

YVCOG General Membership Meeting
October 18, 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	Tadeo Saenz-Thompson – A	Ed Marquandt – M;
TOPPENISH		Naila Duval – M
UNION GAP	Jeff Shoemaker - PC	James Murr – M; 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: HLA: Mike Heit, Stephanie Ray; Naches: Robert Weekes; Selah: Kevin Wickenhagen; Sunnyside: Elizabeth Alba, Dean Broersma, Mike Farmer, Dennis Knight, James Restucci, Raul Sanchez; Union Gap: Sharon Bounds, Jack Galloway, John Hodkinson; WSDOT: Brian White; Yakima: Harold Byers; Zillah: Michael Eklund-Grayum.

Others: Ron Bounds, Glenn Davis, Lodia Galloway, Sandee Hodkinson, Dennis Knight, DeLeesa Restucci

Speaker: Jay Hester (Port of Sunnyside)

YVCOG Staff Alan Adolf, Shane Andreas, Vicki Baker, Kathy Geil, Byron Gumz, Tami Hayward, Maria Lopez, Alma Rabadan, Jodi Smith, Jeff Watson, Chris Wickenhagen

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jim Restucci called the meeting to order at approximately 7:01 p.m.
INTRODUCTIONS AND The City of Sunnyside hosted the hybrid meeting at the Sunnyside Community
ROLL CALL 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 Sunnyside City Administrator, Elizabeth Alba, welcomed the General Membership and guests to the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments' October meeting.

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes – Grandview moved to approve the Minutes from September 20, 2023. Yakima
September 20, 2023, General seconded. The motion carried.
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2024 YVCOG Proposed Budget Executive Director Wickenhagen presented YVCOG’s 2024 Proposed Balanced Budget in the amount of \$3,857,000.00.

Decision: *Zillah moved to approve Resolution 2023-07 adopting the YVCOG 2024 Balanced Budget. Grandview seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

General Membership Registration Fee Chairman Restucci informed the General Membership that Oxford Suites requires \$35 per person as a registration fee for the December meeting.

Decision: *Selah moved to approve a \$35.00 registration fee for the YVCOG December General Membership meeting. Yakima seconded. The motion carried.*

Staff Reports & Correspondence Ms. Wickenhagen explained the YVCOG Outstanding Service Award and asked the General Membership to please fill out the Outstanding Service Award nomination form in the agenda packet and leave it on the registration table or email their nominations to her or to Chairman Restucci.

New YVCOG Executive Committee and MPO/RTPO Policy Board members will be elected in February 2024. Ms. Wickenhagen requested volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee which will be appointed at the December General Membership meeting.

Program updates were provided by Alan Adolf (Transportation Program Manager), Chris Wickenhagen provided an update on Housing Program outreach and activities - we are also moving forward in the award process for a \$2.2 million housing downpayment assistance program to help our entire valley – we need at least 20 applicants. YVCOG has also been awarded an \$8,000 GESA Award for Local Heroes for the Crime Lab. Kathy Geil, Local Crime Lab Program Manager provided an update on Local Crime Lab recent happenings, and Byron Gumz updated the General Membership on current Planning Program activities.

Information

PROGRAM

Jay Hester, Port of Sunnyside Executive Director

Chairman Restucci introduced Mr. Hester to the General Membership. Mr. Hester has served as the Executive Director for the Port of Sunnyside since 2013, after having previously served as the Port’s Property Development and Project Manager since 2007.

He provided the General Membership with an interesting overview of what a port district is and provided examples of some of their many accomplishments. The mission of the port is ‘To develop, broaden and strengthen an economic base throughout the District in an environmentally prudent manner.’

The Port of Sunnyside has been in existence since 1964 and consists of about 300,000 acres. The first property they acquired within the city was in 2016 – previously focused on building business parks outside the city limits.

Information

UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	YVCOG will be hosting the December 13, 2023, meeting of the YVCOG General Membership at the Oxford Suites in Yakima. \$35 per person.
OTHER	None.
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
ADJOURN	With no further business, Chairman Restucci adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: 12/19/2023

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Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist