

**YVCOG General Membership Video Conference
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2022**

JURISDICTION	PRESENT	ABSENT
GRANDVIEW	Bill Moore-M;	Gloria Mendoza-A
GRANGER	Ryan Stonemetz – M;	Susie Munoz - A
HARRAH		Pat Krueger – M
MABTON		Arturo Dela Fuente – M; Andy Carrasco - A
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; Al Hubert-PC	Naila Duval – A;
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

Speakers: Yakima County Sheriff – Bob Udell
 Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney – Joe Brusic
 ESRI Criminal Analysis – Bob Sheldon
 ATF Agent

Additional Attendees: Others: Jeanna Hernandez, Joan Souders (Grandview); Jose Trevino (Granger); Kevin Wickenhagen (Selah); Jim Restucci, DeLeesa Restucci (Sunnyside); Debbie Zabell, Elpidia Saavedra, George Garcia, John Clary (Toppenish); John Hodkinson (Union Gap); Caroline Solis, Nolan Wentz (Wapato); Janice Deccio (Yakima); Sharon Bounds, Scott Carmack, Tim Quantrell (Zillah); Madelyn Carlson (PFP); Todd Trepanier (WSDOT); Representative Bruce Chandler; Senator Curtis King; Raquel Crowley (US Senator Patty Murray’s office); needj, Thomas Brandon, Dan Cristman, Al Escalera, pdwil, ARAC Merritt, Brandon H., Matthew McCay, Angela Kerndl, S/A Butler, Brynn Sides

YVCOG Staff Alan Adolf, Shane Andreas, Vicki Baker, Lynn Deitrick, Tami Hayward, Maria Lopez, John Rohrbaugh, Jodi Smith, Jeff Watson, and Chris Wickenhagen.

CALL TO ORDER: James Restucci, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02 p.m.
INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL 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 Elpidia Saavedra, Mayor of the City of Toppenish, welcomed the General Membership and guests to YVCOG’s March meeting.

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes – [February 16, 2022](#) General Membership Meeting The City of Union Gap moved to approve the Minutes from February 16, 2022. The City of Selah seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chris Wickenhagen (Executive Director) – provided a short slide presentation on what COG’s do: coordinate and administer programs and services to their members. There are over 500 COGs throughout the US performing all kinds of services. COGs recruit and hire expert staff to administer and oversee programs/services requested by their jurisdictions. At YVCOG, there is one person (voting member *or* alternate) from each municipality on the General Membership board – the board is responsible for making sure the budget is balanced and adopted in October of each year and is also responsible for selecting the YVCOG Executive Committee.

Shane Andreas (Financial Specialist) – announced that all of YVCOG’s members have paid their 2022 general assessments and local match payments. YVCOG’s 2022 budget is on track.

Lynn Deitrick (Planning Manager) – provided a high-level update on YVCOG land-use planning activities.

Alan Adolf (Transportation Program Manager) –

- Washington State Transportation Commission will be meeting in Union Gap in April. This will be the Commission’s first in-person meeting in two years – it will be a Zoom hybrid meeting.
- Beginning Transit Feasibility Study. Effort to inventory all of the transportation resources we have in Yakima County. There will be an electronic survey going out in late April/early May.

Vicki Baker (Regional Program Manager) - reported on the Housing Action Plan program progress, along with information on the groundbreaking Toppenish housing prototype. YVCOG is currently working with Commerce to identify ways to support the Police Chiefs and Sheriffs. While meeting with law enforcement in our communities, a need for a Regional Crime Center was discovered.

PROGRAM

The program consisted of four speakers who provided excellent presentations on the ways a Regional Crime Center would benefit Yakima County and participating municipalities.

- Public Safety – Yakima County Sheriff – Bob Udell
- Prosecuting and Evidence – Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney – Joe Brusic
- ESRI Criminal Analysis Demonstration – Bob Sheldon; and
- ATF NIBIN Demonstration – ATF Agent

A video recording of this meeting is available on the YVCOG website at: <https://youtu.be/u2Dlejcd1VE>. The public safety portion of the meeting begins at 22:45.

Bob Udell – Public safety is critical to our well-being and our financial prosperity. Yakima County has a reputation for crime.

