

**YVCOG General Membership Meeting
December 13, 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	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	Doug Stewart-A	Janice Gonzales-M; Ardele Steele-PC/A

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

Additional Attendees: HLA: Mike Heit, Deb LaCombe; People for People: Madelyn Carlson; Grandview: Joan Souders; Selah: Kevin Wickenhagen; Sunnyside: James Restucci, Raul Sanchez; Toppenish: Elpidia Saavedra, Debbie Zabell; Union Gap: Sharon Bounds, Jack Galloway, John Hodkinson; WSDOT: Brian White;

Others: Dennis Baker, Ron Bounds, Joe Brusich, Harold Byers, Raudel Cervantes, Merry Daley, Glenn Davis, Mike Deccio, Maria Deccio, Kal Fuller, Lodia Galloway, Eduardo Garcia, Julie Heilman, Gina Hinojosa, Sandee Hodkinson, Noah Johnson, Charlotte Layman, Sandra Linde, Rachel Moore, DeLeesa Restucci, Victor Rodriguez, Alex Saavedra, Bob Udell, Traci Udell, Dave Zabell

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jim Restucci called the meeting to order at approximately 7:06 p.m.
INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL YVCOG hosted the hybrid meeting at the Oxford Suites in Yakima.

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 Chairman Restucci, welcomed the General Membership and guests to the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments’ December meeting.

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2023, General Membership Meeting

Grandview moved to approve the Minutes from October 18, 2023. Yakima County seconded. The motion carried.

YVCOG Executive Committee Appointments to Nominating Committee

Jim Restucci, YVCOG Chair

Chairman Restucci asked for 3 volunteers from the General Membership to serve on the nominating committee for the upcoming YVCOG Executive Committee member elections.

Rob Layman (Moxee), Debbie Zabell (Toppenish), and Cliff Peterson (Selah) volunteered to serve.

PROGRAM

Jim Restucci, YVCOG Chair, and Chris Wickenhagen, YVCOG Executive Director

Chairman Restucci announced this year's recipient of YVCOG's Outstanding Service Award – the Yakima Valley Crime Lab Operations Board. Each board member received a plaque and a Challenge Coin, including Sheriff Bob Udell (Chair), Chief John Clary of Toppenish (Vice Chair), Chief Kal Fuller of Grandview, Chief Eduardo Garcia of Mabton, Lieutenant Mike Lewis of Moxee, Chief Dan Christman of Selah, Chief Rob Layman of Sunnyside, Chief Jeff Ketchum of Tieton, Chief Greg Cobb of Union Gap, Chief Mike Deccio of Wapato, Chief Tim Quantrell of Zillah, and Joe Brusich – Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney.

Chris Wickenhagen (YVCOG Executive Director) and Vicki Baker (YVCOG Deputy Director), went through some of the services YVCOG provides to our communities at their request and some of the benefits our cities receive they receive through YVCOG membership. Our programs include Land Use Planning, Transportation, Housing and Senior Assistance, and Public Safety. She expressed gratitude to the YVCOG Executive Committee and YVCOG staff members.

Ms. Wickenhagen stated that her reason for getting out of bed each morning is the opportunity at YVCOG to be part of something bigger than ourselves – we are the trusted partner to advance the Yakima Valley.

She also spoke about the benefits in participating in a board retreat to help establish your communities' priorities. YVCOG has facilitated retreats for Grandview (twice), Toppenish, and Habitat for Humanity – helping them establish priorities and enable staff to move in the right direction to accomplish those goals.

YVCOG Deputy Director, Vicki Baker, introduced the Yakima Valley Local Crime Lab (YVLCL) staff and gave a brief description of their various field experience and current position duties. We will also be welcoming an ATF employee to the Crime Lab in the few weeks.

She thanked our cities for believing in this project and helping to fund the Crime Lab and also thanked the YVLCL Operations Board. We are an official criminal

justice support agency – blessed by the Washington State Patrol and FBI. She gave a brief review of the YVLCL timeline and accomplishments.

Information

- GOOD-BYE AND THANK YOU** Executive Director Chris Wickenhagen thanked Chairman Jim Restucci (Sunnyside Deputy Mayor), who has been with YVCOG for 20 years – 14 years as Chair – and is retiring from the Sunnyside City Council at the end of 2023. He has provided great leadership, vision and support to YVCOG.
- UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** The City of Zillah will be hosting YVCOG’s February 21, 2024 General Membership meeting at the Zillah Community Center. Volunteers were asked to host meetings in March and October.
- OTHER** None.
- PUBLIC COMMENT** None.
- ADJOURN** With no further business, Chairman Restucci adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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 James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: 3/19/2024

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 Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist