

EXECUTIVE BOARD
MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2009

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS: Jack Louws, Bob Bromley, Scott Walker, Gary Jensen, Pete Kremen, Louise Bjornson, Sam Crawford, Dan Pike

STAFF: Jim Miller, Gordon Rogers, Leslye O'Shaughnessy, Melissa Miller

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None received.

C. MINUTES

MOTION: Jensen moved, Walker seconded, to approve the minutes from November 12, 2008.

MOTION PASSED

D. BUDGET/CLAIMS

D.1 Budget Report

The January and February 2009 balance summaries were included in the packet and the March 2009 balance summary was distributed at the meeting. The January, February and March 2009 claims listings were included in the packet. Miller reviewed the summaries and claims listings.

D.2 Claim Voucher Listing

Vouchers audited and certified by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Council.

As of this date, April 8, 2009, the Council approves for payment those vouchers included in the above list and further described as follows: voucher numbers 2009001 through 2009126 in the total amount of \$464,604.91.

MOTION: Kremen moved, Jensen seconded, to retroactively approve vouchers 2009001 - 2009126, for January, February, and March 2009 in the amount of \$464,604.91.

MOTION PASSED

F. NEW BUSNIESS

F.2 Trip Planner

Melissa Miller previewed a new web tool that WCOG is developing. The website is an extension of the transportation connections map (Kiosk Project) that shows how to get around the 5-county region without using a personal vehicle. The trip planner that is being developed is a web version of the map. It allows a person to enter in trip information and it help plan a route in the region without using a personal vehicle.

E. OLD BUSINESS

E.1 Legislative Session

Miller reported that Whatcom County has does very well in the House and Senate capitol budget. There are several projects in there for Whatcom County. The big news that came out of the senate transportation budget was that the first cut had the guide meridian project stopping. Dick Little and Tom Parker worked behind the

scenes along with Doug Ericksen and it is back in both the House and the Senate versions. Tom Parker is working on funding for Whatcom Smart Trips.

Pike had a meeting with the school superintendents along with the community and technical college to discuss budget issues. One of the concerns is the loss of capacity due to the level of budget cuts that are being discussed at the State level. One approach is requesting they look at bonding to backfill the education budget.

E.2 Stimulus Bill

Whatcom County did not receive any portion of the State stimulus funds but will be receiving approximately \$1.2 million for safety projects on I-5 and rumble strips on Mount Baker Highway.

The Port of Bellingham hosted a meeting with Senator Cantwell to discuss the waterfront redevelopment project and the \$1.5 billion in competitive funds available in the stimulus bill. Senator Cantwell was asked to help the regions that didn't receive an equitable allocation from the states on the transportation front. Senator Cantwell thought this was a good point and will write a letter to FHWA to that effect. Miller also asked Senator Murray to do the same. We may get some extra points in the criteria for the competitive funds.

E.3 Reauthorization

The new federal transportation bill is scheduled to be in place October 1, 2009, and the initial draft is scheduled to be out in late May. It is likely there will be a year delay.

E.4 Whatcom Legacy Project

Rogers reported that the consultant presented the results from the Whatcom Community Values Survey to the growth committee. There were 400 survey respondents and they were geographically proportionate.

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 Washington Intergovernmental Review Process Report

O'Shaughnessy reported that WCOG received four projects needing to complete the intergovernmental review process. The projects and comments received are as follows:

WIRP 74-09-01-01, Western Washington University, Rural Business Learning Network. Three comment forms received, 2 - No Comment, 1 - Project is consistent with policies, plans or programs of this agency.

WIRP 73-09-01-02, Community to Community, Las Margaritas Cooperative Development Fund. Three comment forms received, 2 - No Comment, 1 - Project is consistent with policies, plans or programs of this agency.

WIRP 73-09-01-03, Community to Community, Coperativa Sin Fronteras. Three comment forms received, 2 - No Comment, 1 - Project is consistent with policies, plans or programs of this agency.

WIRP 73-09-03-01, VanWingerden Greenhouses, Inc., Greenhouse Construction on Bob Hall Road. Three comment forms received, 2 - No Comment, 1 - Project is consistent with policies, plans or programs of this agency and additional comment of "No building permit required; SEPA, stormwater and land disturbance permits are required" with WAC Chapter 51-50-007 EXCEPTIONS attached as reference. This comment was forwarded to the agency applying for funds.

Due to the March Board meeting cancellation staff reviewed the WCOG By-Laws for clarification on WIRP procedure and found that the WCOG Chairman may sign a letter to the applying agency certifying that their project completed the intergovernmental review process without Board approval.

By certifying the process was completed in this fashion it would decreased the turnaround time for the applying agencies. The current process is dependent on holding

an Executive Board or Full Council meeting. Staff asked if the Board would like to continue having the Chairman certify that the process has been completed. Board members would be notified of the WIRP and the comments received at the next available Board meeting.

MOTION: Crawford moved, Pike seconded, the WIRPs be submitted to the chair for certifying signature that they completed the intergovernmental review process and report on them at the next board meeting until the end of 2009 and then review how the process is working.

MOTION PASSED

F.3 Intalco Energy Rate Increase

Intalco is trying to get the BPA to follow the mandated court order to get their power rate down from approximately \$58 to \$34 per kilowatt hour. Board members think this is very important to save the jobs at Intalco and a letter should be written supporting Intalco.

MOTION: Pike moved, Walker seconded, to write a letter to state the WCOG supports providing equitable treatment of Intalco in terms of energy pricing consistent with the court order and that be done as soon as possible.

MOTION PASSED

F.4 Transportation Improvement Board

Crawford stated Rogers gave a presentation to the transportation improvement board and did a very good job.

G. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Jack Louws
Chair

James G. Miller
Executive Director

