

YVCOG GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2015

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: Jane Williams-M
Sunnyside:

Tieton: Stan Hall-A Stan Hall-A
Toppenish: Clara Jimenez -M, Derald Ortloff-A
Union Gap: Roger Wentz-M
Wapato: Jesse Farias-M, Jim Gerred-PC
Yakima:
Yakima County: Kevin Bouchey-M
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 Vacant-PC
Selah: John Tierney-A, Willie Quinnell -PC
Sunnyside: Jim Restucci-M, Spencer Martin-A, DeAnn Hochhalter-PC
Tieton: Felisa Cox-M, Jenny Korens-PC
Toppenish: Derald Ortloff-A Christina Kwan-PC
Union Gap: Mark Carney-A, Michael Moore-PC
Wapato: Santos Valdez-A
Yakima: Rick Ensey-M, Bill Lover-A, Vacant-PC
Yakima County: Mike Leita-M, Rand Elliott
Zillah:

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

Attendees: Grandview: Santos Trevino, Mike Everett; Granger: n/a; Harrah: n/a; Mabton: Mario Martinez, Walt Bratton; Moxee: n/a; Naches: n/a; Selah: n/a; Sunnyside: n/a; Toppenish: Lance Hoyt; Tieton: n/a; Union Gap: Dan Olson, David Spurlock, Greg Cobb, Rod Otterness, Dave Mattson; Wapato: Peggie Gerred; Yakima: n/a; Zillah: n/a; **Others:** Rep. Bruce Chandler, Sen. Curtis King, Madelyn Carlson, Brian White (WSDOT), John Hodkinson, Sandee Hodkinson, Kevin Wickenhagen, Bruce Williams, and Merry Daley; YVCOG Staff: Larry Mattson, Chris Wickenhagen, Tim Sullivan, and Tami Hayward.

CALL TO ORDER
INTRODUCTIONS
ROLL CALL

Vice Chairman Hodkinson called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. (Dinner break from 7:05 – 7:35 p.m.) The meeting was hosted by the City of Union Gap at the Ahtanum Youth Park Barn. 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 Roger Wentz welcomed everyone to the City of Union Gap.

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hodkinson entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 20, 2015 General Membership Meeting. Ms. Jimenez, Toppenish, moved to approve the Minutes and Ms. Gonzales, Zillah, seconded. The motion carried.

YVCOG NEWS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Director's Message

Larry Mattson, YVCOG Executive Director, reminded the members of the free Short Course on Economic Development, which will be held on September 29th in Union Gap. The course will be held in the afternoon and will last about three hours. Flyers available.

Mr. Mattson thanked the cities that have given us their updated data for the regional transportation model.

Continuing work with the Emergency Management offices of Yakima County and the City of Yakima on the catastrophic evacuation plan.

We are in the process of preparing a new MPO/RTPO interlocal agreement to replace the one that was lost in the YVCOG fire in 1994. We will be presenting it to your City Councils for approval in the next few months.

Attempting to bring some additional training to law enforcement regarding mental health. May be partnering with Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health. A lot of the homeless people have chemical dependency and mental health issues. It is one more way to help law enforcement respond more humanely to the homeless.

Working on Homeless Planning & Policy Council. Need a nominee from the upper valley and the lower valley. Must be an elected official. Will be creating the strategic plan and will be laying the groundwork for the next few years. If you are interested, contact Mr. Mattson or anyone on the Executive Committee. The Council will meet once a month, during the day, for about an hour and a half.

PROGRAM

211 Update by Madelyn Carlson, People for People

Ms. Carlson, People for People CEO, announced that People for People is celebrating their 50th anniversary. Jim Restucci is the current board president. PFP provides human services throughout Central Washington by assisting individuals with transportation, meals, and many other services. They also provide training programs through WorkSource.

Ms. Carlson spoke on the services provided by the 2-1-1 program, which is sponsored by People for People and United Way. They took over 33,000 calls last year. Free and easy to remember number for people to call to find out about social and health services. Volunteers and providers are connected with those in need. Helps free up the 9-1-1 system.

A lot of data available by ZIP code – a great resource – on what services people are requesting, etc.

2-1-1 serves Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Cowlitz, Douglas, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima counties.

2015 Legislative Update by Senator Curtis King and Representative Bruce Chandler

Senator Curtis King and Representative Bruce Chandler spoke on accomplishments of the most recent legislative session. The Washington state legislature consists of 75 democrats and 74 republicans.

Other major accomplishments were the reduction of university and community college tuition between 15% and 20% (which is, in effect, a tax cut for the middle class), and the passage of a \$16.1 billion transportation package (a gas tax increase was necessary. It was a need that had to be addressed).

Sales tax on transportation projects will go back into Transportation, beginning in 2020 instead of the General Fund, resulting in approximately \$518 million over the next 12 years.

Wildcat bridge replacement, reinforcement of Mabton bridges to full capacity, additional lanes from Union Gap to the twin bridges on I-82, ingress/egress at the south end of Union Gap, a new bridge across Yakima River to Terrace Heights and the roadway to that bridge, etc., have all been funded with this transportation package. With multi-modal funding, the package has also funded new busses for Yakima Transit, a bridge at the end of Cowiche Canyon Trail, and the missing link of the Yakima Greenway (Gleed to Yakima).

Both believed that the sessions extended far too long (into July), but that it all came together in accomplishing a very good budget. Focused on stability and sustainability. A new law requires the legislature to balance the budget over a 4-year period instead of 2 years.

Also discussed legislation reforming K-12 education passed in 2011-2012, protection of the most vulnerable, and future revenue.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Bouchey reminded the Members that the "3/10ths for Public Safety" vote is coming up. The initiative went into effect in 2005 and generates about \$6 million annually – 40% of that money is proportionately distributed to our cities. Safe Yakima Valley, and other valuable organizations, are dependent on this funding. He asked members to get the word out to their jurisdictions about how important it is that this initiative passes.

LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The City of Grandview volunteered to host the October 21, 2015 meeting.

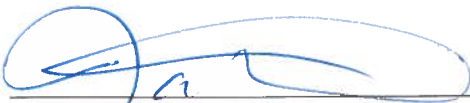
PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Mr. Hodkinson adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: 21 OCT 2015


Tamara D. Hayward, Office Specialist