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

Additional Attendees:  
Others: Gloria Mendoza (Grandview); Jose Trevino, Hilda Guzman (Granger); Martin Casey, Jim Restucci (Sunnyside); George Garcia, Lance Hoyt, Heidi Riojas (Toppenish); John Hodkinson (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:  
INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL  
James Restucci, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. The meeting was hosted via ZOOM. 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  
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
Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist