

# Executive Committee

## Minutes

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special meeting of the WRCOG Executive and Technical Advisory Committees was called to order by Executive Committee Chair Karen Spiegel at 12:00 p.m. on January 12, 2022, on the Zoom platform.

Chair Spiegel welcomed new Executive Committee members Dale Welty, City of Corona, and Edward Delgado, City of Moreno Valley.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee member Chris Barajas led the Committee members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. ROLL CALL

Executive Committee:

- City of Beaumont - Mike Lara
- City of Calimesa - Wendy Hewitt
- City of Canyon Lake - Dale Welty
- City of Corona - Jacque Casillas
- City of Hemet - Russ Brown
- City of Jurupa Valley - Chris Barajas
- City of Lake Elsinore - Brian Tisdale
- City of Menifee - Matt Liesemeyer
- City of Moreno Valley - Edward Delgado
- City of Murrieta - Lori Stone
- City of Norco - Kevin Bash
- City of Perris - Rita Rogers
- City of San Jacinto - Crystal Ruiz
- City of Temecula - Maryann Edwards
- City of Wildomar - Ben Benoit
- County, District 1 - Kevin Jeffries
- County, District 2 - Karen Spiegel (Chair)
- County, District 3 - Chuck Washington
- County, District 5 - Jeff Hewitt
- Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) - Phil Paule\*
- Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) - Brenda Dennstedt
- WRCOG Executive Director - Dr. Kurt Wilson

\*Joined after Roll Call

Technical Advisory Committee:

- City of Banning - Doug Schulze
- City of Beaumont - Todd Parton
- City of Corona - Jacob Ellis
- City of Eastvale - Marc Donohue
- City of Jurupa Valley - Rod Butler
- City of Lake Elsinore - Jason Simpson
- City of Menifee - Armando Villa
- City of Moreno Valley - Mike Lee
- City of Murrieta - Kim Summers
- City of Perris - Clara Miramontes
- City of Riverside - Al Zelinka\*
- City of San Jacinto - Rob Johnson
- City of Temecula - Aaron Adams
- City of Wildomar - Gary Nordquist
- County of Riverside - Jeff Van Wagenen
- EMWD - Danielle Coats

\*Joined after Roll Call

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

#### **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED**

**MOVER:** San Jacinto

**SECONDER:** Jurupa Valley

**AYES:** Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 3, District 5, EMWD, WMWD

#### **A. Assembly Bill 361 Findings**

**Action:**

1. Affirmed the findings of the Executive Committee in Resolution Number 26-21, adopted on November 1, 2021, which are:
  - a. The Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020, related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which State of Emergency continues to exist today; and
  - b. State or local officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing.

#### **6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

#### **A. Adoption of the WRCOG 2022-2027 Strategic Plan**

Dr. Kurt Wilson, WRCOG Executive Director, reported that WRCOG is in a transition and has the opportunity to reestablish the Agency's purpose and direction.

Kendall Flint, Director of Strategic Planning with DKS Associates, reported that individual meetings were held with Executive Committee members, members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), as well as WRCOG staff, to discuss and review key issues and review programs.

Representatives from both committees participated in a Strategic Planning session on December 3, 2021, to discuss and develop a mission, a vision, values, and goals of the Agency. The proposed Mission Statement is, "*The Mission of the Western Riverside Council of Governments is to facilitate, plan, and identify funding opportunities for critical infrastructure projects and programs that benefit its member agencies and the communities they serve.*" This provides flexibility, but also looks at ways to facilitate and find funding.

The proposed Vision is "*The Western Riverside Council of Governments provides a strong regional voice representing the interests of its member agencies, securing funding, and facilitating investments in transportation and infrastructure to ensure a sustainable, safe, and economically strong region.*" Member agencies view WRCOG as a critical partner in delivering funding opportunities that facilitate infrastructure that positions the entire subregion for success in the future.

Eight Core Values were identified and discussed:

1. Integrity
2. Transparency
3. Collaboration
4. Innovation
5. Diversity
6. Accountability
7. Sustainability
8. Inclusion

These values help to ensure transparency and commitment to the ongoing transparency and full disclosure to everything happening at WRCOG to both its member agencies and the public.

Seven Goals were identified and discussed:

1. Serve as an advocate at the regional, state and federal level for the Western Riverside region.

TAC member Danielle Coats, EMWD, suggested adding the phrase "and its members" in order to encourage WRCOG to share the successes of its member agencies with others, both at the regional level and at a larger scale.

1.1 Provide consistent updates regarding legislative actions that impact WRCOG member agencies to Committee members and member agency staff members.

1.2 Update the legislative platform detailing WRCOG's position(s) on issues that affects member agencies and actively promote that platform.

1.3 Explore options for the creation of a legislative action committee.

1.4 Provide opportunities for WRCOG members to actively participate in efforts in Sacramento to shape policy and effectively communicate regional successes.

2. Identify and help secure grants and other potential funding opportunities for projects and programs that benefit member agencies.

2.1 Track and provide updates on regional, state, and federal grant opportunities of interest to WRCOG and its member agencies.

2.2 Provide staff support and/or access to consultants for grant research and application preparation.

2.3 Consider providing training opportunities for grant writing and management to member agencies.

3. Ensure fiscal solvency and stability of the Western Riverside Council of Governments.

3.1 Maintain sound, responsible fiscal policies.

3.2 Develop a process to vet fiscal impact(s) and potential risk(s) for all new programs and projects.

3.3 Provide detailed financial statements for public review online.

4. Communicate proactively about the role and activities of the Council of Governments and its members.

4.1 Develop a Communications Strategic Plan.

4.2 Use social media to disseminate positive news, milestones, and accomplishments throughout the region.

4.3 Promote regional interaction and coordination with surrounding communities and service providers including schools, economic development interests, transportation, and non-profit agencies.

5. Develop projects and programs that improve infrastructure and sustainable development in the subregion.

5.1 Support investment in projects, infrastructure, and programs in the subregion including:

5.1.1 Transportation infrastructure,

5.1.2 Water and wastewater infrastructure, and

5.1.3 Broadband / Smart Cities infrastructure.

5.2 Support Resilient IE Grant in conjunction with the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA).

Chair Spiegel indicated that the Riverside County Transportation Commission should be included.

Chris Gray, WRCOG Deputy Executive Director, responded that it is written that way because the

Resilient IE is a grant that WRCOG and SBCTA are co-managing and suggested adding the word "grant" into this goal.

Mrs. Flint indicated that a footnote can also be added in the final Strategic Plan that explains the relationship between the grant, WRCOG, and SBCTA.

5.3 Continue collaboration with regional agencies to address pollution control, stormwater runoff, and other environmental concerns.

6. Develop and implement programs that support energy efficiency for our subregion.

TAC member Coats suggested removing the word "energy" so this goal can be applied to other resources.

6.1 Incentivize programs for saving electricity, water, and other essential resources, such as the Inland Regional Energy Network.

6.2 Supporting efforts to promote the Clean Cities Coalition.

6.3 Continuing support for the Solid Waste & Recycling Program.

7. Provide a safe, inclusive environment that values employees.

7.1 Develop and implement organization-wide staff succession planning.

7.2 Support employee training, enrichment, and recognition, including team building opportunities.

7.3 Establish clear performance standards for the workforce and provide annual employee reviews.

7.4 Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in all hiring practices.

The Executive Committee agreed that the Plan should be reviewed in three years versus five years.

Next steps include adoption of the final Plan by the Executive Committee. Once approved, staff will implement the Plan. Some change are programmatic, while others will be internal. Implementation efforts will be vetted through the WRCOG Committee structure.

The Plan should be revisited every one to two years and then updated again in no more than five years.

**Action:**

1. Adopted the WRCOG 2022-2027 Strategic Plan including Mission and Vision Statements, in addition to changes discussed during the meeting.

**RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED**

**MOVER:** San Jacinto

**SECONDER:** Temecula

**AYES:** Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore,

Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 3, District 5, EMWD, WMWD

## **7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Chair Spiegel thanked both committee members for their flexibility in attending today's meeting. Staff are working on this year's General Assembly.

## **8. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dr. Kurt Wilson thanked both Committee members for making time to participate in today's meeting.

## **9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

There were no requests for items for future agendas.

## **10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no general announcements.

## **11. NEXT MEETING**

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 7, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., on the Zoom platform.

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 17, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., on the Zoom platform.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.