

YVCOG GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES  
December 13, 2017

PRESENT:

Grandview: Bill Moore-A  
Granger: n/a  
Harrah: n/a  
Mabton: Sophie Sotelo-M  
Moxee: n/a  
Naches: n/a  
Selah: Russell Carlson-M  
Sunnyside: n/a  
Tieton: n/a  
Toppenish: Clara Jimenez-A  
Union Gap: n/a  
Wapato: Santos Valdez-A  
Yakima: n/a  
Yakima County: Ron Anderson - M  
Zillah: Janice Gonzales-M, Ardele Steele-PC, Doug Stewart-A

ABSENT:

Grandview: Norm Childress-M, Don Olmstead-PC,  
Granger: Maria Gonzalez-A, Lilia Villarreal-A, Hilda Guzman-PC  
Harrah: Gracie Wilson-M, Pat Krueger-A  
Mabton: Arturo De La Fuente-A  
Moxee: LeRoy Lenseigne-M, David Roy-A  
Naches: Kit Hawver-M, Suzi Williams-A  
Selah: Roger Bell -A, Lisa Smith -PC  
Sunnyside: Jim Restucci-A, Julia Hart-A; DeAnn Hochhalter-PC  
Tieton: Matt Johnson-M, Dewane Ashbrooks-A  
Toppenish: J. Eligio Jimenez-M, Elpidia Saavedra-PC  
Union Gap: Roger Wentz-M, Mark Carney-A, Sandra Dailey-PC  
Wapato: Golia Elwell-M, Tim Thompson-PC  
Yakima: Vacant-M, Vacant-A, Vacant-PC  
Yakima County: Mike Leita-M, J. Rand Elliott-M, Vacant-PC  
Zillah: Doug Stewart-A, Ardele Steele-PC/A

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

**Additional Attendees:** Grandview: n/a; Granger: Magalie Roman-Estrada; Mabton: n/a; Moxee: n/a; Naches: n/a; Selah: Sherry Raymond; Sunnyside: n/a; Tieton: n/a; Toppenish: Al Hubert (sp?); Union Gap: n/a; Wapato: Juan Orozco; Yakima: n/a; Zillah: n/a;  
**Others:** Mary Anderson, Brad Cooper, Merry Daley, David Gonzales, John Hodkinson, Sandee Hodkinson, Kristin Larsen, Jenny Mattson, Craig Testerman, Kevin Wickenhagen  
**Speakers:** John Bowen, Lowel Krueger, Noah Westbay  
**YVCOG Staff:** Alan Adolf, Brian Galloway, Tami Hayward, Lance Larsen, Larry Mattson, Jodi Smith, Crystal Testerman, Chris Wickenhagen

CALL TO ORDER  
INTRODUCTIONS  
ROLL CALL

Vice Chair John Hodkinson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. (Dinner break from 7:05 – 7:37 p.m.) The meeting was hosted by the City of Yakima by FairBridge Inn. 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

John Hodkinson welcomed everyone to the City of Yakima.

BUSINESS

*Approval of Minutes*

Ms. Gonzales (Zillah) moved to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2017 meeting. Mr. Moore (Grandview) seconded. The motion carried.

*Executive Committee  
Nominating Committee*

Ms. Clara Jimenez-Toppenish, Ms. Sherry Raymond-Selah, Mr. Juan Orozco-Wapato volunteered to work on Executive Committee recruitment.

*2017 YVCOG Budget  
Amendment*

Mr. Hodkinson considered a motion to amend the 2017 YVCOG budget. Ms. Janice Gonzales moved to approve the 2017 YVCOG Budget Amendment by Resolution 2017-5. Mr. Ron Anderson seconded. The motion carried.

*2017 Outstanding Service  
Award*

Mr. John Hodkinson presented Lowel Krueger with the 2017 Outstanding Service Award in recognition of his exceptional leadership in affordable housing and chairing the Homeless Planning and Policy Council.

PROGRAM

*Annual YVCOG Program  
Manager Updates*

Alan Adolf, YVCOG Transportation Program Manager updated the membership on certifications of transportation plans for municipalities, grants

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A recording of this meeting is available.  
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for Safe Schools, updating the Human Services Transportation Plan, Commute Trip Reduction, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality. Mr. Adolf paid tribute to Brian Curtin who passed away earlier this year, and introduced Mr. Brian Galloway as YVCOG's CTR Coordinator.

Mr. Larry Mattson spoke for Mr. Mike Shuttleworth who could not attend. 2017 was the year for updating your jurisdiction's Comprehensive Plan. YVCOG is pleased to offer planning and technical assistance for new projects. YVCOG is pleased to offer a grant research and writing service.

Ms. Crystal Testerman spoke about the YVCOG Homeless Program. In 2017, increased staff from 1 to 3. Lance Larsen is Financial Coordinator and William Denton is Program Coordinator. This has resulted in increasing program efficiencies. Received approval from Commerce that we are officially compliant with the requirement for Coordinated Entry. Yakima has been in noncompliance for the past 3 years, so this is an important breakthrough. Ms. Testerman also spoke about forming partnerships with local providers, standardizing the competitive RFP process, learning about best practices, standardizing data collection, and collaborating with grant writers for a successful Collaborative Application. Goals for 2018 include working on new and innovative ways to create performance based funding decisions, and creating a "data dashboard" that educates and provides our members with transparency.

#### *Central Washington Passenger Rail Usage Study Results*

Mr. Alan Adolf introduced Dr. John Bowen and Mr. Noah Westbay from Central Washington University. Dr. Bowen presented information on rail service through the Stampede Pass corridor.

Opened in 1888, a 2-mile rail tunnel is located not far from I-90. Passenger service ended in 1981. In 1983, freight rail service ended. In 1996, freight service resumed.

In 2001, WSDOT conducted a study that reported that it would cost an estimated \$350 million to restore to passenger rail standards. In today's dollars, it would be about \$500 million. Passenger rail would give an alternative route when Snoqualmie Pass is congested due to collisions, avalanches and high traffic.

One of the reasons why passenger rail may not be invested is that population densities are much greater on the west side of the mountains. County to County commuting, 326 people are commuting from Yakima to King County. A fraction of these would utilize rail service. But when added to other counties, could form a critical mass. Also, commuting to sporting events and other destinations like CWU, Suncadia, wineries and other places could help to make funding passenger rail service possible.

Mr. Westbay noted some advantage of opening rail service all the way to Pasco. This gives passengers other options of travelling on to Portland, Spokane, and beyond. Subsidized service would help many low-income residents. The survey shows high support among young people, senior citizens and Yakima. Yakima is the largest city in the state without any passenger rail connections.

Survey shows funding should come through a combination of state and private funding. Most people showed strong support for passenger rail service.

Dr. Bowen presented "next steps" for this research. The State must commission a more comprehensive study that will convince State Legislators and other key decision makers for funding. A full study would answer questions such as: How much revenue would rail generate? How much would it cost in subsidies?

March 2014, Washington State released its last rail study. Not one passenger rail investment was outlined for the east part of the state. Lots of possibilities have been floated, but no funding has been committed.

More information can be found at <https://stampedeassrailstudy.com/>

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Larry Mattson spoke about the 2018 Solutions Summit, to be held April 15 through April 17, 2018 at Suncadia Resort. The conference will be filled with great ideas to generate new revenue and create leaner government.

**LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

Mr. Russell Carlson and Mayor Sherry Raymond offered the City of Selah to host the January 17, 2018 General Membership meeting.


**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURN**

With no further business, Mr. Hodkinson adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: 17 JAN 2018



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Jodi Smith, Office Specialist