

Tribal Transportation Planning Organization  
Silver Reef Resort and Casino, Bellingham WA  
August 20, 2013

**Minutes**

**1. Introductions**

Kirk Vinish (Lummi Nation) welcomes everyone to the meeting. No items were added to the agenda.

*Roll Call*- Two tribes had more than one voting member present. Stillaguamish Tribe identified the voting member to be Casey Stevens. Skokomish Tribe identified voting member to be Lennea Wolfe

*Minutes-2-21-2013* minutes presented, Michael Cardwell (Quinault Tribe) motions to

- approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andrew Strobel (Puyallup Tribe) Approved 14 to 0
  
- 4-17-2013 minutes presented, Jim Longley (Nisqually Tribe) motions to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Casey Stevens (Stillaguamish Tribe) Approved 14 to 0

**2. Recognition Presentation**

Michael Cardwell gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Paddle to Quinault.

**3. Tribal Project Advocacy**

Kirk Vinish presented on lessons learned working with MPOs. After working with WCOG for several years, Kirk feels that there is significant capacity out there to build better working relationships. He presented WCOG with the initial question of how do tribes integrate in to county plans using various modeling programs. Lummi Nation's consultant approached WCOG with running their data model. The consultant noticed that other municipalities could use the program for free, but the MPO wanted to charge Lummi \$1000.00. This occurred because the MPO gave the model to the WCOG (ownership) and Lummi Nation is not a member of the WCOG, but is a member of the MPO. The modeling program was given to the WCOG in order to ensure ongoing maintenance of the program in county wide planning. In Whatcom County only Tribes have to pay to use the model because they are only members of the MPO, not WCOG. Kirk Vinish asked the group if they would check or have checked with their local MPO/RTPOs to see if they can use the modeling for free or if other tribes are required to pay. Richard Rolland (NWTAP) asked Kirk Vinish why he felt the need to use the WCOG model. Kirk Vinish stated because the Tribe needs all the other jurisdictional data collected for the region.

Deb LaCombe (WWVCOG formerly YVCOG) presented a draft MPO/RTPO Tribal Agreement. She stated that Walla Walla Valley MPO is new but are working with the Umatilla Tribe because transit ends in the MPO/RTPO boundary even though the Tribe is in OR. She has nine years of MPO/RTPO employment. She has been trying to get an agreement for tribes and MPO/RTPOs to help level the playing field for funding (STP, Etc...) while continuing to protect sovereignty. Deb continues to seek ways for tribes to get on as due paying board member so have they can have a vote. Umatilla wants a formal agreement with MPO/RTPO because they want the ability to access money too. Deb asked if other tribes feel they aren't on the same playing field in their MPO/RTPO and notes that there has been a strong desire to create template(s) for agreements (see slides). Mat Kunic (WSDOT) is currently working with Yakama Nation for this type of agreement and feels this will be good but is still looking outside WA for a good example of one. Al Pinkham (Yakima Nation) agreed and stated that they have an MOU/MOA with the state and

county and are drafting something for the MPO/RTPO. Gordon Nielson (Skokomish Tribe) stated that the executive board /TTAC with PRTPO are in the process of merging the two so Tribes can have a vote at the table. Michael Cardwell asked how this MOA/MOU would impact Tribes that are in more than one MPO/RTPO. Kirk Vinish noted that there has been poor ranking of projects for Tribes in various regional plans. He wanted to know how MPOs can be more sensitive to tribal needs. Deb stated you need to be more active in the subcommittees that set up how these plans are created (work from the ground up).

#### 4. Tribal Transit

Julia Seyler (Kalispel Tribe) briefed the TTPO on the June meeting. The main topics were Title IV, funding issues with FTA and the TTP, working with MPO/RTPOs, possibly having TTPO work on title IV compliance for transits, and get transit routes online (mapped). Kirk Vinish updated on the National Transportation Consortium. It was formed under direction of ATNI-economic development because of their big farm to market push. Transportation committee focused on transit. Currently only can purchase under non-FTA funded equipment. FTA wants the contract to only allow Tribes to be able to purchase of it (not their LLCs or other tribal affiliates). Additionally FTA wants equipment to be made and sold through manufactures, but delivered by local dealer.

Amy Changchien and Scott Rastellie (new FTA region 10) are introduced. They briefly spoke on Map-21 and the changes to tribal transit funding (impacts of the new legislation via Power point). Julia Seyler asked what the criterion is for financial hardship. Amy stated it is on a case by case basis and you can use former IRR funds. FTA will be using only guidance until the new guidance is created under MAP-21. Tribes will be required to report to NTD. Megan Nicodemus asked when circular will be available. Amy stated FTA will publish for comment within the next month or so for 60 days. Scott said watch for SF425, MPR, and Quality and Certifications. He directed people to the handout and said he would email the electronic links. Kim Stube (Cowlitz Tribe) asked what is allowable in NTD reporting. Scott clarifies that public transit and transportation only. Amy stated all charters are not eligible. Casey Stevens (Stillaguamish Tribe) asked about when a past funded agency (tribe) loses funding, what does FTA foresee how this will be dealt with this issue (funding cuts and service disruptions). Amy Changchien stated you should go through the state then, beyond that she doesn't know. Casey Stevens asked has FTA looked at coming up with a transition plan (step down, 8%, 60%, etc...) for tribes that see funding cuts. Amy stated yes, but there is no serious concern. FTA consults with tribes before formula decisions. Coey Gilliland (Stillaguamish Tribe) asked if your tribe has been working under non-urbanized and census changed that to urban, where else are there funds. FTA has not really chatted with PSRC about this yet. Amy stated it make sure you are reporting to NTD.

Julia Seyler stated Kalispel has been very successful at getting funding but with the new formula she is predicted a 40% decrease in funding. Even with reporting to the NTD, she keeps receiving funding cuts. Amy stated regarding MAP-21 we are done creating the bill. In order to make changes you will need a new bill. Congress is going to continue to push performance based reporting. Gordon Neilson (Skokomish Tribe) stated that Skokomish was denied grant funding because census data block shows the area is not poor, but Skokomish is REALLY POOR. He asked FTA to please really look at tribal boundaries, not just census data and to please carry this message back to DC. Bill Ramos (former FTA region 10, consultant) is introduced and provides a presentation on the Common Good and what he can do to help tribes with the new formula. Kirk Vinish asked how to get new and better formula. How does tribal staff get Tribal Councils to do outreach to Murray, Cantwell, and other elected officials offices. Bill distributed a

potential SOW and contract to the TTPO to assist with forming a unified position for WA Tribes. The TTPO requested an open house with all of the new FTA region 10 people. Amy stated yes and she will work at coordinating that along with bringing back the issues identified during this meeting to DC. Kim Stube and Julia Seyler conquer an FTA open house is a great idea. Annette Nesse (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe) and Keri Shepherd (Nooksack Tribe) asked to hold off on hiring the Common Good, until budgets are approved by the TTPO and the proposal is reviewed. Gordon Neilson requested an end date on that discussion, Richard Rolland (NWTTAP) seconded that. Michael Cardwell agreed with Julia's request too. Kim Stube asked if hiring is an allowable use of TTPO funds (without advertising, etc...). Kirk Vinish requested the transit sub-committee to review Bill Ramos proposal, provide comment on it back to the TTPO board. Casey Stevens recommended this topic be moved to the business section of the meeting. Skokomish Tribe (1<sup>st</sup> Gordon Neilson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lennea Wolf) motioned to table the topic of hiring Bill Ramos until the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, 2014, (during ATNI) after the TTPO transit committee has met and came up with recommendations for the full membership.

Kathy Silins (WSDOT) provided a transit update. WSDOT is working on updating their website working and on the planning process over the next few months. They will be working on the state plan in compliance with multi-modal plans, state plans, and other agency mobility plans (such as the Human Services Public Transportation Plan). She distributed handouts on the various plans. WSDOT identified several agencies who worked on these plans. WSDOT sent out a request to planners, WITPAC, and Tribal Councils to identify people to advise on the plans. Michael Cardwell, Dez Hayes, Gordon Neilson, and Lennea Wolf are involved in these planning processes. WSDOT is working towards identifying what the goals of the state (what's its role) as it relates to public transportation and tribal governments. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, "Future Vision" (where is WSDOT in 20 years) will be presented at Sound Transit. You can go to the web to see what plans WSDOT is integrating with other plans and the various contacts for each of them. Jim Longley (Nisqually Tribe) asked if there is going to be a component to get WSDOT back in funding mode of these plans. Kathy stated they are going to try. Jim Longley then stated he would like to see tribal transits in the WSDOT reports (public transportation summaries). Kathy stated that tribal reporting is voluntary and not required.

## **5. Training Opportunities**

Kim Stube (Cowlitz Tribe) introduced Colleen Kuhn with CTA-NW and distributed a handout about the organization. Colleen presented on the organization ([www.ctanw.org](http://www.ctanw.org)). The group holds quarterly meetings, provides a website with help links for training, and provides a regular newsletter to its membership. They offer various training opportunities. Currently they are working on creating a peer network and senior resources publication. You can post active job descriptions and other resources on the website and they are active in the human services public transportation sector. Kim highly recommended this group. It also has a legislative committee that looks at laws/bills and how they impact transit. They contact elected officials to help lobby changes. Additionally, there is information on human service companies (medicated brokers and others). Meetings are typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the quarter. The next meeting is in Olympia in September, then December.

## **6. Safety**

Al Pinkham (Yakama Nation) and Keri Shepherd (Nooksack Tribe) gave brief presentation on Road Safety Audit Training that they attended in Colville at the beginning of the month. RSAs are an eight step process. Updates to the LAG manual typically trigger RSAs via WSDOT. Kirk Vinish asked WSDOT to check on when RSA training would be.

## 7. Interagency Coordination

Robin Mayhew and Sean Ardussi with PSRC provided a slide show and presentation on the PSRC 2040 Plan. Robin requested tribal input as they are drafting the plan update. Michael Cardwell (Quinault Nation) asked since tribal employers are out of the UGA, are they not in this plan. Ed Kolenowski (Gibson Traffic Consultants) asked was the safety data slide done with a comparison of miles traveled. Sean stated no.

Gordon Neilson introduced Jeff Peavy who presents on Forward Washington. Jeff directed the group to the website. It was required by the legislature in 2010 to create it under supervision of the WTSC. Andrew Strobel (Puyallup Tribe) asked how data was generated in the STIP. Josh Johnson (DOL) presented the 2012 DOL report and distributed the handouts regarding the fuel tax. He briefly gave an overview of agreements that started in 2007. The state collects 37.5 cents per gallon tax on gas and tribes with new agreements can generate a rebate of up to 75% of that.

Jim Longley (Nisqually Tribe) asked how many tribes have given their voluntary information on their expenditures this year for the report. Josh stated that they didn't include it in the report this year because not every tribe reported. Jim asked if the legislature is ok with that. Josh stated that they have given no concern. Andrew Strobel asked about the Auto Lawsuit. Josh stated that they are currently in deposition and in the discovery period.

## 8. TTPO Business

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Annette Nesse (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe). She distributed the 2013 report and presented a 2014 draft budget. Michael Cardwell asked where the state conference is this year. Kim Stube asked what the line item travel expenses were for. Kirk Vinish stated it was for Larry Ehl to come and present at the ANTI-NWTTAP Conference. Jim Longley noted that Nisqually will be contributing 3K this next year again.

Keri Shepherd motioned to approve 2013 expenditures and 2014 purposed budget. Casey Steven's amends the motion with the addition of board identified specific budget items in the future, 2nded by Kim Stube.

Approved 14 to 0

Andrew Strobel requested some document to get something official so individual tribes could contribute funding to the TTPO. Annette Nesse stated she will get something drafted for board review. Kim Stube requested a letter for her Tribal Council.

Motion by Keri Shepherd to nominate Michael Cardwell to the vacant TTPO position, seconded by Andrew Strobel.

Approved 14 to 0

Motion by Keri Shepherd to allow Dez Hayes to remain on TTPO board when relocated to Muckleshoot Tribe, seconded by Andrew Strobel.

Approved 14 to 0

Motion to nominate Julia Seyler' to TTPO board by Dez Hayes, Seconded by Keri Shepherd.

Approved 14 to 0

## 9. Announcements/Good of the Order

Kirk Vinish requested that the next meeting be at PSRC and will include an FTA Open House, seconded by Dez Hayes. A tentative meeting date will be for late November.

Jamestown, Puyallup, and the Kalispel tribes will host TTPO meetings in 2014. Gordon Neilson requested that all TTPO meetings be accessible via public transportation. Chris Robideaux (Red Plains Professionals LLC) presented TTPO website information and distributed handouts. The website could go live by the end of September provided the TTPO approves it. The TTPO needs to get the tribal councils to approval use of their logos, pictures, etc., Kirk Vinish will work with officers to coordinate this. Richard Rolland announced that NTTC 2013 is requesting proposals for presentations. The 2014 NWTTAP/ATNI Conference is tentatively scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week in April.

Adjourned

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