

FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES
January 28, 2009

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS: Jack Louws, Andy Rowlson, Gary Jensen, Tom Jones, Scott Walker, Bob Aitken, Pat Alesse, Dan Pike, Sam Crawford, Barbara Ryan

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

C. ELECTIONS

C.1 Small Cities Elections to Executive Board

NOMINATIONS: Rowlson nominated, Jones seconded, Lynden, Ferndale, and Sumas as the small cities on the Executive Board.

NOMINATIONS CLOSED

NOMINATIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

C.2 Board Officers

NOMINATIONS: Crawford nominated, Jones seconded, Louws as Chair.

NOMINATIONS CLOSED

NOMINATIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

NOMINATIONS: Crawford nominated, Rowlson seconded, Bromley as Vice-Chair.

NOMINATIONS CLOSED

NOMINATIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

NOMINATIONS: Crawford nominated, Pike seconded, Jensen as Secretary/Treasurer.

NOMINATIONS CLOSED

NOMINATIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

D. MINUTES

MOTION: Jensen moved, Walker seconded, to approve the minutes from December 10, 2008.

MOTION PASSED

E. BUDGET/CLAIMS

E.1 Budget Report

The budget report for December 31, 2008 was distributed at the meeting. Miller reviewed the budget report for December 2008.

E.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, January 28, 2009, the Council approves for payment those vouchers included in the above list and further described as follows: voucher numbers 2008515 through 2008559 in the total amount of \$131,471.76.

MOTION: Pike moved, Crawford seconded, to retroactively approve vouchers 2008515 - 2008559 in the amount of \$131,471.76 for December 2008.

MOTION PASSED

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 Non-Member Fee Schedule

Each year the board adopts a non-member fee schedule. The fee schedule outlines what is charged to non-Full Council Members for photocopies and for staff time.

MOTION: Crawford moved, Rowlson seconded, to approve WCOG charging non-Full Council members \$78.00 per hour for staff time and \$0.15 per photocopied page.

MOTION PASSED

G. OLD BUSINESS

None Reported.

H. REPORTS

H.2 Transportation Town

Melissa Miller briefed the Board on the Transportation Town website that and gave a demonstration of how it works. This website received an award from the Transportation Research Board.

I. INFORMATION

I.1 2008 Meeting Schedule

The 2009 Board Meeting Schedule was included in the packet.

I.2 WWU

Western Washington University has a new representative to the WCOG - Steve Swan. He will be at the next Policy Board meeting.

H. REPORTS CONTINUED

H.1 Economic Recovery (Stimulus) Package Update

The Economic Stimulus Package Bill passed the House today. Their version has a 100% grant for wastewater. Both the House and Senate are looking at a delivery system for the transportation funds that will use the STP process through the MPOs for the local funds. We still don't know the role the State will play through the House version.

The House version has \$30 billion for highways and bridges. Washington's share would be approximately \$517 million, and WCOG's share of that would be approximately \$3.8 million - \$4.1 million. The Senate version has \$27 billion for highways and bridges. Washington's share would be approximately \$466 million, and WCOG's MPO share of that would be approximately \$4.9 million.

The timeline has also been changed. The House version has given the locals 75 days to go to ad and it is "use it or lose it". There has been talk that WSDOT will be sending a team around to each of the project agencies to review the list of project requirements to make sure the agency has everything in place (such as environmental permits, plan approval, etc.) because the State doesn't want to lose any money.

The Senate version is split in half. The first half will go to the States and they have 180 days to get a project under contract. The second half has 80 percent going to the locals through the STP process and they will have one year to get a project under contract.

The Senate also has about \$5.5 billion in discretionary funds in their bill that the Port and Bellingham waterfront projects will meet the requirements for if they bundled their projects. Miller distributed copies of an email from WSDOT asking for projects for this pot of funds. Projects need to be between \$20 million and \$500 million and are expected to be completed within three years after the passage of the bill into law. Applications would be due 180 days after passage of the bill and funds obligated with one year after passage of the bill. WSDOT has asked for projects and estimates for this pot of funds. WCOG staff suggests submitting two projects - a bundled Waterfront Redevelopment project for \$50 million and a Cascade Gateway Expanded Cross-Border Advanced Information System project for \$20 million. Board members agreed.

Once the bill passes the House and the Senate it will go to committee to finalize. Congress is still trying to have the bill finalized no later than February 20th and then sent to the President for signature.

Pike met with Representative Larsen and Senator Murray they have stated they would like to see projects that aren't just paving but are projects that improve the infrastructure in a way that helps the economy. Representative Larsen said he believes there will be some sort of follow-on programs to this.

Miller reported that Whatcom County does not have any projects on WSDOT's list of projects for the funds they will be receiving.

Louws asked the board members to look at their top projects on the list and think about if their jurisdictions could come up with a match for their projects in order to make the stimulus funds go further and/or a leverage tool. This will be an item of discussion at the next Policy Board meeting on February 11, 2009.

I. INFORMATION CONTINUED

I. Transportation Investment Board (TIB)

Crawford reported that the TIB did adjust down considerably its projections for the amount of money it turns over to jurisdictions. This will affect the Yew Street project. The next TIB meeting will be held in Bellingham in March. It's expected that the local entities will host some sort of tour or activity for TIB members. WCOG staff will work on coordination of some activity.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Jack Louws
Chair

James G. Miller
Executive Director