

YVCOG General Membership Video Conference  
Meeting Minutes  
May 18, 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	Naila Duval – A; Al Hubert-PC	Clara Jimenez-M;
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: Washington State Department of Commerce – Mark Barkley, Assistant Director of Local Government Division

Additional Attendees:

Others: Jim Restucci (Sunnyside); John Clary, George Garcia, Heidi Riojas, Debbie Zabell (Toppenish); Arlene Fisher, John Hodkinson (Union Gap); Todd Trepanier (WSDOT); Raquel Crowley (US Senator Patty Murray’s office); Buck Lucas (Dept. of Commerce); Adam Pawlowski, Plannings ipad; pdwil,

YVCOG Staff Alan Adolf; Shane Andreas, Vicki Baker, Byron Gumz, Tami Hayward, Sarah Hyndman, 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** Patricia Byers, City of Yakima council member, welcomed the General Membership and guests to YVCOG’s May meeting.

**BUSINESS**

*Approval of Minutes – [March 16, 2022](#) General Membership Meeting* Ron Anderson moved to approve the Minutes from March 16, 2022. Naila Duvall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**STAFF REPORTS** **Chris Wickenhagen (Executive Director)** – reported on last weekend’s City of Toppenish Council Retreat and opportunities for Strategic Visioning services by YVCOG.

YVCOG General Membership Special Meeting Minutes  
May 18, 2022  
A recording of this meeting is available

City of Yakima has approached YVCOG with administering an Anaerobic Digestion grant because they feel this is a regional project. If YVCOG decides to administer the grant, she will be reaching out to our cities to see if they are interested in participating.

YVCOG will be offering a Policies and Procedures training, provided by Peabody Communications. This online training will take place in August and will cost \$200 per person.

YVCOG recently completed meeting with WCIA. Cybersecurity is a top priority with them right now, so it is something they will probably be talking with each of you about during your audit process.

Regional Crime Resource Services Program – YVCOG staff has been meeting with our cities and many businesses regarding this program and are at the point of needing to put together numbers (based on population) for participating cities. Please contact YVCOG to let them know if your city IS NOT planning to participate, otherwise all cities will be included in the assessment.

General Membership meeting registration – catering cost increase from \$20 per person to \$25 per person. Any person who reserves a plate will be charged \$25 whether you attend or not because the caterer has prepared a plate for that person. *Decision: Patricia Byers moved to approve increasing the registration fee from \$20 to \$25. Bill Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

**Byron Gumz (Planning Manager)** – provided a high-level update on YVCOG land-use planning activities. There is a lot of residential development going on.

- Granger is moving forward with building a museum.
- Toppenish is updating their zoning ordinance to allow Accessory Dwelling Units in certain zones.
- Tieton is changing code language to allow residential development above commercial development in their commercial zones.

**Alan Adolf (Transportation Program Manager) (19:30)** –

- Thanked Union Gap for hosting the WSTC meeting, and all speakers and attendees.
- Wrapping up spring season of traffic counts.
- Working on HSTP and transit study. Will be sharing links to transit study surveys soon.
- Wrapping up Powerhouse/SR 12 Transportation Corridor Study.
- Moving forward with at least 3 new studies - SR 24 Corridor Study; Naches/Hwy 12 pedestrian/bicycle safety enhancements; and Toppenish Freight Bypass project.
- Kicking off four grants Calls for Projects in July. A lot of great opportunities.

**Vicki Baker (Regional Program Manager) (29:06)** –

- Housing Action Plans – 6 are underway.
- Kresge Grant – working with Toppenish. Learning about land trusts. Still in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

YVCOG General Membership Special Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2022

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- Law Enforcement Grant – doing a lot of outreach across all of the region. Conducting a community survey asking for concerns and priorities and also to contact YVCOG if interested in Block Watch.
- Related to the 1
- Law Enforcement outreach – YVCOG interviewed the Yakima County Sheriff and Valley police chiefs, resulting in the conclusion that the County and all of our cities have common issues related to crime. Technological needs – rapid DNA machine would be able to identify remains within 90 minutes.
- CDBG program is being considered for 3 cities – helping senior citizens with minor home repairs. Hoping to add 3 more cities to the program. Working with Commerce on this.

PROGRAM (43:00)

Mark Barkley, Assistant Director – Local Government Division, Washington State Department of Commerce

Mr. Barkley provided an informative overview of what the Department of Commerce does (presentation slides attached). Their main goal is to support and strengthen communities through providing funding opportunities to assist with Housing/Homelessness, Infrastructure, Business Assistance, Energy, Planning, Community Facilities, Crime Victims Safety, and Community Services. Attempting to line of at state level to facilitate projects.

The 21-23 Biennial Budget has increased by over \$5 billion from the 19-21 Biennial Budget – mainly because of ARPA funds, and also some state funding.

Will have a substantial amount of money available to facilitate broadband projects across the state. ARPA and IJA funds, and more.

Introduction to Commerce Tech Teams.

IACC will be meeting in person in Wenatchee this year.

*Question and Answer session followed.*

Contact Info: Mark Barkley, Assistant Director  
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360.259.9542

UPCOMING GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS  
(1:16:50)

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

September 21, 2022 – Grandview (remote)  
October 19, 2022 - Sunnyside  
December 14, 2022 - YVCOG

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chairman Restucci adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: 10/6/2022

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Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist