

YVCOG GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2016

PRESENT:

Grandview: Norm Childress-M, Bill Moore-A,
Granger: Maria Gonzalez-M, Lilia Villarreal-A, Bruce Hall-PC
Harrah:
Mabton:
Moxee:
Naches: Kit Hawver - M
Selah:
Sunnyside: Jim Restucci –M, Julia Hart
Tieton: Matt Johnson - M
Toppenish: Clara Jimenez –M, Derald Ortloff-A
Union Gap: Roger Wentz-M
Wapato: Jim Farias-M; Santos Valdez-A; Jim Gerred - PC
Yakima:
Yakima County: Rand Elliott
Zillah: Janice Gonzales-M, Doug Stewart-A; Ardele Steele-PC/A

ABSENT:

Grandview: Don Olmstead-PC
Granger:
Harrah: Pat Krueger-M, Jack Wells-A
Mabton: Sophie Sotelo – M, Arturo DelaFuente-A Maria Rose-PC
Moxee: LeRoy Lenseigne-M, David Roy-A
Naches: Adam Kramer-A David-PC
Selah: Jane Williams –M, John Tierney-A, Willie Quinnell -PC
Sunnyside:, Spencer Martin-A, DeAnn Hochhalter-PC
Tieton: Stan Hall-A,
Toppenish:, Christina Kwan-PC
Union Gap: Mark Carney-A, Michael Moore-PC
Wapato:
Yakima: Rick Ensey-M, Bill Lover-A, Vacant-PC
Yakima County: Mike Leita-M; Kevin Bouchey-M
Zillah:

Note: M=Member; A=Alternate; PC=Planning Commission

Attendees: Grandview: Cus Arteaga, Santos Trevino, Joan Souders, Gloria Mendoza; Granger: n/a; Harrah: n/a; Mabton: n/a; Moxee: n/a; Naches: Wayne Hawver; n/a; Selah: Russell Carlson; Sunnyside: n/a; Toppenish: Lance Hoyt, Blaine Thorington, J. Eligio Jimenez, Angelica Walle, Gabriel Pinon, Tom Jimenez; Tieton: n/a; Union Gap: Dan Olson, David Spurlock; Wapato: Peggie Gerred; Yakima: n/a; Zillah: n/a; **Others:** Jerry & Judy Boekholder (YVRSMA); Andy Breeding (YVRSMA); Merry Daley; DeLessa Restucci, Lloyd Flem (Speaker); Loren Herrigstad (Speaker); Brian White (WSDOT), John Hodkinson, Sandee Hodkinson, Carol Hoyt; Dennis Lee (Toppenish Railroad); Roger & Mary O'Dell (YVRSMA); Karina Pinon; Kathleen & Bud Rogers (Lower Valley Ground Water Management) Kevin Wickenhagen; YVCOG Staff: Larry Mattson, Tim Sullivan, Deb LaCombe, Shawn Conrad, Joseph Calhoun, Chris Wickenhagen, and Tami Hayward.

CALL TO ORDER
INTRODUCTIONS
ROLL CALL

Chairman Jim Restucci called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. (Dinner break from 7:05 – 7:35 p.m.) The meeting was hosted by the City of Toppenish at the Toppenish Eagles. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the YVCOG General Membership to accept public comment on agenda items at the time the item is being discussed. Public comments regarding items not on the agenda will be heard at the end of the meeting.

WELCOMING REMARKS

Mayor Clara Jimenez welcomed everyone to the City of Toppenish.

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were not available and were not approved. They will be available at the March 16th meeting.

Election of 2016-2017 YVCOG Executive Committee

Mr. Martinez, City of Mabton, Reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. After reviewing all of the candidates, the nominating committee recommends the following members be appointed.

- 1). Yakima County - Commissioner, Not assigned at this time
- 2). City of Yakima, Not assigned at this time
- 3). City of Sunnyside – Jim Restucci Sunnyside Council appointed
- 4). Area 1 Representative (Naches, Tieton, Selah, Union Gap, Moxee)
Dan Olson, City of Union Gap
- 5). Area 2 Representative (Wapato, Toppenish, Zillah, Harrah)
Janice Gonzales, City of Zillah
- 6). Area 3 Representative (Grandview, Granger, Mabton)
Mario Martinez, City of Mabton
- 7). Member at Large –John Hodkinson Jr.

Mr. Restucci informed the membership that the YVCOG bylaws also allow nominations from the floor and asked there were any nominations at that time. No nominations were made.
City of Union Gap Moves.
Town of Naches seconded.

Motion Carried.

YVCOG NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Director's Message

Larry Mattson, YVCOG Executive Director, gave a brief synopsis of what will be happening at YVCOG for the next 6 months. One of the first things that we will be working on with the Executive Committee will be a strategic plan that will help guide us for the next 2-3 years. This strategic planning session will happen sometime during March and April. The website will get an update with a much more modern look, user friendly, and will have an active calendar to keep track of upcoming events. The Project Homeless Connect event took place on January 27th and 28th. There were four locations for this event. On January 27th the PHC event took place in Sunnyside and at the Yakama Nation and on the 28th it was in Toppenish and Yakima.

YVCOG General Membership meetings we will have a networking table. Please place any business cards, upcoming meetings, and/or event announcements on this table to share with the Membership.

Funder's Forum

Ms. Conrad, with YVCOG, reported that we will be having our second funder's forum on March 9th. YVCOG will be featuring all of the Washington State agencies that fund roads, water, sewer, community facilities, etc. At the forum all of the State agencies will be presenting, you will be able to ask questions, and there will be time to meet with agencies one-on-one to discuss your projects. It will be a great opportunity to network and learn if your project could compete for funding. At this point a location and time have not been established.

Informational: March 9th Save the Date.

PROGRAM

Returning Passenger Rail to Central Washington

Lloyd Flem, Executive Director, and Loren Herrigstad, from All Aboard Washington came to the YVCOG General Membership meeting to discuss bringing passenger rail service back to the valley.

All Aboard Washington is a non-profit, tax deductible, 501-C3 organization. Our membership is comprised of citizens, businesses, and other groups that share our goals. All members of the association are volunteers except for Lloyd Flem who receives a modest stipend. All Aboard Washington is a consumer oriented, rail advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the improvement of passenger and freight rail transportation in the state of Washington. We are active supporters of the Amtrak Cascades and all intercity passenger rail service in our state and are involved in projects such as making permanent the third Cascades round-trip between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., investment of the high speed rail stimulus dollars, and preservation of the Eastside rail corridor in

King County. However, their main focus is intercity passenger rail services throughout the State.

At their January Board meeting All Aboard Washington the formally adopted a long-term goal to return passenger trains to the Yakima Valley.

Mr Herrigstad reported that if the Yakima Valley communities worked together that they could end up bringing a 'Yakima Valley Trailway' to our area. A trailway is Rail and Trails working together to create larger funding opportunities that these two groups wouldn't have on their own. Trails and Rails could combined efforts to make a greater impact. For instance, a rail station could also service a trail area with bathrooms and guided trail maps/leads while helping the rail customers. Combining both efforts could attract other businesses like a café or a bike fix-it repair shop and you then have tenants and an income. Adding passenger trains and trails to the Yakima Valley will hopefully bring more economic development to our area.

Informational: The All Aboard Washington association will be having a meeting May 14th meeting in Toppenish. More details to come.

OTHER BUSINESS

LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Ahtanum Youth Park (1000 Ahtanum Rd, Union Gap, WA 98903) – March 16th. The Program will be VERG (Visual Engineering Resource Group)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

With no further business, Mr. Restucci adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: 3-16-16


Jessica Hansen, Office and Communication Specialist