

Western Riverside Council of Governments Executive Committee

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Kevin Bash at 2:01 p.m. on June 7, 2021.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Wes Speake, City of Corona, led the Committee members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

- City of Banning - David Happe
- City of Calimesa - Wendy Hewitt
- City of Canyon Lake - Larry Greene
- City of Corona - Jacque Casillas
- City of Eastvale - Christian Dinco
- 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 - Victoria Baca
- City of Murrieta - Lori Stone
- City of Norco - Kevin Bash
- City of Perris - Rita Rogers
- City of Riverside - Ronaldo Fierro
- City of Temecula - Maryann Edwards
- City of Wildomar - Ben Benoit
- County, District 1 - Kevin Jeffries*
- County, District 2 - Karen Spiegel
- 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 Interim Executive Director - Chris Gray

*Arrived after roll call

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Rodriguez, Chair of the Temescal Valley Water District Board, spoke on the Bedford Cold Water Basin ground water sustainability plan.

Stacy Tutt, UC Irvine Consumer Law Clinic, spoke in opposition of Consent Agenda Item 5.H.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: Menifee

SECONDER: Corona

AYES: Banning, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, Temecula, Wildomar, District 2, District 3, District 5, EMWD, WMWD

ABSENT: Beaumont, San Jacinto, District 1

A. Summary Minutes from the May 3, 2021, Executive Committee Meeting

Action:

1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the May 3, 2021, Executive Committee meeting.

B. Cal Cities Activities Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

C. TUMF Program Activities Update: Approval of Reimbursement Agreement Amendment

Action:

1. Authorized the Interim Executive Director to execute a TUMF Reimbursement Agreement Amendment with the Riverside County Transportation Commission for the Project Study Report and Project Advancement and Environmental Document Phase of the I-10 / Highland Springs Road Interchange Project in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.

D. Amendment to PSAs for On-Call Planning Services

This item was pulled for discussion by Committee member Matt Liesemeyer who asked if the contracts presented are being amended simply for another fiscal year or are there substantive changes to the scope of work, and does WRCOG have a policy on the overall length of a contract.

Chris Gray, WRCOG Interim Executive Director, responded that all of the contracts are for existing work and are being extended for another fiscal year. Efforts are funded through WRCOG, the TUMF Program, the Riverside County Transportation Commission, or the Southern California Association of Governments, as applicable. As to the length of a contract, there is no WRCOG policy on that or how many times a contract may be amended. Having said that, staff will be reviewing existing policies in the coming months and providing a comprehensive update, which will include the number of times a contract can be amended.

Actions:

1. Authorized the Interim Executive Director to execute a Third Amendment to the PSA with WSP USA, Inc., for support to WRCOG in its update of the WRCOG Economic Development & Sustainability Framework, transportation planning, grant writing services, and WRCOG staff support activities to increase the total not to exceed amount from \$150,000 to \$350,000, extending the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2022.
2. Authorized the Interim Executive Director to execute a Fourth Amendment to the PSA with Blais & Associates for support of WRCOG grant writing services assistance to increase the total not to exceed amount from \$350,000 to \$500,000, extending the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2022.
3. Authorized the Interim Executive Director to execute a Fourth Amendment to the PSA with Fehr & Peers for support to WRCOG on transportation planning services to increase the total not to exceed amount from \$250,000 to \$325,000, extending the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2022.
4. Authorized the Interim Executive Director to execute a Fourth Amendment to the PSA with National Community Renaissance of California for support to WRCOG staff in planning and housing-related activities to increase the total not to exceed amount from \$200,000 to \$275,000, extending the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2022.
5. Authorized the Interim Executive Director to execute a Third Amendment to the PSA with PlaceWorks, Inc., for support to WRCOG in its economic and demographic forecasting services and general staff support activities to increase the total not to exceed amount from \$250,000 to \$450,000, extending the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2022.

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: Menifee

SECONDER: Moreno Valley

AYES: Banning, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, Temecula, Wildomar, District 2, District 3, District 5, EMWD, WMWD

ABSENT: Beaumont, San Jacinto

E. Approval of Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Agency Salary Schedule

Action:

1. Adopted Resolution Number 03-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments adopting the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 publicly available salary schedule effective July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, as required by the California Public Employee's Retirement System.

F. Environmental Department Activities Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

G. Annual Used Oil Payment Program Authorization – Cycle 12

Action:

1. Adopted Resolution Number 05-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western

Riverside Council of Governments to support Regional Application – Used Oil Payment Program – 12.

H. PACE Program Activities Update: Request to Authorize Annual Levy Assessments

This item was pulled for discussion by Chair Kevin Bash in response to the public comment on this item.

Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, indicated that the HERO Program began in 2012 and the residential portion was discontinued in early 2021. Assessments run on the tax roll anywhere between five and 20 years. Today's requested actions are to place existing assessments on the tax roll as required by the Program.

Committee member David Happe asked how many of these assessments are in formal dispute.

Mr. Dailey responded that approximately 33,000 - 34,000 assessments are being levied this year and there are currently less than two dozen active lawsuits. WRCOG is aware of the situation earlier referenced to by the member of the public.

Actions:

1. Adopted Resolution Number 06-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in various counties.
2. Adopted Resolution Number 07-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in Amador County.
3. Adopted Resolution Number 08-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in Butte County and certifying to Butte County the validity of the legal process used to place direct charges on the secured tax roll.
4. Adopted Resolution Number 09-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in the Glenn County.
5. Adopted Resolution Number 10-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in Humboldt County.
6. Adopted Resolution Number 11-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in Kern County.
7. Adopted Resolution Number 12-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in Madera County.
8. Adopted Resolution Number 13-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in Mendocino County.
9. Adopted Resolution Number 14-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in Merced County.

10. Adopted Resolution Number 15-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments certifying compliance with state law with respect to the levying of special assessments in Monterey County.
11. Adopted Resolution Number 16-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in Nevada County.
12. Adopted Resolution Number 17-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in San Mateo County.
13. Adopted Resolution Number 18-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in Sutter County and certifying to Sutter County the validity of the legal process used to place direct charges on the secured tax roll.
14. Adopted Resolution Number 19-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in Yolo County.
15. Adopted Resolution Number 20-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments making certain representations and authorizing the placement of assessments on the tax roll in Yuba County.

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: Menifee

SECONDER: Moreno Valley

AYES: Banning, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, Temecula, Wildomar, District 2, District 3, District 5, EMWD, WMWD

ABSTAIN: District 1

ABSENT: Beaumont, San Jacinto

I. Finance Department Activities Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

J. WRCOG Committees and Agency Activities Update

This item was pulled for discussion by Committee member Wendy Hewitt who would like to know when the TUMF Construction Cost Index (CCI) adjustment is coming out and indicated that the City of Calimesa will be voting against the matter.

Mr. Gray responded that per the TUMF Administrative Plan, staff are proceeding through the process of considering a CCI adjustment and no action will be taken without approval from this Committee.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: Menifee

SECONDER: Moreno Valley

AYES: Banning, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, Temecula, Wildomar, District 2, District 3, District 5, EMWD, WMWD

ABSTAIN: District 1

ABSENT: Beaumont, San Jacinto

K. Report out of WRCOG Representatives on Various Committees

Action:

1. Received and filed.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair Positions for Fiscal Year 2021/2022

Chris Gray, WRCOG Interim Executive Director, indicated that the Administration & Finance Committee serves as the nominating committee for this matter.

Action:

1. Selected the following slate of individuals for leadership positions for Fiscal Year 2021/2022:

Chair: Karen Spiegel, Supervisor, County of Riverside District 2

Vice-Chair: Crystal Ruiz, Mayor Pro Tem, City of San Jacinto

2nd Vice-Chair: Chris Barajas, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Jurupa Valley

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: Canyon Lake

SECONDER: Moreno Valley

AYES: Banning, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, Temecula, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 3, District 5, EMWD, WMWD

ABSENT: Beaumont, San Jacinto

B. Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Agency Budget

Andrew Ruiz, WRCOG Chief Financial Officer, reported that the total Agency revenues are anticipated at \$57,669,021 and total Agency expenditures are anticipated at \$57,513,228. There are no new programs or initiatives anticipated for the next fiscal year. TUMF revenues are expected to increase significantly from this current fiscal year. Lastly, REAP funds will begin trickling in.

Staff merit increases up to 3% are included in the budget. In 2018, a study of WRCOG benefits and compensation was completed, which found both were below the market median. While some benefits were implemented, such as employer-paid dental and vision for family members, there were no allocations for retirement contributions or additional health coverage for family members.

Staff would like authorization to conduct a refresh study based upon current market conditions.

Committee member Chris Barajas asked if management will be conducting employee evaluations to determine merit increases.

Mr. Gray responded that WRCOG completes performance evaluations for all its staff which are tied back to any merit increases. In lieu of additional merit increases above 3%, management is exploring providing additional funding towards retirement.

Actions:

1. Adopted Resolution Number 03-21; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments adopting the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Agency Budget.
2. Directed staff to prepare a comprehensive salary and benefits study for all positions and to return with a summary and recommendations based on the study.

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: Norco

SECONDER: Jurupa Valley

AYES: Banning, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, Temecula, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 3, District 5, EMWD, WMWD

ABSENT: Beaumont, San Jacinto

C. Community Service Awards

Rachel Singer, WRCOG External Affairs Manager, reported that WRCOG's Community Service Awards recognize organizations and people who go above and beyond their respective roles to serve the community.

This year, WRCOG is honoring the following groups / individuals:

- For the People Taskforce
- Gurdwara Sikh Temple Riverside
- Grant Yates
- Riverside Transit Agency

WRCOG will premiere a video honoring the four award recipients at the 30th Annual General Assembly being held virtually on June 24, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

7. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Technical Advisory Committee Chair was not present.

8. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Committee member Brian Tisdale, CALCOG representative, reported that CALCOG is tracking transportation legislation.

Committee member Ted Hoffman, SAWPA OWOW Steering Committee representative, reported that the Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant application period will open in August 2021; there is more than \$27M in grants anticipated for distribution. Riverside and San Bernardino Counties will receive \$12.3M.

Wes Speake, City of Corona Vice Mayor and SCAG Community, Economic, and Human Development (CEHD) Policy Committee representative, reported that the CEHD recently voted on the Climate Action Plan, noting how different Riverside County is in comparison to other areas. The CEHD received a presentation on what the future office looks like as a result of COVID-19; hybrid models are changing and location remains fluid. Office space will shrink, but not go away; less than 30% of the workforce will keep a hybrid model, and less than 10% will stay working remotely.

9. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chair Bash thanked WRCOG staff for their assistance throughout the year. WRCOG is in a great position moving forward. A member-driven mission statement needs to be created. A strategic plan needs to be developed. The Bylaws are being reviewed by an Ad Hoc Committee. Pod casts and programs need to reflect member goals. WRCOG needs to be utilized to be more of an advocate for this subregion. Staff benefits and pay need to be examined.

10. REPORT FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chris Gray reported that WRCOG will be resuming in-person meetings for this Committee beginning with its July 12, 2021, meeting; meetings will be held at the Riverside County Administration Center Board Chambers. This year's General Assembly will be held virtually on June 24, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the event will not be recorded.

Mr. Gray recognized current or past members of the WRCOG and/or the Executive Committee who have recently passed away: Kathy Azevedo, City of Norco; Jordan Ehrenkranz, City of Canyon Lake; Ike Bootsma, City of Eastvale; and Don Galleano, Western Municipal Water District.

11. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Committee member Liesemeyer would like a policy regarding contracts terms and the number of allowed amendments.

12. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no general announcements.

13. CLOSED SESSION

Public Employee Appointment – Title: Executive Director

Conference with Labor Negotiator – Employee: Executive Director

14. OPEN SESSION

The Executive Committee offered a contract for the position of Executive Director to Dr. Kurt Wilson, effective on or about July 1, 2021, with a salary of \$260,000 annually, a flexible benefits plan, full payment of health insurance premiums for employee and family, dental and vision coverage, reimbursement of moving expenses, and temporary housing up to \$10,500.

MOVER: Temecula

SECONDER: Wildomar

AYES: Banning, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, Temecula, Wildomar, County District 1, County District 2, County, District 5, EMWD

NAYS: WMWD

15. NEXT MEETING

The Executive Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, June 25, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., is hereby cancelled. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 12, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., on the Zoom platform.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.