

**YVCOG General Membership Meeting
September 20, 2023, Minutes**

JURISDICTION	PRESENT	ABSENT
GRANDVIEW	Bill Moore-M; Gloria Mendoza-A	
GRANGER	Ryan Stonemetz - M	Susie Munoz - A
HARRAH	Pat Krueger – M	
MABTON		Diana Casteneda – M; Antonio Moreno - A
MOXEE		Rob Layman – M; David Roy – A
NACHES	Robert Weekes - M	Lorri Schneider – A
SELAH	Clifford Peterson – M; Sherry Raymond – A	
SUNNYSIDE	Vicki Ripley – A;	Julia Hart – M
TIETON		Ed Marquandt – M; Tadeo Saenz-Thompson – A
TOPPENISH	Naila Duval – M	
UNION GAP	James Murr – M; Jeff Shoemaker - PC	David Hansen – A
WAPATO		Margaret Estrada – M; Elizabeth Villa - A
YAKIMA CITY	Patricia Byers - M	Matt Brown - A
YAKIMA CO.	LaDon Linde-M	Kyle Curtis – M; Amanda McKinney-M;
ZILLAH	Janice Gonzales-M	Doug Stewart-A; Ardele Steele-PC/A

Note: M=Member; A=Alternate; PC =Planning Commission

Additional Attendees:	Cus Arteaga	
	Steve Barrientes	Lilly Barrientes
	Mike Battle	Ron Bounds
	Sharon Bounds	Madelyn Carlson (PFP)
	David Diaz	Edalina Diaz
	Israel DeLaMora	Shane Fisher
	Laura Flores	Jack Galloway
	Lodia Galloway	Randy Giles (WSDOT)
	Joe Henne	Stephen Hazzard
	John Hodkinson	Sandee Hodkinson
	Larry Krueger	Sandra Linde
	DeLeesa Restucci	Gina Hinojosa
	Jeff Shoemaker	Joan Souders
	Jacob Tate	Kevin Wickenhagen
	Dave Zabell	

Honored Guest: Barbara Harrer, Town of Harrah

Speakers: Rick Evans for Senator Cantwell’s office (via Zoom), Ashley Stubbs for Senator Dan Newhouse; Dan Newhouse (earlier recording via Zoom); Senator Nikki Torres (15th District); Representative Brian Sandlin (15th District)

YVCOG Staff Alan Adolf, Shane Andreas, Vicki Baker, Kathy Geil, Byron Gumz, Tami Hayward, Albert Miller, Alma Rabadan, Jeff Watson, Chris Wickenhagen

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jim Restucci called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 p.m.
INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL The City of Grandview hosted the hybrid meeting at the Grandview Community Center.

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 Grandview Mayor Gloria Mendoza welcomed the General Membership and guests to the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments' September meeting.

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2023, General Membership Meeting Grandview moved to approve the Minutes from May 17, 2023. Yakima seconded. The motion carried.

Public Service Appreciation Chairman Restucci and Vice Chair Hodkinson presented Harrah Mayor, Barbara Harrer, a plaque expressing YVCOG's appreciation for over 50 years of dedication and service to the Town of Harrah and to the Yakima Valley. She took office in 1971 and has been the mayor of Harrah since 1977.

Staff Reports Executive Director Wickenhagen announced that she and Deputy Director Baker are available to attend council meetings to review YVCOG's 2024 budget, which will be voted on during the October General Membership meeting.

YVCOG recently facilitated Grandview's Council retreat.

All six (6) Housing Action Plans have been completed and adopted.

Program updates were provided by Byron Gumz (Planning Manager), Alan Adolf (Transportation Program Manager), Kathy Geil, Local Crime Lab Program Manager, and Vicki Baker provided an update on Housing Program activities.

Information

PROGRAM A legislative update was provided by our state and national officials. We heard from Rick Evans of US Senator Maria Cantwell's office, Senator Nikki Torres (15th District), and Representative Bryan Sandlin (15th District). Ashley Stubbs also provided an update on the recent activities of US Congressman Dan Newhouse.

Mr. Evans reported on Senator Cantwell's activities and priorities, including traveling to India earlier this year to meet with the Indian Prime Minister to discuss removing India's 2019 retaliatory tariffs on apples (Washington apple sales to India slumped from \$120 million in 2017 to under \$1 million this season). The tariffs were removed in September. Last month she held a roundtable discussion in Yakima regarding the fentanyl crisis. She has also held meetings regarding Impact Aid and educational issues. She has also been active in addressing numerous other issues.

Ms. Stubbs shared a video Congressman Newhouse recorded earlier in Washington DC, expressing his regrets for not being able to attend the meeting because he is working hard to keep the lights on in our nation's capital. She

reported that Dan Newhouse is concentrating a lot of effort into addressing the issue of fentanyl. It is inexpensive and widely available. There is currently enough fentanyl in the country to kill every man, woman, and child. It is the #1 cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45. Yakima County is a drug hub and I-82 is a main corridor. Approximately 60% of our homicide rate is directly related to illicit drugs. Congressman Newhouse has created the Central Washington Fentanyl Taskforce – working for tangible solutions. Addressing the source is very important – raw materials are coming from China into Mexico where the pills are manufactured. The Congressman is also working on how to prevent China from coming in and purchasing US agricultural land. Food security is national security. He is working on many additional agricultural issues, water issues, energy independence, government overreach, etc.

State Senator Nikki Torres (15th District) – she is a freshman and has enjoyed the collaboration taking place. She serves on two task forces (Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and People “MMIWP” task force and Jail task force). She has sponsored several successful bills in her first session. Currently working on Office of Public Defense workgroup – we have a lack of public defenders and this affects both the criminal and the victim’s families. Announced a 60-day session coming up. Also working with Sunnyside Fire Department on Safe Haven Baby Boxes – where a baby can anonymously be dropped off at a hospital or fire department within the first 72 hours after birth. Hoping to bring back a few of her bills that didn’t make it to the governor’s desk in the last session, including the Organized Retain Crime bill. Offered congratulations on the new Crime Lab and on Grandview’s first round about. The Police Academy in Pasco just had its first graduating class. Thanked Congressman Newhouse for spearheading the fentanyl crisis taskforce. Looking forward to next session – please feel free to contact our legislators because this is when they are crafting bills.

State Representative Brian Sandlin - gave updates on his various committees, including Appropriations. He is on the Budget Development Committee, helping to craft the House version of the budget – this is the one bipartisan committee. He congratulated Senator Torres on the great job she has been doing in her freshman year.

UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The City of Sunnyside is hosting the October 18, 2023, meeting of the YVCOG General Membership.

OTHER

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

64G7C90A477C49C...
James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: 10/24/2023

DocuSigned by:

B1D27F01E3E04FA...
Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist