

**YVCOG General Membership Video Conference
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 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	Sophie Sotelo – M	Arturo Dela Fuente - A
MOXEE		David Mullen-M; Greg LaBree-A
NACHES	Kit Hawver – M;	Wayne Hawver - A
SELAH	Jacquie Matson-M; Sherry Raymond-A	Lisa Smith-PC
SUNNYSIDE		Dean Broersma-M; Francisco Guerrero-A
TIETON	Ed Marquand-M	Amy Oberrender-A
TOPPENISH	Clara Jimenez-M; Al Hubert-PC	Naila Duval – A;
UNION GAP	Jack Galloway-M	Sandy Dailey-A; Mike Moore-PC
WAPATO	Margaret Estrada - A	Keith Workman – M;
YAKIMA CITY		Brad Hill-M; Holly Cousens-A
YAKIMA CO.	Ron Anderson – M	Amanda McKinney-M; LaDon Linde-M
ZILLAH	Janice Gonzales-M; Doug Stewart-A; Ardele Steele-PC/A	
Note: M=Member; A=Alternate; PC =Planning Commission		
Speakers: Ron Hanna – Gang Prevention Intervention; Joseph Brusic – Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney		
Additional Attendees:	Others: Hilda Guzman (Granger); Madelyn Carlson (People for People); Joe Henne, Dan Christman (Selah); Jim Restucci (Sunnyside); John Clary, George Garcia, Lance Hoyt, Mitch Nickolds (Toppenish); Arlene Fisher, John Hodgkinson, Jeff Shoemaker (Union Gap); Troy Suing (WSDOT); Joseph Brusic (Yakima County); Jon Smith (YCDA); Scott Carmack (Zillah); Rep. Bruce Chandler (14 th District); Tim Quantrell; Ron Hanna; Paul ??	
YVCOG Staff	Chris Wickenhagen, Alan Adolf, Lynn Deitrick, Jodi Smith, Shane Andreas, and Tami Hayward.	

CALL TO ORDER: James Restucci, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02 p.m.
INTRODUCTIONS AND The meeting was hosted via ZOOM. A quorum was present.
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 Scott Carmack, Mayor of the City of Zillah, opened the meeting with an update on recent and upcoming achievements and happenings in Zillah.

BUSINESS

Homeless & Housing Program Chairman Restucci provided an update on the status of the correspondence between YVCOG and the County Commissioners – the Commissioners have not yet come to a decision, but they are meeting to deliver a timely response (per email from Amanda McKinney). Prosecuting Attorney, Joe Brusic, reassured

the members that the Commissioners are very close to completing and returning their formal response on this matter to YVCOG.

*Approval of Minutes –
[September 15, 2021](#) General
Membership Meeting*

The City of Union Gap moved to approve the Minutes from September 15, 2021. The City of Toppenish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2022 YVCOG Proposed Budget

Executive Director, Chris Wickenhagen, presented the proposed 2022 YVCOG Budget to the General Membership.

The proposed budget (\$1,914,726.00) shows an increase of 22.4%, which is due to additional federal funding through a grant that YVCOG received.

John Hodkinson, member of the 2022 Budget Subcommittee, mentioned that increased assessments are the result of an increase in population.

Decision: *The City of Grandview moved to approve [Resolution 2021-2](#) of the YVCOG 2022 Balanced Budget. The City of Union Gap seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

INFORMATIONAL

Jim Restucci, YVCOG General Membership Chair

- Executive Committee member elections are coming up in February. Nominating committee will be appointed at the December General Membership Meeting. Executive Committee members will serve a two-year term.
- The YVCOG Outstanding Service Award will be awarded at the December General Membership Meeting. Please send nominations to YVCOG Executive Director, Chris Wickenhagen. We have received one nomination so far.

Informational

PROGRAM

Public Safety

The November program was presented by Ron Hanna, Executive Director of El Nuevo Camino, and Joseph Brusic, Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney.

Ron Hanna – Gang Prevention

Before COVID hit, the legislature awarded El Nuevo Camino (ENC) pilot project \$400,000, but it was vetoed by the Governor, due to COVID. Mr. Hanna has contact Sheriff Udell, asking for his input. Sheriff Udell believes we need a two-pronged approach – we need to work on suppression and prosecution, and also on prevention and early intervention.

ENC has had a couple of long-range problems. One of the problems is that although we've had a lot of very successful short-term programs, they haven't been continued. The other problem is that we are working with a microcosm

part of the population – we need to work with enough kids to make a significant difference ... we can't kill an elephant with a bb gun.

In 2009 the McArthur Foundation did a study of Benton-Franklin counties' Juvenile Justice Needs Assessment – they found that the largest challenges to youth in Central Washington are gangs, alcohol, drugs, truancy, lack of activities, violence, abuse, and family problems. They recognized the need of afterschool programs, youth centers, job training, prevention, early intervention, counseling to improve communication between youth and parents, and truancy assessment.

The juvenile system is like the tip of the iceberg ... the kids that are serious offenders are in institutions or are on parole and taking part in evidence treatment and they represent a very small percentage of the kids that are at risk. Washington state is a leader in serving juvenile offenders. The majority of at-risk youth are actually in schools – about 70% of these will drop out or are mentally ill (conduct disorders and other behavioral disorders), and 40% have co-occurring substance abuse disorders. If youth can be served by this program and prevented from becoming serious offenders, their lives can be turned around, and in time reducing crimes committed and the overall drug problem in central Washington.

El Nuevo Camino is a mentoring program. It matches high-risk youth with caring adults. Mentors are paid and have caseloads of about 20. Up to half of the mentors can be ex-gang members. There are background checks done on each of the mentors. Most of them have turned their lives around due to involvement in church.

Research shows mentoring programs have better outcomes than any other juvenile offender programs. Mentoring is also the most affordable program. The peak age of gang members is 14-15 years of age, that is why we're focusing on middle school and early high school level. Kids who stay in school are not nearly as likely to be involved with crime. Congress recognizes the importance of mentoring in improving school performance and decreasing delinquent activity.

In addition to mentoring at-risk youth, mentors will use about 20% of their time in assisting the kids in leaving gangs. The relationship is very effective when the mentor really cares and keeps improving their relationship skills. A mentoring program needs to last at least 9 months with each youth.

Currently waiting to hear from 13 school districts in central Washington as to whether or not they would like to participate, and the approximate numbers of youth that would need services.

ENC is now in the process of developing a legislative budget request. In 2020 every one of our 15 central Washington legislators signed the request. We are also seeking support from the cities, school districts, law enforcement units, ranchers and farmers, etc. Hoping to establish a 5-year plan instead of a 2-year plan. Support from YVCOG is important.

Joseph Brusic – Proposition 1 (3/10 tax) –

The 3/10 tax began in 2005 – this is the 4th time going out for re-approval. The tax amounts to \$0.30 of every \$100 spent in Yakima County and fuels our law and justice system.

In 2022 it will bring in about \$13.3 million - \$8 million will go to Yakima County and the rest is divided, percentage wise, among the municipalities.

This is a law and safety tax. If it doesn't pass, it will change the concept of our government, starting at the top ... the Sheriff's Office and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office receive about 28% of their annual budget from this tax (12 Sheriff's deputies and 7-8 full-time felony prosecuting attorneys), and the Department of Assigned Counsel receives about 22% of their budget through it, with the Superior Court receiving over 5% of their annual budget.

This tax has become imbedded in all of the law and justice budgets, and if Proposition 1 passes, it will become permanent. This is not a tax increase – this is an existing tax and isn't about going out and spending a bunch of new money, we need these funds to maintain our current workforce and equipment.

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: December 8 – City of Yakima

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chairman Restucci adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: _____

Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist