

Administration & Finance Committee

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the WRCOG Administration & Finance Committee was called to order by Chair Crystal Ruiz at 12:00 p.m., on June 14, 2023, in WRCOG's office.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee member Brenda Dennstedt led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

- City of Calimesa - Wendy Hewitt
- City of Jurupa Valley - Chris Barajas
- City of Lake Elsinore - Brian Tisdale
- City of San Jacinto - Crystal Ruiz (Chair)
- County of Riverside, District 3 - Chuck Washington
- Western Water - Brenda Dennstedt

Members absent:

- City of Corona - Jacque Casillas
- City of Eastvale - Christian Dinco
- City of Norco - Kevin Bash
- City of Perris - Rita Rogers
- County of Riverside, District 2 - Karen Spiegel

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR – (Jurupa Valley / Lake Elsinore) 6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Item 5.A was approved.

A. Summary Minutes from the May 10, 2023, Administration & Finance Committee Meeting

Action:

1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the May 10, 2023, Administration & Finance Committee meeting.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Western Riverside County Clean Cities Coalition Activities Update

Taylor York, WRCOG Program Manager, reported that WRCOG is working to apply for funding for an electric car share program and is currently seeking letters of support from eligible cities. There was a Community Transportation Needs Assessment completed in the Cities of Corona, Moreno Valley, and San Jacinto, and deployment in those Cities is currently underway.

WRCOG was awarded a two-year Community Engagement Liaison grant by the U.S. Department of Energy. The incumbent in this position will focus on mobility-related challenges in Equity & Environmental Justice communities.

A second Clean Cities Coalition meeting was held on April 26, 2023, at Karma Automotive. Staff provided an overview of the Coalition's annual plan. One-on-one meetings with each jurisdiction are currently in progress, and the next Clean Cities Coalition meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2023, at a location to be determined.

AB 1236 requires cities and counties to limit Electric Vehicle Charging Station project reviews to health and safety requirements. AB 970 refers to permit streamlining for vehicle charging stations. If not addressed within 60 days, the application will be automatically approved.

WRCOG was also awarded a grant for the Houston to Los Angeles (H2LA) Hydrogen Corridor Planning Project to install fueling stations along I-10 from Houston to Los Angeles. Staff will conduct direct engagement with cities along the I-10 corridor to begin in July 2023.

Staff is currently looking for funding for the Western Riverside County Zero-Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Transition Tool. Staff will work with member agencies to deploy chargers and vehicles, and create a resource to help members plan for and transition to ZEV.

Committee member Brian Tisdale asked who is in charge of the H2LA Project, and if WRCOG will have any input on that.

Mr. York replied that GTI Energy, Nikola, and five other Coalitions, are engaged, each within their section along the corridor. As the Project progresses, staff will work with member agencies for their input and feedback.

Committee member Tisdale stated that California is mainly focused on electric vehicles, not hydrogen.

Mr. York replied that hydrogen vehicles still qualify as a zero-emission fuel under the transition plans. Hydrogen mainly focuses on medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, which is why there is seemingly a lack of campaigning for hydrogen consumer vehicles.

Committee member Chuck Washington stated that GM recently announced it will be working with Tesla and asked what the practical implications are for any programs in the jurisdiction.

Mr. York replied that Tesla named their plug the North American Charging Standard, even though it is not currently a charging standard. Tesla allowed other companies to use their technology; Ford and GM vehicles will adopt this charger type, and those vehicles may use Tesla charging stations, so it may

become the standard.

Committee member Brenda Dennstedt asked about hydrogen-fueled, medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. Jurisdictions will be fined for not having hydrogen-fueled vehicles, even though certain types of vehicles do not exist. There are exceptions for first responders, but there are other special response fleets that should also have an exception.

Mr. York responded that this project is moving the infrastructure forward, which will in turn motivate manufacturers to make vehicles that can be adopted into those fleets.

Dr. Kurt Wilson suggested Committee member Dennstedt speak with the Karma Automotive staff for further conversation regarding specialized, industry specific equipment.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

B. I-REN Orientation Meetings

Tyler Masters, WRCOG Program Manager, reported that I-REN is composed of WRCOG, CVAG, and SBCOG, whose goal is to implement energy efficiency programs and services within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. There will be a total of 18 subregional orientation meetings within the different agencies beginning in May through the end of summer to introduce I-REN to jurisdictional staff, and inform them of its goals.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

C. TUMF Program Activities Update for Fiscal Year 2022/2023

Chris Gray, WRCOG Deputy Executive Director, reported that the TUMF Program currently holds \$60M in collection revenue, with total collections estimated to be between \$62M - \$65M. Industrial land use is the highest source of collections, making up almost two-thirds of collections. The WRCOG jurisdictional area is split into five TUMF zones, with the Northwest and Central Zones collecting the most revenue. The Southwest Zone has somewhat slowed, and the Pass and Hemet / San Jacinto Zones are now reaching parity with the Southwest Zone.

Unfortunately, these Zones do not match with the Supervisorial District Boundaries, which means that some Supervisors' jurisdictions will fall under multiple Zones. Staff will begin scheduling the annual TUMF Zone Executive Committee meetings for July and August, and it is important that Committee members attend because those Committees are small.

Committee member Chuck Washington stated he felt that his boundary is only slightly overlapping in the Hemet / San Jacinto Zone, and asked if it would be possible to readjust the Zones.

Mr. Gray stated this it is possible to make minor adjustments, but if there is committed funding going towards projects then it would be best to leave as is until those projects are completed.

Mr. Gray continued, stating that each year, WRCOG reviews TUMF collections in all member agencies. Currently, 19 of the 20 agencies have provided all compliance information.

Committee member Wendy Hewitt asked if staff would send an updated version of the schedule of revenues reported as actuals.

Mr. Gray confirmed, and indicated that it will also be stated in the annual report. Collections are closely monitored, and staff is constantly checking in with developers about development activity, especially with the volatility in the current market.

Committee member Brian Tisdale asked what the collections were last year.

Mr. Gray responded that last year's collections were a record high of \$76M. Current projected collections are expected to be between \$62M to \$65M.

Committee member Hewitt asked to see the projections altogether for revenues and expenditures.

Dr. Wilson stated these are included in the WRCOG budget.

Andrew Ruiz, WRCOG Chief Financial Officer, added that TUMF's budget was changed to exclude 96% of collections previously recognized as revenues, which is why it seems to have dropped off. The remaining collections can be seen in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), which outlines all revenues, collections and expenditures for the Program.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

7. REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chair Crystal Ruiz stated this is the last Administration & Finance meeting with her as the Chair, and that it has been an honor to serve. She thanked the Committee for its support and is proud of the work they did.

8. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kurt Wilson reported that a series of emails will be going out with regard to the General Assembly. The post-event reception will be sponsored by BIA, there will be live music, and a headshot booth for those who wish to take a headshot, free of charge. There will be a QR code for the agenda, annual report, and other meeting materials. Sponsorships and fundraising efforts have brought in some seed money for the Supporting Foundation, for the Committee to allocate.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Committee member Brenda Dennstedt asked the Committee to include a discussion on the Fellowship Program before it runs out of money, and an overview of the CalPERS accounts.

10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee member Brian Tisdale thanked Chair Ruiz for serving, and expressed his appreciation.

11. NEXT MEETING

The Administration & Finance Committee is dark during the month of July. The next Administration & Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., in WRCOG's office at 3390 University Avenue, Riverside.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Administration & Finance Committee adjourned at 12:50 p.m.