

YVCOG General Membership Video Conference

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021

JURISDICTION	PRESENT	ABSENT
GRANDVIEW	Bill Moore-M;	Cus Arteaga-A
GRANGER	Lilia Villarreal-M; Julie Sharp-A	Veronica Bermudez-PC
HARRAH	Pat Krueger – M	
MABTON	Arturo Dela Fuente - A	Sophie Sotelo – M
MOXEE		David Mullen-M; Greg LaBree-A
NACHES	Kit Hawver – M;	Wayne Hawver - A
SELAH	Jacque Matson-M	Sherry Raymond-A; Lisa Smith-PC
SUNNYSIDE	Dean Broersma-M;	Francisco Guerrero-A
TIETON	Ed Marquand-M	Amy Oberrender-A
TOPPENISH	Naila Duval – A; Al Hubert-PC	Clara Jimenez-M;
UNION GAP	Jack Galloway-M	Sandy Dailey-A; Mike Moore-PC
WAPATO		Keith Workman – M; Margaret Estrada - A
YAKIMA CITY		Brad Hill-M; Holly Cousens-A
YAKIMA CO.	Ron Anderson – M;	Amanda McKinney-M; LaDon Linde-M
ZILLAH	Janice Gonzales-M; Ardele Steele-PC/A	Doug Stewart-A

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

Speakers: Scott Kuhta, Department of Commerce

Additional Attendees:	Others: Gloria Mendoza (Grandview); Jose Trevino, Hilda Guzman (Granger); Martin Casey, Jim Restucci (Sunnyside); George Garcia, Lance Hoyt, Heidi Riojas (Toppenish); John Hodgkinson (Union Gap); Vicki Holleman-Perez (???); Troy Suing (WSDOT)
YVCOG Staff	Chris Wickenhagen, Alan Adolf, Lynn Deitrick, Vicki Baker, Jodi Smith, Shane Andreas, and Tami Hayward.

CALL TO ORDER: James Restucci, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. The meeting was hosted via ZOOM. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL

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 Jose Trevino, Mayor of the City of Granger, opened the meeting with an update on recent and upcoming achievements and happenings in Granger.

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2021 General Membership Meeting Yakima County moved to approve the [Minutes from March 17, 2021](#). The City of Zillah seconded. *The motion carried.*

PROGRAM

Land Use and the Growth Management Act (GMA) – presented by Scott Kuhta, Senior Planner for the Washington Department of Commerce. Mr. Kuhta provided a high-level overview of land use and GMA.

The Department of Commerce has a great diversity of programs. They all impact planning issues. The Department's mission is to strengthen communities.

Planning provides a long-term vision for communities - the decisions have lasting impacts and long-term impacts. Shared vision.

Communities must be ready for growth, and have plans and infrastructure in place. The people need to have a voice in the process. To be well informed, the public must have good facts and data. They want to know how it is going to impact their lives, neighborhoods and businesses. Early and consistent citizen participation is important.

14 goals (not ranked) of the Growth Management Act deal with urban growth/sprawl, transportation, affordable housing, property rights, economic development, permitting, etc., and includes managing shoreline development.

The GMA requires Comp Plans to be updated every 8 years (next will be 2026 in Yakima County). If your plans aren't updated, your jurisdiction isn't eligible for certain grants and loans. Plans must include Land Use; Housing; Capital Facilities; Utilities; Transportation; and Rural (for counties).

Moxee provides a good example of what the GMA is trying to accomplish - having an urban and residential area that transitions into rural and agricultural land. Rural areas should be 5 acres or more.

Critical areas must be protected. (1) Fish & Wildlife Habitat Conservation areas; (2) Uplands areas; (3) Wetlands areas; (4) Geologically Hazardous areas; and (5) Critical Aquifer Recharge areas.

City staff is very valuable – helping citizens with questions, issuing permits; preparing reports, etc.

Contact Information:

Scott Kuhta, AICP

Senior Planner, Growth Management Services
Local Government & Infrastructure Division
Office and Mobile: 509-795-6884

Washington State Department of Commerce

10 N. Post St., Suite 445, Spokane WA 99201
www.commerce.wa.gov

WSDOT UPDATE

Troy Suing updated the membership on various issues relating to the transportation budget that was recently passed.

- \$8.1 billion – largest transportation budget ever.
- Preservation funding remains the same, along with Connecting Washington projects.
- About \$600 million of the remaining stimulus funding went to backfill some of the loss in revenue from various transportation programs, and \$400 million went to the fish culvert injunction issue, so that is a big help.

- Good for another 2 years and looking forward to potential new revenue to help fix some maintenance and preservation issues.
- Will slowing begin transitioning back into the office in mid-August, but strongly urging people to continue teleworking.

UPCOMING GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

2021 meetings may be held via Zoom, or we may be able to meet in one of our cities.

Meeting dates: September 15 - Grandview
October 20 - Zillah
December 8 – City of Yakima

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chairman Restucci adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: _____

Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist