam.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- **DOT Enhancement Process - Information**

Vicki Cummings stated she just found out about an issue that is related to the Enhancement process, another funding round of regional money. The Enhancement process happens at the 5-county SWRTPO level of which Grays Harbor is a member. Vicki explained, “The Director of Highways and Local Programs at DOT took it upon themselves to implement some very drastic changes to the Enhancements program funding process. In the past there has been about \$25 million available statewide, 80% of which gets funded down to the RTPO regions. However, the new Transportation budget that we are dealing with now has allocated \$4 million of that to a Bike-Ped Safety Program, but an additional \$4.2 million went to some very specific projects namely \$3.5 million to a single pedestrian bridge at the Museum of Flight, \$500,000 for a retaining wall and then \$250,000 for a wildlife fence; and to the rest of the RTPOs. On top of that there are two statewide projects they are funding at \$1 million each, so that leaves \$14 million to be allocated, 80% of which goes regionally to the RTPOs.”

“On top of that then they figured that there was not enough funds to leverage our regular process as it required a lot of process for a very limited return so they decided to do away with it all together and just replace it with a statewide application process. Each RTPO is to submit three projects that fit their very narrow guidelines. “

“For several years we have done very well in this process. In the last go-round we had \$1.3 million in projects funded, we had \$1.5 million in projects to go-round before that. The biggest issues here are: 1] the RTPOs were not consulted before this action took place and even worse than that we were never directly informed. This all came about by accident because somebody chose to share an email. 2] we just went through a long, drawn out process to identify and be extremely accountable about how we spend our STP funds due to a mandate about transparent process.”

“This has stirred up an incredible hornets nest. We are talking with our SWRTPO and folks on the other side of the state as well who are very upset of what has occurred. I may come back to you to issue letters or resolutions or maybe even go to the Transportation Commission and have a face to face discussion with them. Rosemary Siipola, Steve Harvey and myself are really strategizing at this point and we don’t really care that we are too tactful about it, let’s put it that way. We just want to voice our total dissent with what they are doing.”

7. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Due to the time restraint, member comment was suspended.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

115 South Wooding Street
Aberdeen, Washington 98520

Vickie Raines
GHCOG Chair

Date

Nancy L. Trask
Office Coordinator

Date