

YVCOG General Membership Video Conference
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2022

JURISDICTION	PRESENT	ABSENT
GRANDVIEW	Bill Moore-M;	Gloria Mendoza-A
GRANGER		Ryan Stonemetz – M; Susie Munoz - A
HARRAH	Pat Krueger – M	
MABTON	Andy Carrasco - A	Arturo Dela Fuente – M;
MOXEE		David Roy – M; Greg Spurgin - A
NACHES	Paul Williams – M	Suzanne Williams – A
SELAH	Sherry Raymond – M; Clifford Peterson – A	Jeff Peters - PC
SUNNYSIDE		Julia Hart – M; Vicki Ripley – A; David Rand - PC
TIETON	Ed Marquand-M	Matt Riddle - A
TOPPENISH	Clara Jimenez-M; Naila Duval – A; Al Hubert-PC	
UNION GAP	James Murr – M; Dave Hansen – A; Jeff Shoemaker - PC	
WAPATO	Margaret Estrada – M	Elizabeth Villa - A
YAKIMA CITY	Patricia Byers - M	
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

Speaker: Madelyn Carlson, People for People CEO

Additional Attendees:

Others: Jose Trevino (Granger); Jim Restucci (Sunnyside); Lance Hoyt, George Garcia, Al Hubert (Toppenish); John Hodgkinson, Jack Galloway (Union Gap); Randy Giles (WSDOT);

YVCOG Staff

Alan Adolf; Shane Andreas, Vicki Baker, Lynn Deitrick, Byron Gumz, Tami Hayward, Jodi Smith, Jeff Watson, and Chris Wickenhagen.

CALL TO ORDER:
INTRODUCTIONS AND
ROLL CALL

James Restucci, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:03 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

Sherry Raymond, Mayor of the City of Selah, welcomed the General Membership and guests to YVCOG’s February meeting.

BUSINESS

*Approval of Minutes –
[December 8, 2021](#) General
Membership Meeting*

The City of Grandview moved to approve the Minutes from December 8, 2021. The City of Zillah seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chris Wickenhagen (Executive Director) announced that Lynn Deitrick will be retiring at the end of March and introduced new staff member Byron Gumz.

She provided an update on the Newly-Electeds and Re-Electeds Meeting – over 60 people attended. She also gave a brief explanation of who COG is and the various meetings and programs.

Shane Andreas (Financial Specialist) explained that COG is required to have a balanced budget. The budget was passed in October. COG receives funding through grants or reimbursements for services for members. COG has no taxing authority and only charges the cost to support services or programs.

Lynn Deitrick (Planning Manager) explained that YVCOG assists cities in the region who can't afford to have a planner on staff. COG assists to process applications under the codes that have been adopted within the jurisdiction. COG assists with Comp Plan Updates (which will be coming up again in the next couple of years), by helping members stay in line with state requirements.

Alan Adolf (Transportation Program Manager) announced that former YVCOG Land Use Planner, Jeff Watson, moved into the YVCOG Transportation Planner position. COG's primary responsibility is assisting jurisdictions in getting their federal transportation projects processed, funded, and ultimately constructed. COG coordinates with WSDOT, Federal Highways, Federal Transit, Federal Aviation and Federal Rail to plan out federally-funded projects. Other transportation plans such as HSTP (Human Services Transportation Plan), are currently being updated. COG is performing a regional Transit Feasibility Study. The effort will look at existing inventory from busses, equipment, facilities, to look at improving transit services. COG performs modeling and data collection. A new program called Streetlight, tracks origin and destination travel by phone pinging – this will assist with the transportation model and several other programs that COG provides.

Vicki Baker (Regional Program Manager) spoke about four major projects -

- Kresge Grant – working on land trust housing project with Habitat for Humanity in Toppenish, including a fenced playground, greenspace, and a walking path. Senator Honeyford is supporting this prototype project. These homes would be owned and homeowners will pay taxes, but YVCOG would maintain the neighborhood landscaped property.
- Housing Action Plan – COG is working on plans for 6 cities. This won't cost the cities but will help them grow.
- Law Enforcement Project – connecting the police and the communities. Working with all of the cities and Yakima County. Rebuilding trust and relationships.
- Regional Crime Resource Center – this 4th project came up while conducting the All-Chiefs meetings. COG is working on a way to create a regional crime resource center will work on the Valley's crime problem, including the purchase and operation of a ballistics testing machine. Testing is currently done in Tri-Cities or Cheney. COG would be inputting data into GIS mapping software, showing crime patterns as they emerge.

Election of 2022-2023 YVCOG Executive Committee:

Chairman Restucci asked Jack Galloway to the Nominating Committee report. The following areas retained their current representatives:

Area 1: John Hodkinson
City of Sunnyside: Jim Restucci
City of Yakima: Patricia Byers

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A recording of this meeting is available

Member-at-large – Sherry Raymond
Yakima County – Yakima County Commissioners

There were two contested positions:

- Area 2: two candidates - Janice Gonzales (Zillah) and George Garcia (Toppenish)
- Area 3: two candidates – Bill Moore (Grandview) and Jose Trevino (Granger)

An online poll of General Membership voting members was conducted with the following results:

- Area 2: Janice Gonzales
- Area 3: Jose Trevino

PROGRAM

Chairman Restucci introduced Madelyn Carlson, People for People CEO.

Madelyn provided an interesting presentation on the history of People for People and the many services they provide within our region

Formed in 1965 under the Johnson Administration’s ‘war against poverty.’ Most people associate PFP with busses, but they have a much larger footprint throughout Washington state. 35 counties are touched with their services.

Board of Directors consists of 8 volunteer members who make sure PFP is fiscally accountable and adhering to their mission.

People for People currently operates with a \$22.4 million budget and are thankful to have 169 very dedicated and committed employees.

Services include:

- Employment and Training Resources – Kittitas, Klickitat, Skamania and Yakima – over 1200 individuals each year.
- Transportation in Yakima, Grant, Adams, Lincoln, Chelan and Douglas counties. People for People logs over a million miles per year. Providing transportation to those outside the public transit system, or who have no transportation of their own. Also free, fixed-route transportation – Community Connectors.
- Non-Emergency Medical Transportation for individuals on Medicaid – transportation to healthcare providers. In 9 counties. Gas vouchers, transit tickets, door-to-door, etc. Over 100,000 trips per year. Even airfare and lodging costs are provided on occasion.
- Greater Columbia 2-1-1 Information and Referral Call Center – this is a number to call when in need of health and human services. Tax preparation recommendations, food, housing, transportation, etc. Last year there were almost 100,000 calls received. Over 475,000 calls since March of 2020. During Covid they went from 500 calls a day to 10,000 the day after MLK day in 2021 – looking for vaccine appointments. People for People brought on 300 additional staff during that time.
- Administrator for the Washington 2-1-1 statewide system.

- Meals-On-Wheels – doing all home delivered meals since Covid began – also doing frequent check-ins to make sure needs are being met for people and for their pets. Also at least one Christmas gift under their tree – something they want. Meals increased from 9,800 per month to over 14,000 during Covid. Looking for a centralized kitchen and have purchased property in Union Gap. They need to raise \$2 million for this project, and hope to break ground in 2022.
- Basic Food Outreach – simply dial 211 to apply for basic food assistance. This service is provided for 35 counties in Washington state.
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman – volunteers trained to advocate for the rights of residents in long-term care facilities.

Information

UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

2022 General Membership meetings may be held via Zoom, or we may be able to meet in one of our cities.

May 18, 2022 – Yakima	October 19, 2022 - Sunnyside
September 21, 2022 – Grandview	December 14, 2022 - YVCOG

PUBLIC COMMENT

YVCOG Executive Director thanked Bill Moore for his service and his support during his time on the Executive Committee. Chairman Restucci also expressed thanks and asked him to stay involved.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chairman Restucci adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

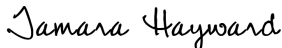


Digitally signed by Hon.
James A. Restucci
Reason: I am approving this document
Location: Yakima County WA
Date: 2022.03.28
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Date signed: 3/28/2022

James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

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Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist