

**YVCOG General Membership Video Conference  
Meeting Minutes  
February 22, 2023**

<p>JURISDICTION PRESENT GRANDVIEW Bill Moore-M GRANGER HARRAH Pat Krueger – M MABTON MOXEE Rob Layman - M NACHES SELAH Clifford Peterson – M; Sherry Raymond – A SUNNYSIDE Vicki Ripley – A TIETON TOPPENISH UNION GAP James Murr – M; David Hansen – A WAPATO YAKIMA CITY Patricia Byers - M YAKIMA CO. Kyle Curtis - M ZILLAH Ardele Steele-PC/A</p>	<p>ABSENT Gloria Mendoza-A Ryan Stonemetz – M; Susie Munoz - A  Diana Casteneda – M; Antonio Moreno - A David Roy – A Paul Williams – M; Suzanne Williams – A  Julia Hart – M Ed Marquand-M; Tadeo Saenz-Thompson – A Clara Jimenez-M; Naila Duval – A; Al Hubert-PC Jeff Shoemaker - PC Margaret Estrada – M; Elizabeth Villa - A Matt Brown - A Amanda McKinney-M; LaDon Linde-M <b>Janice Gonzales-M</b>; Doug Stewart-A</p>
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Note: M=Member; A=Alternate; PC =Planning Commission

Additional Attendees: Cus Arteaga, Joan Souders (Grandview); Jose and Iliana Trevino (Granger); Larry Krueger (Harrah); Benine McDonnell (Mabton); Kevin Wickenhagen (Selah); Jim Restucci (Sunnyside); Dan Ford, Elpidia Saavedra (Toppenish); John and Sandee Hodkinson, Sharon Bounds, Dennis Henne, Don Evans, Cheryl Reese, Paul Strater (Union Gap); Michael Eklund-Grayum, Ardele Steele (Zillah); Madelyn Carlson (People for People); Troy Suing (WSDOT).

YVCOG Staff Alan Adolf; Shane Andreas, Vicki Baker, Byron Gumz, Tami Hayward, Albert Miller, Alma Rabadan, Angelica Saldivar, Jodi Smith, Jeff Watson, and Chris Wickenhagen.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Jim Restucci, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 p.m. The meeting was hosted in person only. A quorum was present.  
**INTRODUCTIONS AND 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** John Hodkinson, Vice Chair and Mayor of Union Gap welcomed the General Membership and guests to YVCOG’s February meeting, held at the Ahtanum Youth Barn in Union Gap.

**BUSINESS**

*Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2022 General Membership Meeting* Bill Moore moved to approve the Minutes from December 12, 2022. James Murr seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

*Resolution 2023-4* Chris Wickenhagen, YVCOG Executive Director

Ms. Wickenhagen presented Resolution 2023-4 – a resolution establishing a Yakima Valley Criminal Justice Agency to provide mutual law enforcement assistance in the Yakima Valley governed by Yakima Valley Conference of Governments.

In order for the Local Crime Lab to have access to state and federal databases we are required to secure an ORI number (identification number), and we must first establish YVCOG Local Crime Lab as a Criminal Justice Agency. The ORI number is required to access specific databases and is used to track who has been at those specific sites and what they are researching. A Criminal Justice Agency is not a law enforcement agency but we will provide services to law enforcement per RCW.

***Decision:** Patricia Byers moved to approve Resolution 2023-4 establishing a criminal justice agency in the Yakima Valley, governed by Yakima Valley Conference of Governments. James Murr seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

*Staff Reports*

Chris Wickenhagen reported on recent YVCOG correspondence and the recent trip to AWC City Action Days. Will also be meeting with our jurisdictions to discuss DRYVE and TRANS-Action.

Vicki Baker updated the membership on some of the things happening in the legislature – a lot of the current bills relate to housing. She also provided an update of where we are in the process of getting the Local Crime Lab up and going.

Byron Gumz provided an update on current land use planning projects in our communities.

Alan Adolf reported on current/upcoming transportation projects and some recent accomplishments. He announced that DRYVE/TRANS-Action will have a booth at the Central Washington State Fair this year, for the first time in many years.

*PROGRAM*

*Don Evans and Paul Strater, Central Washington Agricultural Museum*

Mr. Strater is the Administrator of the Central Washington Ag Museum and has been there about 15 years. Mr. Evans is the Operations Manager of the Museum and has been there about 15 weeks!

The ag museum has come a long way in the last 15 years. There are more than 15 acres of tractors, plows, etc., so they purchased trams from Dollywood to transport visitors around the grounds. The trams are handicap accessible.

There are also a lot of unusual items at the museum. One item was placed on each of the tables for people to attempt to identify. Mr. Strater explained each one of them.

Business cards were made available for people to use the QR code and take a virtual tour of the museum.

**YVCOG Presentations:**

Vicki Baker, YVCOG Deputy Director, and Angelica Saldivar, YVCOG Housing Manager, updated the membership on the Housing programs and services, and provided information on our local housing needs.

Vicki Baker - We are in a national housing crisis, based on a lot of factors including over-regulation, infrastructure, zoning, and high cost of construction. The state is focused on the ‘missing middle’ housing. Very high demand for lower living costs, walkable neighborhoods, and housing where people can age in place. The American Dream isn’t necessarily a single-family home with a white picket fence anymore – it’s more duplexes, fourplexes, stacked houses, courtyard cottage developments, places where you can live and work, etc. The governor has asked the legislature for \$4 billion over the next 10 years. It is estimated we will need over a million housing units in the next 10 years.

We have a huge number of people who can’t afford market-rate housing in the Yakima Valley.

We are trying to help our communities to get ahead of the game with our Housing Action Plans.

People don’t want higher density in their neighborhoods. We can help create design standards to make sure high-density housing will fit in with the community.

She also touched on the Land Trust idea. Habitat for Humanity would own the land, but the house would be sold ... similar to a condominium.

Angelica Saldivar – spent the last 15 years with the City of Yakima as the head of the Home program and their Senior Assistance program. She has a great relationship with our local developers and with the Department of Commerce.

We need to meet the housing demands to ensure our communities grow and flourish, and that is why we are doing the Housing Action Plan in Grandview, Tieton, Toppenish, Union Gap, Wapato, and Zillah.

Beginning in Toppenish with the Senior Assistance emergency repair CDBG program. This will help us secure additional funding by showing Commerce the need throughout our Valley.

The Kresge grant will help with many repairs such as asbestos removal, etc.

YVCOG will be available to help you implement the plan you adopt.

***Information***

**UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

Toppenish volunteered to host the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, Selah volunteered to host the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, Grandview will host the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, and Sunnyside will host the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**OTHER**

Table centerpieces were raffled off as door prizes to meeting guests.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Elpidia Saavedra, Mayor of Toppenish, expressed her displeasure and frustration with the fact that Yakima County is losing over \$2 million dollars in homeless housing funding due to the fact that it was left unused. We were given this money and it needs to be spent – we have to be proactive. She urged the mayors and elected officials to get together and talk about this matter and what action can be taken. Take a stand.

Jim Restucci also spoke on how Yakima County took the Homeless Program back from YVCOG, even though the cities signed documents stating they wanted YVCOG to oversee 2163 funds. The County had no right to take back the 2163 funds because those funds are for the cities, not the County.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chairman Restucci ended the meeting at approximately 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: 3/23/2023

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist