

**MINUTES OF THE  
NORTHWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL  
December 10, 2020**

<https://zoom.us/j/95667425467>

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Island County Commissioners Helen Price Johnson and Jill Johnson, San Juan County Councilmembers Jamie Stephens and Rick Hughes, Skagit County Commissioners Lisa Janicki and Ron Wesen, Whatcom County Councilmember Carol Frazey and Whatcom County Council Executive Satpal Sidhu

**STAFF:** Dan Murphy, Aly Horry, Amanda McDade, Cindy Madigan, Elizabeth Anderson, Katie Zimmerman, Kristine Glasgow, Melody Woodrich-Fernando, Pat Elwell, Ryan Blackwell,

**PUBLIC:** Barb Pesola, San Juan County, NWSSB Chair, Kirsten Barron, Legal Counsel for NWRC

The meeting was called to order at 10:03AM.

There was no public comment.

**Consent Agenda**

**Motion was made by Island County Commissioner Jill Johnson and seconded by San Juan County Councilmember Rick Hughes to approve the Consent Agenda (items a through d): Minutes of the July 23, 2020 Regular Meeting; June 2020 Expenditure Listing in the amount of \$1,421,948.26; July 2020 Expenditure Listing in the amount of \$1,632,322.11; August 2020 Expenditure Listing in the amount of \$1,733,110.16; September 2020 Expenditure Listing in the amount of \$1,723,269.24; October 2020 Expenditure Listing in the amount of \$1,728,730.74; the 2020 Budget to Actual Report (January through October); and Cancellation of Warrants, Resolution #20-02. The Motion passed unanimously.**

**Regular Agenda**

- a) Reclassifications and Market Rate Salary Adjustments – Dan Murphy, Executive Director summarized the proposal for staff reclassifications and market rate salary adjustments. Discussion followed.

**Skagit County Commissioner Lisa Janicki moved and Island County Commissioner Helen Price Johnson seconded that the Northwest Regional Council authorizes the reclassification of a Health and Human Services Planner to Business Development Manager, and the reclassification of the Senior Accountant and Accounting Analyst positions up one level each on the**

**NWRC classification scale. The Motion carried.**

**Whatcom County Councilmember Carol Frazey moved and San Juan County Councilmember Rich Hughes seconded that the Northwest Regional Council authorizes a 6% market rate salary adjustment for the positions in Classification Levels 7, 8, and 9, effective January 1, 2021. The Motion carried.**

- b) NWRC 2021 Budget, Resolution #20-03 – The 2021 Budget was presented for board consideration. Discussion followed.

**Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu moved and San Juan County Councilmember Rick Hughes seconded that the Northwest Regional Council approves the 2021 budget as presented, including a cost of living adjustment of 1.5% for NWRC employees. The Motion carried.**

- c) Proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule – The proposed 2021 meeting schedule was reviewed.

**Whatcom County Councilmember Carol Frazey moved and Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu seconded that the Northwest Regional Council approves the proposed meeting schedule for 2021. The Motion carried.**

- d) Legislative and Agency Updates – At the state legislative level, elected officials and staff were aware of the negative impacts related to optional funding cuts. The governor's office as well as leadership in both the house and senate indicated they would not be seeking cuts to the Long-term Care Budget. Therefore, the letter of support stressing the importance of maintaining Long-term Care and Caregiver Support funding that was requested at the July 2020 governing board meeting was not required.

The following NWRC Leadership Staff provided updates for the governing board on how the pandemic has impacted service delivery, clients and staff.

Amanda McDade, Care Management Director - Long-term Care Case Management, Health Home Care Coordination and Recovery Care Coordination  
Melody Woodrich Fernando, Community Programs Director – Aging & Disability Resources, Family Caregiver Support, Tribal Outreach, and Advanced Care Planning.

Ryan Blackwell & Elizabeth Anderson, Health & Human Services Planners younger difficult to relate. Mix ETOH with RX meds. Harm reduction – reduce and safely monitor in conjunction.

Aly Horry, Medicaid Transportation Services Manager -

Kristine Glasgow, Operations Director – Contracts, Jail Health Clinic Program & NW LEARN

Katie Zimmerman, Program Administrative Support Manager



## **Other Issues**

Executive Session An Executive Session was called at 11:24AM to discuss pending litigation and the Executive Director's performance. The Chair estimated the session would last 30 minutes.

The Executive Session was extended an additional 10 minutes and at 12:07PM the regular board meeting was reconvened.

**Motion was made by Whatcom County Executive Sidhu and seconded by San Juan County Councilmember Hughes to suspend the NWRC By-laws for meeting notice for one time only in 2020 in order to hold a Special meeting to be scheduled for Friday, December 18, 2020 at 10AM. The Motion passed unanimously.**

The Special Meeting is being called to address the Whatcom County Jail Health Clinic contract.

The council recognized that the NWRC Executive Director's contract expires at the end of 2021 and acknowledged that he will receive the same (2021) COLA as staff. Council reviewed staff feedback on the Executive Director's performance, sharing pertinent information with the director directly during the executive session. Council noted the presentation by NWRC leadership staff was very impactful and expressed appreciation for the talented team that has been developed.

## County Information Sharing

Council members expressed their appreciation and thanks to San Juan County Councilmember Rick Hughes and Island County Commissioner Helen Price Johnson for their years of service on the NWRC governing board.

Council members also expressed their appreciation to NWRC staff and leadership in responding to the COVID pandemic, taking creative measures to ensure service delivery to vulnerable clients.

## **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:19PM.

Prepared and submitted by:

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Patricia F. Elwell, HR/Office Manager