

MINUTES OF MEETING

THURSTON REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Friday, February 3, 2017
2424 Heritage Court SW
Conference Room A, 1st Floor
Olympia, WA 98502

Call to Order

Chair Virgil Clarkson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Attendance

Members Present:

City of Olympia	Nathaniel Jones, Secretary
City of Lacey	Virgil Clarkson, Chair
City of Tumwater	Tom Oliva, Vice Chair
Thurston County	John Hutchings, Commissioner
City of Rainier	Randy Schleis, Mayor (alternate)
City of Tenino	David Watterson, Council member
Town of Bucoda	Alan Vanell, Council member
Nisqually Indian Tribe	Heidi Thomas, Staff
North Thurston Public Schools	Graeme Sackrison, Board member (alternate)
Intercity Transit	Karen Messmer, Board member
LOTT Clean Water Alliance	Cynthia Pratt, Board member
Port of Olympia	Joe Downing, Commissioner
PUD No. 1 of Thurston County	Russ Olsen, Commissioner
Lacey Fire District #3	Gene Dobry, Board member
Timberland Regional Library	LG Nelson, Staff
The Evergreen State College	Rich Davis, Staff (alternate)

Members Absent:

City of Yelm	JW Foster, Mayor
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Amy Loudermilk, staff
Olympia School District	Mark Campeau, Board member
Thurston EDC	Michael Cade, Director

Staff Present:

Jared Burbidge, Deputy Director
Veena Tabbutt, Interim Executive Director
Sarah Selstrom, Administrative Assistant
Holly Gilbert, Senior Planner
Karen Parkhurst, Program & Policy Director
Paul Brewster, Senior Planner

Others Present:

Joel Carlson, Sierra Club
Dennis McVey, City of Rainier citizen
Marc Daily, resident (incoming TRPC Executive Director)
Doug DeForest, Transportation Policy Board
Chris Stearns, Thurston PUD
Tomy Mollas, WA State Department of Enterprise Services
Lon Wyrick, citizen
Brandon Hicks, City of Tumwater
John Norman, City of Tumwater
Reema Griffith, WA Transportation Commission

Agenda Item 2

Introductions

All present provide self-introductions. Chair Clarkson introduced incoming Executive Director Marc Daily and welcomed him to TRPC. Mr. Daily addressed the Council and expressed his excitement to begin on February 21st.

Agenda Item 3
ACTION

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Messmer moved, seconded by Councilmember Oliva, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item 5
ACTION

Consent Calendar

- a. Approval of Minutes – December 2, 2016 & January 6, 2017
- b. Approval of Vouchers
- c. Approval of 2016 Financial Report
- d. Approval of RTIP Amendment 17-02

Councilmember Sackrison moved, seconded by Councilmember Messmer, to approve the consent calendar.

Councilmember Watterson asked that the December minutes be corrected to indicate he was in attendance.

Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item 6
ACTION

Road Usage Charging Pilot Project

Reema Griffith, Executive Director of Washington State Transportation Commission, made a presentation on an upcoming Road Usage Charging (RUC) Pilot Project being undertaken by the Commission, beginning in 2017.

Ms. Griffith explained that due to increasing fuel efficiency of vehicles, the current fuel tax system of revenue is not sustainable. The Transportation Commission deemed it worthwhile to study the feasibility of an RUC for drivers in the state of Washington. Ms. Griffith explained that in order to capture the revenue generated by out-of-state drivers, the gas tax will have to remain as a parallel system to the RUC. Drivers would pay either the gas tax or the RUC, but not both.

It is anticipated that participant recruitment will begin in the spring of this year, with up to 2,000 vehicles statewide participating. There will be a pool of participants from Surrey, B.C. and also from Vancouver, WA, to facilitate collecting data on how an RUC would work across borders. The pilot will run for 12 months, and is likely to begin in the fall of this year.

Agenda Item 7
ACTION

TRPC 2017 Meeting Calendar & Council Retreat

Interim Executive Director Veena Tabbutt reviewed the proposed calendar and indicated there were two items to consider in adopting the calendar. The first is a potential change of meeting date from September 1st to September 8th, to accommodate the Labor Day holiday, and the second being the date and location of the June meeting, which is proposed to also be the Council Retreat.

Councilmember Messmer proposed meeting in August and taking September off for vacations, which would avoid changing the date of the September meeting.

Councilmember Watterson moved, seconded by Councilmember Pratt, to meet in August and take September off for vacations.

Councilmembers Jones and Oliva spoke against the motion.

Chair Clarkson called for a vote. Councilmembers Pratt, Watterson, and Messmer voted in favor. Motion failed.

Councilmember Vanell moved, seconded by Councilmember Thomas, to hold the September meeting on 8th. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Messmer moved, seconded by Councilmember Oliva, to adopt the proposed calendar, including the retreat being held in June. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Vanell offered the Bucoda Community Center as a location for the retreat. Members agreed that was a good option.

Agenda Item 8
ACTION

Appointment of Executive Director Evaluation Committee

Interim Executive Director Veena Tabbutt reported that the Committee would have a little more work in 2017 than in most years, as there will be a 6-month evaluation as well as a 12-month evaluation for the incoming Executive Director.

Chair Clarkson asked for volunteers to serve on the Committee. Councilmembers Oliva, Jones, Messmer, Pratt, and Olsen volunteered.

Agenda Item 9
ACTION

South Sound Military and Communities Partnership Membership

Interim Executive Director Veena Tabbutt reviewed the Council's past participation in the South Sound Military and Communities Partnership (SSMCP). She explained that traditionally TRPC has participated at the Steering Committee level of \$6,500 but for 2017 the staff recommendation is to move to the Working Group Chair level of \$2,500. Ms. Tabbutt indicated that the region was well represented in the Partnership – besides staff serving as co-chair to the Transportation work group, many of TRPC's member jurisdictions participate at varying levels. Ms. Tabbutt indicated that TRPC's Executive Director would continue to attend Steering Committee meetings, but would no longer be a voting member.

Councilmember Pratt moved, seconded by Councilmember Hutchings, to approve TRPC's 2017 membership in SSMCP at the Working Group Chair level of \$2,500. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 10
DISCUSSION

Legislative Update

Programs & Policy Director Karen Parkhurst distributed the legislative packet being presented to local legislators. She indicated the meetings with legislators were going well and urged members to attend if they could. Ms. Parkhurst reviewed bills of interest and indicated she would be sending a bill tracker to members with updated information when available.

Agenda Item 11
DISCUSSION

TRPC 50th Anniversary

Administrative Assistant Sarah Selstrom reported that 2017 marks the 50th anniversary for TRPC. Ms. Selstrom asked for input from the Council on a proposed celebration in November and for any types of information they would like to see presented throughout the year.

Agenda Item 12
1st REVIEW

RTIP Amendment 17-03

Senior Planner Holly Gilbert reported the City of Tumwater has requested an amendment to the 2017-2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program to reflect an updated project cost for the Deschutes Valley Trail project. The increased cost is not due to a change in scope of the project, but an updated estimate. Ms. Gilbert indicated the Transportation Policy Board would be reviewing the proposed amendment at their February meeting and would forward a recommendation to Council in March.

Agenda Item 13
ACTION

Election of 2017 TRPC Officers

Chair Virgil Clarkson reviewed the process for electing officers and reported on the nominations received following the call for nominations at the January meeting – Tom Oliva and John Hutchings for Chair, Cynthia Pratt and Nathaniel Jones for Vice Chair, and JW Foster for Secretary.

Chair Clarkson called for nominations from the floor for the position of Chair. There were none. Councilmembers Oliva and Hutchings each spoke of their experience and what they would bring to the position of Chair.

Interim Executive Director Veena Tabbutt distributed paper ballots and reminded the membership that associate members were not voting members. Deputy Directory Jared Burbidge collected the ballots and tallied the votes.

Chair Clarkson called for nominations from the floor for the position of Vice Chair. There were none. Councilmembers Pratt and Jones each spoke of their experience and what they would bring to the position of Vice Chair. Deputy Directory Jared Burbidge collected the ballots and tallied the votes.

Chair Clarkson called for nominations from the floor for the position of Secretary. There were none.

Councilmember Oliva moved, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to elect JW Foster as Secretary for 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Clarkson announced the results of the votes for Chair and Vice Chair. Councilmember Oliva was elected Chair and Councilmember Jones was elected Vice Chair.

Agenda Item 14
INFORMATION

Report from Outside Committee Assignments

Doug DeForest reported on his attendance at the Transportation Policy Board of PSRC.

Councilmember Pratt reported on her attendance at the PSRC Growth Management Board meeting.

Agenda Item 15
DISCUSSION

Member Check-In

Councilmember Davis announced his retirement in June and expressed his gratitude for being able to sit at the table of such an excellent organization.

Councilmember Vanell reported that the Town had received money from the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority to study the possibility of the Tenino Trail going to Bucoda and being used as a possible way to evacuate the town during flood events. Mr. Vanell also reported the town is looking at the possibility of a water treatment plant in town.

Councilmember Watterson reported that following application for grant money, TransAlta has asked for a presentation on the regional agricultural center proposed for the property outside of Tenino. Mr. Watterson also announced the school district received a grant to do a solar project.

Councilmember Jones announced that the City of Olympia and the Nisqually Tribe, on Thursday night, concluded 20 years of work dealing with water rights and changing the water source for the city. The City handed back 177 acres surrounding McAllister Springs.

Agenda Item 16
INFORMATION


Executive Director's Report

Interim Executive Director Veena Tabbutt passed out a sign-up sheet for any member wishing to have an orientation to the Council. Ms. Tabbutt and the membership thanked outgoing Chair Virgil Clarkson for his service and leadership on the Council in the past year.

Agenda Item 17

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Clarkson adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.



Tom Oliva, Chair



Marc Daily Executive Director

*Minutes prepared by Sarah Selstrom, Administrative Assistant
Thurston Regional Planning Council*

These minutes are not verbatim. A verbatim transcript of this meeting is available upon request.