14 jurisdictions in Yakima County operate under 7 different dispatch centers, and multiple radio systems. Operating largely independently but cooperate with each other. Crime in our county is generally above state averages. In 2019-2020, unincorporated Yakima County's homicide numbers led the northwest and were in the top numbers in the country – which is also indicative of smaller crimes.

Yakima County is not able to do a lot of testing in-house. Currently 200 cases behind. Most evidence is sent to the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab. He provided various examples of how delayed current DNA and drug/alcohol testing is with Yakima County's current available testing process. Various tests can take from several months up to a year. There have been times when the DNA evidence was not accepted by the Crime Lab unless it was a violent offense because they were so backlogged. If our region had its own testing center, law enforcement would be able to get most of these test results within about 20 minutes.

Crime is mobile – criminals don't stay within one jurisdiction. They travel and they share guns.

Yakima PD and Sunnyside each have a crime analyst. The Sheriff's office has used their analysts in the past, but most jurisdictions aren't able to do that. We need a Regional Crime Center, resulting in collaborating between all of our agencies and jurisdictions that would greatly assist in reducing crime in Yakima County. It would also help us in eliminating suspects.

The benefit of the Regional Crime Center would be huge and well worth the costs.

Joe Brusic – We often focus on our own jurisdictions and entities, and a Regional Crime Center is an opportunity for us to grow out of that mindset.

We do have serious crime in Yakima County. The county is a clearing house for all state felonies that occur within Yakima County municipalities and unincorporated Yakima County. The reality is that it is critically important for us to adopt this in some way. Making the system regional and more efficient, freeing up time for more efficient investigation.

Law enforcements investigate crimes and send referrals alleging crime to the Prosecuting Attorneys office, who then charge and prosecute the suspect. Quite often law enforcement cannot provide the needed evidence in a timely manner because of slow testing results, and this slows down the entire public safety process. Without evidence the prosecutors cannot prosecute. The opinions of law enforcement and prosecutors don't matter – all that really matters is what can be proven.

The County receives around 3,000 felony charges each year, and usually are unable to charge out 400-600 of them for various reasons. Charging out 2200 to 2500 felonies in Yakima County each year. Yakima County (population 265,000

people) usually charges out around 35 homicides annually, whereas King County (population 2.1 million) charges out 45 to 50.

We should have the long-term goal of preventing crime, rather than investigating and trying to suppress it.

A Regional Crime Center is a difference-maker. Every jurisdiction would have equal access to the benefits it would provide. It would make our public safety system more efficient and effective.

Mr. Brusic is fully supportive of the Regional Crime Center and urged Yakima County municipalities to talk and discuss this proposal.

ATF Agent – NIBIN demonstration – provided a video showing how the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network – a national network storing the details of every gun casing recovered from a crime scene. This speeds up gun crime intelligence. This machine would provide the ability to, within a few short hours, determine if that firearm has been used in another shooting within the region. The beauty of NIBIN is the speed with which it works. While there may be a high number of shooters in Yakima County, there is probably a low number of trigger pullers. Helps law enforcement determine where to place their limited resources.

Bob Sheldon – provided a video demonstration of how ArcGIS software (a platform created by Esri) can be used in the fight against crime by analyzing crime patterns. Assists in proactive policing by being able to see where your resources are and where crimes are occurring, in real time. Shows crime hot spots – location data is of utmost importance, along with collaboration across agencies and government agencies.

This software will soon be added to the police academy.

Data is pulled together from many sources enabling communication and collaborating amongst all agencies, because crime doesn't stop and city or county limits. Crime analysis identifies patterns and trends in offenders, victims, and places, to support crime reduction strategies.

About 20% of offenders are committing 80% of the crime.

Information can now be shared almost instantaneously.

A Question & Answer session followed the presentations.

Cost would be based on population.

Each city would have the ability to view specific information for their community.

ArcGIS data is pulled from almost any data source (Spillman and other 9-1-1 providers, etc.).

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.

YVCOG General Membership Special Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2022

A recording of this meeting is available

May 18, 2022 – Yakima
September 21, 2022 – Grandview

October 19, 2022 - Sunnyside
December 14, 2022 - YVCOG

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

ADJOURN With no further business, Chairman Restucci adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: 5/31/2022

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Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist